

Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts
Quarterly Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 11:00 am

VIA ZOOM

KCADD Office Building, Frankfort, Kentucky

Board Members Present:

Judge Dan Mosley (CVADD) Chair
Judge Casey Ellis (NKADD) 1st Vice-Chair
Mayor Les Stapleton (BSADD) 2nd Vice-Chair
Mayor Rita Dotson (PuADD) Treasurer
Arthur Boykin (PuADD)
Judge Wil Cannon (BRADD)
Judge Chuck Caudill (KRADD)

Mayor Bill Dieruf (KIPDA)
Judge Orbrey Gritton (BGADD)
Judge John Riley (KIPDA)
Judge Brad Schneider (GRADD)
Judge Rick Stiltner (GWADD)
Judge Steve Tribble (PeADD)

Staff Present:

Lisa Cooper (NKADD)
Jason Vincent (PeADD)
Eric Sexton (BRADD)
Amy Kennedy (BTADD)

Josh Farrow (GADD)
Jarrett Haley (KIPDA)
Sherry McDavid (FIVCO)
Darryl McGaha (LCADD)

Tony Wilder, KCADD Executive Director
Wanda Laslie, KCADD Executive Assistant
Bill Cooper, Business Development Manager

Guest Speaker: Mr. Jamie Link, Executive Director, Kentucky Communications Network Authority

Call to Order Chair Dan Mosley called the meeting to order at 11:00 am and welcomed members, staff and guests, all joining via ZOOM.

Introduction of Guest Speaker Chair Mosley recognized the guest speaker, Mr. Jamie Link, Executive Director of the Kentucky Communications Network Authority.

Mr. Link expressed his appreciation for being given the opportunity to address the members. He began by stressing the importance of broadband access across this Commonwealth and how connectivity is being used today to meet via ZOOM. He said that COVID-19 has demonstrated the dire need for expanded broadband and that there many of our fellow Kentuckians who do not have access. One of the main focuses is to get adequate broadband coverage to all students.

Mr. Link gave a brief background of the Kentucky Wired Project. He stated that it is an umbrella that encompasses two main components. The first being the Kentucky Communications Network Authority (KCNA) which is the middle mile or the backbone of the Kentucky Wired Network. He provided a chart depicting 6 rings that form the entire backbone across the state. An outage would be quickly corrected and rerouted. The KCNA is the main highway for carrying data. From the main truck there are off ramps into all 120 counties. When the data goes to the off ramp, the backbone terminates to the last mile partner, Open Fiber Kentucky. Open Fiber Kentucky works with local providers to get them access to the

KCNA backbone. The off ramp or termination point is communication shelters made of concrete. They will house all network equipment in that area.

Mr. Link added that some of the needs identified for affordable broadband service were education, economic development, healthcare, public safety and quality of life issues. He also stated that broadband coverage is great but it has to be affordable and the bandwidth capacity has to be competitive.

He emphasized that Kentucky will be the first state in the nation to activate a statewide system like Kentucky Wired.

Mr. Link said the Open Fiber Kentucky arrangement, created when the project was initiated, includes provisions that the Commonwealth will receive a minimum of 75% of the net revenue Open Fiber generates. That revenue will go toward paying for the cost of this project. The contract runs up through 2045.

In conclusion, Mr. Link shared a map from October which illustrates that the Kentucky Wired Project is 99% complete (green lines) with fiber-optic cable construction across the state. There are a few gaps (yellow lines) in western Kentucky and a small gap close to Fort Knox. Final completion will be in April or May of 2021.

Mr. Link added that they are working with the Education Workforce Development Cabinet to execute a crowd source mapping exercise to get accurate mapping of where the most need is identified.

Mr. Link opened the floor for questions. Judge Schneider asked if the Public Service Commission had any role in overseeing this network. Mr. Link explained that broadband is not considered a utility, so at this time it is not regulated by the PSC. There was discussion about AT&T and their return on investment.

Judge Mosley asked if there is anything KCNA can do to help get funding for counties competing with AT&T and others when pursuing grants from Connect America. Mr. Link said that they are working with the Center for Rural Development, the ADDs and others to help pursue funding for the last mile service.

Mr. Link reminded the members that their website is www.kentuckywired.ky.gov.

