

**Kentucky Council of  
Area Development Districts**  
501 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Office: (502) 875-2515  
Fax: (502) 875-0946  
www.kcadd.org



**Casey Ellis**  
Executive Director  
cellis@kcadd.org  
Cell: 502-514-8654

**Molly Haines**  
Public Information Officer  
mhaines@kcadd.org

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts (KCADD)  
10 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025  
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

### **Members Present**

Judge Matthew Wireman (BSADD), Chairman  
Judge Orbrey Gritton (BGADD), Second Vice-Chair  
Mayor Harold Slone (FIVCO), Treasurer  
Judge Harry Clark (GADD)  
Judge Todd Cooper (PADD)  
Mayor Rita Dotson (PADD)  
Judge Steve Henry (GRADD)  
Judge George Spragens (LTADD)

Judge Jerry Summers (KIPDA)  
Judge David Fields (NKADD)  
Attn. Jesse Melcher (BTADD)  
Mayor Al Botts (GADD)  
Judge Myron Lewis (FIVCO)  
Judge Mark McKenzie (BSADD)  
Mr. Craig Lindon (KRADD)  
Judge Howell Holbrook (CVADD)

### **ADD Staff Present**

Tara Johnson-Noem (NKADD)  
Joanna Shake (GRADD)  
Jason Vincent (PeADD)  
Eric Ratliff (BSADD)  
Waylon Wright (LCADD)  
Jeremy Buchanan (PADD)  
Kevin Cornette (BTADD)

Lance Hanshaw (FIVCO)  
Eric Sexton (BRADD)  
Jarrett Haley (KIPDA)  
Whitney Chesnut (CVADD)  
Caitlin Caldwell (CVADD)  
Joshua Farrow (GADD)

### **KCADD Staff Present**

Casey Ellis, KCADD/KADD Executive Director  
Molly Haines, KCADD Public Information Officer

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Matthew Wireman formally called the Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, virtual meeting of the Kentucky Council of Area Development District (KCADD) to order at 10:02 a.m.

### **Confirmation of Quorum**

Wireman asked KCADD Public Information Officer Molly Haines to confirm the presence of a quorum. Haines stated that a quorum was established with 16 members present, representing 11 Area Development Districts.

### **Approval of Aug. 7, 2025, KCADD Minutes**

Chair Wireman requested approval of the minutes from the Aug. 7, 2025, meeting. A motion was made by Second Vice-Chair Orbrey Gritton and seconded by Judge Mark McKenzie. The motion carried.

### **KCADD Financial Report**

Chair Wireman called on Treasurer Harold Slone to present the financial report, which was included in the meeting packet. Treasurer Slone reported expenditures are at 67.37%, which is consistent with the current point in the fiscal year. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Judge Harry Clark and seconded by Mr. Craig Lindon. The motion carried.

### **Appointment of Nominating Committee**

Chair Wireman appointed

- Mt. Sterling Mayor Al Botts,
- Webster County Judge/Executive Steve Henry, and
- Pendleton County Judge/Executive David Fields

to the 2026 KCADD Nominating Committee for the purpose of deliberating upon the selection of the 2026 KCADD Executive Board, for a term beginning in February 2026 and ending in February 2027. A motion to approve the appointments was made and seconded. The motion carried.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Ellis provided an update on ongoing work coordinated with the Kentucky Association of District Directors (KADD) and state-level partners, including the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) and others. Much of the activity continues to lead into legislative priorities and committee actions.

Ellis reported the state-level committee structure was updated in July and has since been reorganized to improve efficiency. Standing committees now meet monthly and work closely with state partners. This approach has reduced pressure on the full KADD while advancing committee-level initiatives more effectively. The KIA Committee remains active and responsive. Discussion included the ongoing update of the Water Resource Information System (WRIS), which is outdated and transitioning to a new platform. ADD staff and directors have provided significant input, particularly regarding water and sewer mapping processes. In coordination with this effort, the statutory Information and Technology Committee, chaired by Sen. Gex Williams, is addressing data collection issues related to water and sewer infrastructure.

An update on efforts to fully fund the KIA contract was also provided. The current contract is approximately \$1 million, which reflects restoration to 2012 funding levels following an \$800,000 increase approved by the General Assembly.

