

MINUTES
BRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 25, 2026

TIME & PLACE:

The Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors met at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at the BRADD Conference Center.

Chairman Joe Choate called the meeting to order.

Judge/Executive Dennis Harper led the invocation and 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 January 28, 2026 meeting were approved as emailed. (See attached)

Motion was made by Judge/Executive Scott Lindsey, seconded by Mr. Michael Stoyonovich to approve the January 28, 2026 board minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Chairman Choate introduced guest speaker, Mr. Travis Burton, USDA Rural Development State Director for KY. Mr. Burton spoke about the impact of Rural Development in KY with \$1.3 billion of investment back to KY demonstrating the commitment of the agency, ensuring the development of Kentucky's rural areas. Specifically, the BRADD area has been a recipient of \$49,400,762 in development focused funds. Mr. Burton spoke about the three pillars of Rural Development which include, Housing, Water and Environmental programs and Communication Facilities programs. Other topics covered included specialty programs, Rural Energy for America program (REAP), and Cooperative based rural business. Mr. Burton also spoke about business and industry loan capabilities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Council Reports:

1. Clearinghouse Projects

Chairman Choate called on Mayor Billy Phelps who reported the BRADD Executive Council met prior to the board meeting and considered three regional clearinghouse projects. A project description is included in the member packet. Upon review the Executive Council recommended approval.

Motion: Mayor Billy Phelps made a motion to approve the three regional clearinghouse projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mark Stratton. Motion carried. (See attached)

2. Transit Coordinated Plan

Chairman Choate called on Mayor Billy Phelps who reported the Executive Council met prior to the board meeting to review the FY 2027 Coordinated Transit Plan. The plan is updated annually and is necessary for the region to remain eligible for federal transit funding. BRLOO also reviewed and approved this plan earlier in the meeting. The Executive Council recommends approval.

Motion: Mayor Billy Phelps made a motion to approve the Transit Coordinated Plan update as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge/Executive Scott Lindsey. Motion carried. (See attached)

3. Hart County Senior Center

Chairman Choate called on Judge/Executive Dennis Harper who reported the Executive Council met prior and approved a change in operating hours for the Hart County Senior Center. The current hours of 8:00 am to 12 pm will be changed to 9:00 am to 1:00 pm effective June 1, 2026.

Motion: Judge/Executive Dennis Harper made a motion to approve the change of hours for Hart County Senior Center as presented. Motion carried.

4. Warren County Senior Center

Chairman Choate called on Judge/Executive Dennis Harper who reported the Warren County Senior Center is planning to relocate from the current location at 1901 Russellville Road to Ephram White Park. This relocation is possible with a partnership with Warren County Fiscal Court and Warren County Parks and Recreation. The relocation will take place June 30, 2026.

Motion: Judge/Executive Dennis Harper made a motion to approve the relocation of the Warren County Senior Center as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge/Executive Tim Flener. Motion carried.

5. Directors Report

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Eric Sexton, Executive Director, who thanked Mr. Burton for his presentation and emphasized the relevance USDA has with the work at BRADD. Mr. Sexton introduced four new hires, Mr. Derek Parham, Mr. Dylan Hardcastle, Ms. Megan Raab, and Mrs. Jesse Greathouse. Mr. Sexton recognized two internal promotions, Miss Kimberly Proctor as Waiver Coordinator and Mr. Matt Pedigo as Lead Community Development Specialist. Mr. Sexton announced Mrs. Kim Morrow had been named Interim CED Director. Mr. Sexton presented Mrs. Hollie Smith with a five-year service plaque. Mr. Sexton presented three, ten-year award recognitions to Mrs. Megan Gonzales, Mrs. Ashley Mehmedovic, and Mr. Caleb Speck. Mr. Sexton recognized Judge/Executive Scott Lindsey for his work in the Mammoth Cave Nation Park Boundary Adjustment Act, which will incorporate 551 additional acres to the park system. Mayor Bill Phelps was recognized for his efforts with Senate Bill 11 which establishes a residential safe room rebate program. Mr. Sexton provided updates from the latest Opioid Advisory Council meeting. The General Assembly has re-authorized spending for the Anchor project to extend across FY 27 due to the project delays with sink hole remediation. Mr. Sexton informed the members their board packet contains a project impact report which outlines 86 active projects representing \$192 million in investment, with 32 projects awaiting approval and 25 projects in development.

REPORTS:

Planning Committee

Chairman Choate called on Mayor Dwayne Hatcher who reported the Regional Planning Committee met on March 4, 2026 hearing a presentation from Brian Schoettmer, Lead Forecaster with the National Weather Service. He provided information on how communities can become storm ready and discussed the importance of the SKYWARN storm spotter program. Updates were provided on the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan update process. The committee reviewed the plan's existing goals and objectives and discussed potential updates to better reflect current risks. Staff also identified several gaps during recent critical infrastructure and facility meetings and presented a handout outlining 16 proposed new regional mitigation actions for preliminary review.