Approval of August 19, 2020 Minutes Chair Mosley then called for approval of the minutes from the August 19, 2020 meeting. **Mayor Dieruf offered a motion to approve, with Judge Stiltner issuing a second. All members voted in favor.**

KCADD Financial Report Chair Mosley recognized Tony Wilder to offer the financial report on behalf of Mayor Rita Dotson, KCADD Treasurer. Director Wilder advised that the Financial Reports were sent electronically to all members of the Council to review prior to the meeting. He referred to the Monthly Statement of Revenue and Expenditures, which shows regular monthly expenses at 27%. Mr. Wilder stated that there are not as many expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With there being no questions or comments, Director Wilder submitted the financial reports for approval. **Judge Schneider offered the motion to approve the Financial Report as presented and Judge Tribble issued a second. All members voted in favor.**

Old Business: a. Community Health Care Connections Update Chair Mosley proceeded to Old Business and recognized Bill Cooper for the Community Health Care Connections Update. Mr. Cooper stated that he has taken part in the meetings with the Department for Aging, the Area Agencies on Aging and the ADD Directors, via ZOOM. He has also taken part in webinars involving care transitions and veteran community care.

Mr. Cooper continued by updating the members regarding the contract with PCHP, which is the Anthem plan. He stated, as previously discussed, Anthem will not be a Medicaid provider as of December 31, 2020. He stated that Anthem will be working with Provider Direct, which we will be receiving referrals directly from physicians with Medicare.

Mr. Cooper continued by announcing a contract has been received by Aetna/CVS. He said negotiations are being finalized and a demonstration project will be undertaken by Green River ADD.

He added Bluegrass ADD had developed an IT system for client management and they will be using that system for the Healthcare Connections Program. Bluegrass ADD has it up and running again and doing some trials.

In conclusion, he said that they are still working on revisions to the Policies and Procedures for KCADD.

Old Business: b. Legislative Priorities 2021 Session Chair Mosley proceeded to the next item under Old Business: Legislative Priorities 2021 Session. He introduced Director Tony Wilder to give the report.

Mr. Wilder stated that with the short session dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, we don't really know what to expect and the Legislative Priorities from the 2020 Session will still apply.

The budget will be a key issue, since only a one-year budget was passed last session. The KCADD will continue to work on encouraging JFA funding, matching ARC funds, local taxing options and advocating for our programs.

He added that some of the most notable bills to be watching are:

HB528, which passed the House last session, but did not pass in the Senate. This bill will likely be refiled. This bill would have given the ADDs access to the state's Transparency Portal. We will continue to be in support of this bill.

HB564 passed the House, but also died in the Senate. It would have expanded providers of Participant Directive Services, which would have impacted the ADDs in a detrimental way.

Mr. Wilder said that we will continue to work with our affiliate partners to support the Motor Fuels Tax.

Finally, Mr. Wilder added that the ADDs are now going to have representation on the Water/Wastewater Task Force.

New Business: a. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2021 KCADD Officers Chair Mosley proceeded to New Business: Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2021 KCADD Officers. Chair Mosley presented the following proposed committee members: Judge Steve Tribble, Judge Bobby Carpenter and Mayor Dieruf. Chair Mosley called for a motion. **Judge Stiltner moved to approve the Nominating Committee as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge Caudill. All members voted in favor.**

New Business: b. Next KCADD Meeting Dates Chair Mosley called upon Director Wilder to present the 2021 calendar. Director Wilder stated that the dates are set, but the meetings may still be via ZOOM based on the COVID-19 guidelines.

Executive Director's Report Chair Mosley deferred to Director Wilder for the Executive Director's Report. Director Wilder reported that he has participated in many virtual meetings and conferences.

Some meetings of interest include a couple of meetings held with Kentucky Wired and the Department of Education on broadband discussion and mapping, along with Bluegrass ADD staff. The ADDs are at the table on mapping and being a partner with Kentucky Wired.

The last group of meetings of interest is the ADDs participation in regularly scheduled meetings with Secretary Goodman of the Energy and Environment Cabinet with the Division of Water. They are interested in 2040 Vision, which will focus on rehabbing and maintaining the facilities built over the years and they are going to depend on the ADDs for planning and involvement.

Adjournment Judge Schneider offered the motion to adjourn and Judge Caudill issued a second. All members voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.