An internal analysis determined statewide costs to meet contractual responsibilities total approximately \$2.25 million annually. While initial support was secured for inclusion in the biennial budget, increases to the baseline budget were ultimately not permitted at the executive level.

The IJC later supported funding of \$2.554 million annually for each year of the biennium, which was included in the House budget. Contract funding will remain a legislative priority.

KYTC is independently reviewing its contract structure with the ADDs and is expected to propose an increase in funding in the coming year. While no specific amount has been identified, continued collaboration among committees, ADD staff and state program managers has yielded positive results and may lead to additional support.

The Workforce Committee continues its work with support from NKADD Executive Director Tara Johnson-Noem. Myra and Michael presented to the IJC at 9 a.m. this date on economic development and workforce initiatives, including an update on the "Putting Young Kentuckians to Work" program. The program has received \$20 million in funding, and early successes were reported. Staff are working with partners to determine funding requests for the upcoming biennium, with the intent to support those requests as in previous budget cycles.

Ellis thanked ADD representatives for their advocacy related to senior meal funding. Community-level engagement was credited with securing additional funding, demonstrating the effectiveness of the ADD network and coordinated data collection efforts.

Work is underway to compile data for presentation to the Governor's Office and legislators on funding needs for fiscal year 2027-28. Estimates will include attrition, service expansions and efforts to address the waitlists. Data collection is ongoing, with presentations anticipated shortly after Thanksgiving.

Ellis discussed renewed efforts to educate legislators on the role and responsibilities of ADDs. Despite ongoing engagement, some legislators remain unfamiliar with ADD functions.

Staff are finalizing a comprehensive legislative report and guide designed for legislators, newly elected officials, and board members. The guide will include background information, statutory responsibilities, funding structures, governance, accountability measures, additional funding opportunities and guidance on working effectively with ADDs. It will also include project readiness checklists to support grant and funding applications.

### **Legislative Update**

Pennyrile Area Development District Executive Director Jason Vincent, who serves as the KADD's Legislative Committee Chair, provided a legislative update, noting the legislative priorities draft is nearing completion. The discussion focused on funding needs, program sustainability and justification for priority budget requests ahead of the upcoming legislative session.

Vincent reported a thorough review of historical JFA allocations shows appropriations have not kept pace with inflation. Based on the analysis, a funding level of \$5.5 million is more consistent with current needs. JFA funding supports core planning, coordination and technical assistance services relied upon daily by local communities and enables ADDs to leverage millions of dollars in federal and private investment.

As a result, the additional funding request has been included in the legislative priorities.

Ellis provided additional context on the review process, explaining the analysis was conducted in coordination with the Department for Local Government (DLG) committee, chaired at the time by Purchase Area Development District Executive Director Jeremy Buchanan. Funding levels dating back to 1980 were adjusted for inflation to determine a break-even figure.

Ellis noted workloads across ADDs have increased significantly, citing impact reports from the past five years showing project volume and funding levels have tripled in many regions. While budget constraints are anticipated, any increase would be beneficial, and the analysis provides the strongest possible justification for the request.

Vincent stated the legislative priorities include maintaining \$250,000 in funding for both ARC and DRA programs. These funds support ongoing regional development efforts, and continuation at current levels is requested. He reiterated the request for \$2.55 million in KIA-related funding, which reflects the true cost of services provided by ADDs statewide.

Vincent noted challenges related to aging services and senior meal funding. He thanked participants for their advocacy and support. To better inform legislative decision-making, staff plan to present multiple funding scenarios to the General Assembly. Scenarios will address issues such as growing waitlists, limitations on enrolling new clients and replacement of individuals as current participants exit the program. Jason noted waitlists continue to grow, underscoring the need for additional funding.

Vincent emphasized the importance of reauthorization and continued investment in the GRANT Program. He stated the program has been instrumental in helping local governments pursue opportunities that may not have otherwise been accessible. Continued funding and reinvestment are requested as part of the legislative priorities.

Jason concluded by noting support for the Kentucky Product Development Initiative, which aims to advance business recruitment and economic growth by positioning local economic development groups to compete for projects effectively.

### **Adjournment**

There being no additional business or discussion items, Chair Wireman called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Craig Lindon and seconded by Mayor Rita Dotson. The motion carried. The KCADD adjourned at 10:32 a.m.