BRADD staff are currently attending fiscal court and city council meetings to support local engagement in the plan update. Steering committee meetings will begin next week, key stakeholders are all encouraged to attend. Vulnerability assessment meetings continue with fire departments and county Judge/Executives to ensure their needs and risks are captured. CERT training opportunities are upcoming, to help expand local CERT programs across the region. Judge Tim Flener and Deputy Judge Garland Gilliam were elected to serve the Committee as Chair and Vice-Chair.

Transportation Committee

Chairman Choate called on Mayor David Burch who reported, the committee met March 4th. The meeting served as the annual Coordinated Transit Meeting with a presentation on funding opportunities available to transit providers. The committee discussed the gaps, needs, and opportunities facing transit services in the region, like the desire for more connections across cities and counties. The committee then held officer elections, with Judge Baker and Mayor Curry being elected to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair. Members were reminded of the Recreational Trails Program application window opening August first. BRADD will be working with local communities and steering committees to develop bicycle and pedestrian plans for each city and county, which will help make grant applications more competitive. The committee then heard updates on transportation projects in progress from KYTC. The next Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, June 3rd at 11:00 am.

Water Management Council

Chairman Choate called on Judge/Executive Scott Lindsey who reported the BRADD Water Management Council met on March 4. Andrew Tucker, General Manager of Green River Valley Water District, shared highlights from his recent trip to Washington, D.C., where he advocated on behalf of his system and neighboring utilities. He emphasized the importance of meeting face-to-face with representatives, clearly communicating local challenges, and using visual aids, such as photographs, to illustrate infrastructure needs. During the trip, he also accepted statewide recognition on behalf of Green River Valley Water District, which was honored for having the best-tasting water in Kentucky. During this meeting, the Council conducted elections for leadership positions, selecting Judge Scott Lindsey as Chairman and Mayor David Burch as Vice Chairman. Official system visits will begin this month. The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.

ADVISOR REPROTS

Martha Jane King, DLG Representative, reported Governor Beshear has awarded \$12.9 million of disaster recovery funds. Local recipients included Echo Trails affordable housing development, Life Works Annex and Habitat for Humanity. Mrs. King extended thanks to Judge Lindsey and Mayor Phelps for their recent work in writing Legislation. She reported the Governors 50th Anniversary Local Issues Conference will be held August 19-21 at the Galt House, all are invited to participate.

Hunter Whitaker, Senator McConnell's Representative, reported several BRADD counties are recipients of funding for projects, Barren County, Edmonson County Water Treatment Plant, Warren County and Bowling Green for drug task force. The project funding request due date is March 30th. Further, Mrs. Whitaker reported the Department of Homeland Security remains unfunded which will result in delays for disaster reimbursement.

Clark Arnold, Senator Rand Paul Respresentavite, reported upcoming changes to SNAP benefits include disbarring or removing the purchase of sugary foods and drinks. The Senator continues to support government initiatives for Veterans with VA benefit assistance and SSA support.

Mark Lord, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Representative, Extended thanks to USDA for being a great partner agency to work with. He informed the window has closed for earmarks, 130 applications were received while only 20 will be funded.

Sandy Simpson, Congressman Jamie Comer Representative, thanks Mr. Burton for his service at USDA. Mrs. Simpson congratulated BRADD staff on there service anniversaries. She shared the Congressman voted to fund Homeland Security.

Molly Shorer, Mammoth Cave National Park, reported a busy February for park visitation with tours selling out for spring break. The ferry is now open.

Jana Sublet, TVA, reported the Leadership Academy will be available next year. There is a SETM and robotics course included next year for students.

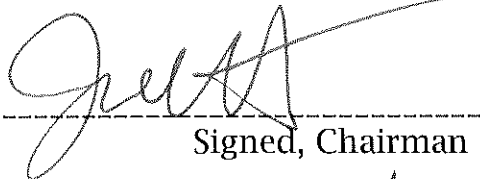
Wes Watt, KYTC District 3, major construction is underway on the 31-w bypass from north part at Kroger to the Fairview intersection. Mr. Watt provided the stats of road work across the district.

Brian Blank, KY Fish and Wildlife, reported a busy upcoming youth turkey season and adult season April 18th. He spoke about a unique event, the Elk and Outdoor fest in Bardstown May 9th, which will also include a draw for an elk hunt.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

With no further business, a motion was made by Judge/Executive Dennis Harper and seconded by Mr. Lanny White to adjourn.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. A. White", written over a horizontal dashed line.

Signed, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis Harper", written over a horizontal dashed line.

Approved, Secretary