

MINUTES
BRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 27, 2025

TIME & PLACE:

The Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors met at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at the BRADD Conference Center.

Chairman Joe Choate called the meeting to order.

Mr. Steve Thurmond led the prayer of invocation and Mrs. Martha Jane King led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ATTENDANCE:

It was determined a quorum was present. (See attached attendance record).

MINUTES:

With no corrections or additions, the minutes of the June 25, 2025 meeting were approved as emailed. (See attached)

Motion was made by Judge/Executive Scott Lindsey, seconded by Judge/Executive Tim Flener to approve the June 25, 2025 board minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Chairman Choate introduced guest speaker, Mr. Sam Flynn, Special Advisor to the Governor, Deputy Counsel and Executive Director for Kentucky's Pre-K for all initiative. Mr. Flynn provided a Power Point presentation with the focus on expanding access of education to all four-year-olds across the state of Kentucky. Studies show that KY children are unprepared for Kindergarten in comparison to those of other states who offer Pre-K. 43 percent of KY children are considered ready compared to 64 percent readiness of children in other states. Further studies show, there is increased absenteeism, disciplinary issues, lower test scores from those who do not begin with Pre-K. From birth to age four is pivotal brain development. Addressing this issue would also assist with childcare issues, expenses, in allowing parents to return to work and boost the economy. Mr. Flynn named a few of the positive results which included, ten to one return on investment, increased access to health insurance, decreased future incarceration

rates. Mr. Fynn spoke about the initiative's push towards Pre-K for all, in efforts to develop meaningful implementation that is well planned. Top priorities include facility space, transportation, and staffing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Council Reports:

1. Clearinghouse Projects

Chairman Choate called on Mayor Billy Phelps who informed the BRADD Executive Council met prior to the BRADD Board Meeting reviewed and considered one regional clearinghouse project. Detailed project description is included in the member's packet. Upon review the Council recommended approval.

Motion: Mayor Billy Phelps made a motion to approve one regional clearinghouse project as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mike Hughes. Motion carried. (See attached)

2. FY 25 Quarterly Financial Report

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Michael Stoyonovich, who reported the Executive Council met prior to this meeting and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2025 quarterly financials for period ending June 30, 2025. In revenue, BRADD has recognized approximately \$31.8 million which represents 102 percent of the annual revenue budgeted. In expenditures, approximately \$30.3 million which represents 101 percent of the annual expenditures.

Motion: Mr. Michael Stoyonovich made a motion to approve the FY 2025 fourth quarter financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mark Stratton. Motion carried. (See attached)

3. Senior Center Site Designations

Chairman Choate called on Judge/Executive Dennis Harper who reported the Executive Council met prior to the Board Meeting to review proposed changes to two senior centers. Edmonson County Senior Center redesignation from a multipurpose senior center to a senior center with hours of operation reduced from 8:00 am-2:30 pm to 8:30 am -12:30 pm. Additionally, a change of hours for the Butler County Center from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm to 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Upon approval the changes will be submitted to DAIL for final approval with an anticipated effective date of September 1st.

Motion: Judge/Executive Dennis Harper made a motion to approve the Senior Center Site Designations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Billy Phelps. Motion carried.

4. FY 26 Aging Programs and Services Report

Chairman Choate called on Judge/Executive Dennis Harper who reported a listing of all BRADD aging programs and services is included in the member's packet. The list includes the contract or fund amounts for each program for Fiscal Year 2026. The Executive Council has reviewed and approved.

