

**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)
Quarterly Meeting | 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024
Galt House | Louisville, KY

Members Present

Judge Rick Stiltner (GADD), Chairman
Judge Matthew Wireman (BSADD), 1st Vice Chair
Mayor Kevin Cotton (PeADD), 2nd Vice Chair
Judge Obrey Gritton (BGADD), Secretary
Ms. Penny Robinson (CVADD), Treasurer
Judge Scott Alexander (KRADD)
Judge Joe Choate (BRADD)
Judge David Fields (NKADD)

Judge John Frank (LCADD)
Judge Myron Lewis (FIVCO)
Judge Steve Henry (GRADD)
John Park (KIPDA, Sub. for Judge Ison)
Mr. Craig Lindon (KRADD)
Attorney Jesse Melcher (BTADD)
Judge Adam O’Nan (GRADD)
Judge Jerry Summers (KIPDA)

ADD Staff Present

Jason Vincent (PeADD)
Jeremy Buchanan (PADD)
Joanna Shake (GRADD)
Eric Sexton (BRADD)
Daniel London (LTADD)
Jarrett Haley (KIPDA)
Tara Johnson-Noem (NKADD)

Joshua Farrow (GADD)
Lance Hanshaw (FIVCO)
Eric Ratliff (BSADD)
Whitney Chesnut (CVADD)
Waylon Wright (LCADD)
David Duttlinger (BGADD)

KCADD Staff Present

Casey Ellis, Executive Director
Molly Haines, Public Information Officer/Executive Assistant
Dan Brenyo, Business Development Manager

Call to Order

Chairman Rick Stiltner formally called the quarterly meeting of the Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts (KCADD) Board to order at 10:34 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024, in the Breathitt Room of the Galt House Hotel, Louisville.

Confirmation of Quorum

Chair Stiltner inquired of Haines regarding the presence of a quorum. Haines confirmed that a quorum was established with 16 members present, representing 13 Area Development Districts (ADDs).

Approval of Minutes

Chair Stiltner requested approval of the minutes from the meeting held on June 12, 2024. Mayor Kevin Cotton moved to approve the minutes, with Judge David Fields seconding the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Financial Report

Chair Stiltner invited Treasurer Penny Robinson to present the financial report. Copies of the report were distributed in the meeting materials. Treasurer Robinson reported that the fiscal year concluded with expenditures lower than receipts. After accounting for the \$14,400 payment to Mr. Cooper from the ACL grant, the organization finished the year with a net income of \$20,702.85. The ACL grant maintains a balance of \$87,644.04, leaving a total cash balance of \$347,071.93. With no questions from the floor, Chair Stiltner requested approval of the financial report. Treasurer Robinson moved for approval, seconded by Secretary Obrey Gritton. The motion carried.

New Business

1. Acceptance of the 2024 Audit—The draft audit was distributed previously, and the final version, included in the meeting packet, was received the day before the meeting. There were no changes between the draft and the final document. With no questions from the floor, Chair Stiltner called for a motion to accept the audit. Judge Myron Lewis moved to accept the audit, with Mayor Kevin Cotton seconding. The motion carried.

Introduction of KCADD Business Development Manager

Following the resignation of former KCADD Business Development Manager Bill Cooper and the subsequent board approval to advertise and contract for a replacement, Executive Director Casey Ellis announced the appointment of Dan Brenyo as the new KCADD Business Development Manager, effective Aug. 1. Mr. Brenyo, who was present at the meeting, was introduced by Mr. Ellis. Included in the meeting packet was a memo detailing Mr. Brenyo's professional background, which includes experience with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, EMS, and public transit, equipping him well for his new role. There were no queries from the floor regarding the contract hire.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ellis provided an update on the Frankfort office remodel. Phase one of the remodel is now complete, including new paint and furniture, facilitated by the ADD executive directors. These upgrades significantly enhance the house's usability in Frankfort for regular meetings and business activities. Ellis reported that the interim joint session is ongoing, with city and county officials presenting local needs and updates to the legislature. This session serves as an educational phase, allowing legislators to gain insight into community priorities without specific requests.

Efforts are underway to produce personalized one-pagers for each legislative district, highlighting the impacts of ADD programs and state initiatives. These one-page summaries will include demographic information, the legislator's photo, and key services provided in areas like aging services, economic development, and planning. Data collection for FY24 is ongoing, and the hope is that the final documents will be distributed in December.

The GRANT Program of 2024 has involved close collaboration with Secretary Noel and the cabinet's designated contacts. While not all requests have been met, the cabinet has been responsive and engaged. A continuous communication channel with the cabinet will support reporting to legislators on ADD needs, legislative barriers, and program improvements. The collaboration with the cabinet is expected to continue, with efforts to enhance the program's impact through potential legislative changes in the next session.

Introduction of Speaker—Cabinet for Economic Development Secretary Jeff Noel

Secretary Noel began by sharing his recent experience in a large meeting with Japanese CEOs and interpreters while representing Kentucky's interests alongside Gov. Andy Beshear. He highlighted his commitment to fostering collaboration and emphasized that Area Development Districts play a vital role in creating positive opportunities across Kentucky.

Key points made during Noel's presentation included the ADD's role in economic development. He praised the efforts of the ADDs in supporting economic initiatives statewide, noting that the ADDs are essential partners in creating local economic growth.

Additional points made included highlighting employment and wage growth. Over the past four and a half years, approximately 55,000 jobs have been created with an average wage of \$26.80 per hour. The emphasis is on incentivizing jobs that elevate community wages and provide real value, rather than merely adding headcount.

Additionally:

- Contracts have been re-awarded to engage local "hub districts" across the Commonwealth, with feedback channels in place to ensure effectiveness. Hub leaders have been reminded to focus on providing outreach to local governments to support community needs.
- The GRANT program allows cities, counties, or 501(c)(3) entities as eligible applicants. Efforts are underway to clarify eligibility for certain subdivisions (e.g., water and sewer authorities) to ensure they can access needed funding. Grants are processed monthly to ensure timely approvals, and applications lacking necessary components are not advanced, maintaining an efficient workflow.
- The Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDI) is designed to complement federal grants by funding project infrastructure. The strategy involves aligning KPDI funding with broader grant goals to maximize the impact and readiness of industrial parks and workforce development centers.
- Rural communities need more resources and infrastructure to attract large projects. Flexible, dedicated funding for rural areas and support for necessary utilities were highlighted as critical needs.

Noel concluded by inviting further questions and collaboration, reiterating the importance of constructive feedback and collaboration with the ADDs.

Adjournment

Chair Stitlner called for a motion to adjourn with no other business to address. A motion to adjourn was made by Secretary Gritton and seconded by Judge Adam O'Nan. The motion carried. The KCADD adjourned at 11:32 a.m.