Motion: Judge/Executive Dennis Harper made a motion to approve the FY 26 Aging Programs and Services Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge/Executive Tim Flener. Motion carried. (see attached)

5. Directors Report

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Eric Sexton, Executive Director, who provided staff updates with the introduction of new hire, Mrs. Shannon Durbin, Waiver Case Manager and one year anniversary recognition for Mrs. Tabitha Wilson. Mr. Sexton introduced two WKU students as aging interns, Ms. McKenna Ravenscraft and Ms. Nora Hankins. Mr. Sexton recognized former BRADD Staff Mrs. Virginia Stokes and Golden Years staff in attendance. Mr. Sexton gave a shout out to Barren County Citizen Member, Mr. Sam Terry for speaking today at the KY River ADD annual meeting. Mr. Sexton invited members to the BRADDs 57th Annual Meeting to be held next month, on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 12 noon at the Hart County Fairgrounds. Mr. Sexton spoke about the upcoming Anchor Projects groundbreaking ceremony which will be held on Monday, September 22, 2025 beginning at 10:00 am at Lifeskills. The members packet contains a copy of the 2025 rural consultation survey in efforts to receive feedback on the rural transportation planning process. Mr. Sexton referenced the importance of the work of ADDs related to the upcoming budget session drawing members attention to the \$4.2 billion dollars of investment across the state with a return of investment of \$266 dollars for every \$1 invested. Mr. Sexton spoke about an upcoming webinar with Dr. Laura Ullrich hosting an economic update. Mr. Sexton announced the next regular BRADD Board Meeting will be held October 22, 2025 at 12:30 pm at the BRADD Conference Center.

REPORTS:

Aging Council

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Jesse Varner who reported the the BRADD Aging Council met on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at the BRADD Conference Center. Content included, University of Louisville's Trager Program discussing a new steering committee designed to help community partners meet the healthcare needs of older adults. An orientation was provided to discuss the role of the Aging Council, as well as to review Aging Services at BRADD. Council members were notified that an RFP is available for those interested in providing hot meal catering services to the Park City Nutrition Site, and proposals are due back to BRADD by September 12th at 2pm. Mr. Varner announced, The next Aging Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, October 15th, 2025 at 10am in the BRADD Conference Center.

Community & Economic Development

Chairman Choate called on Ms. Emily Hathcock, CED Director, who reported the members packet contains a project impact report. There are currently 87 active projects representing \$140 million in investment. There are 37 projects awaiting approval representing over \$30 million in investment and 57 projects in development.

ADVISOR REPORTS:

Sandy Simpson, Congressman Comer's representative, spoke about activity in Monroe County with farm day with fourth graders. Congressman Comer has been busy so far this year. Mrs. Simpson emphasized the importance of case worker offices. She introduces Sarah Coffman, the Legislative Director for the Congressman. Ms. Coffman spoke about the big beautiful bill, her roots from Casey County, KY and having been employed with Comer since his election, nine years ago.

Wes Watt, KYTC District 1, spoke about the many regional road projects underway with the planning process for wrapping projects up. He spoke about the new and first crossover diamond exchange and hopes for continued improvements in traffic flow.

Barclay Trimble, Mammoth Cave National Park, spoke about good visitation with an increase of 11 percent since last year. Tours will continue through September. He invited everyone to bat day and night on Saturday. The Green River ferry is still down, a contract for repairs is in the works. He further spoke about federal funding for Green River crossing.

Martha Jane King, DLG Representative, spoke about the Lieutenant Governor Coleman's work with the Boys and Girls club with first learning center. NBC will cover Saturdays KY Downs races in Franklin, KY.

Brian Blank, KY Fish and Wildlife, acknowledged BRADD for making a difference in the rate of investment numbers presented earlier. He expressed thanks to the Dept. of Criminal Justice for running two academies. Labor Day will be opening day of dove season. The first Saturday in September will be opening day for Archery.

Hunter Whittaker, Senator McConnell's Field Representative, spoke about the senators travels across the state. She spoke about the Reconciliation bill including American Farmland Act and the action to incentivize those that don't want the farm but stay in agriculture. She spoke about the Mammoth Cave land expansion act.

Dr. Kim Meyer, SKYCTC, reported SKYCTC has hired a new president, Dr. Michelle Trawick.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

With no further business, a motion was made by Mayor Mike Hughes and seconded by Mr. Lanny White to adjourn.



Signed, Chairman



Approved, Secretary