

**Kentucky Council of  
Area Development Districts**  
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## **MEETING MINUTES**

Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts (KCADD)  
10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025  
Galt House Hotel | Louisville, KY  
Breathitt Room, 2nd Floor

### **Members Present**

Judge Matthew Wireman (BSADD), Chairman  
Mayor Kevin Cotton (PeADD), Vice-Chairman  
Orbrey Gritton (BGADD), Second Vice-Chairman  
Penny Robinson (CVADD), Secretary  
Harold Slone (FIVCO), Treasurer  
Rick Stiltner (GADD), Immediate Past Chair  
Judge Todd Cooper (PADD)  
Judge Adam O'Nan (GRADD)  
Judge Joe Choate (BRADD)  
Mr. Steve Thurmond (BRADD)  
Judge George Spragens (LTADD)

Judge Dan Ison (KIPDA)  
Judge Jerry Summers (KIPDA)  
Ms. Lisa Wilson-Plajer (NKADD)  
Mr. Jesse Melcher (BTADD)  
Judge George Sparks (BTADD)  
Judge Myron Lewis (FIVCO)  
Judge Mark McKenzie (BSADD)  
Judge Scott Alexander (KRADD)  
Mr. Craig Lindon (KRADD)  
Judge Howell Holbrook (CVADD)  
Judge John Frank (LCADD)

### **ADD Staff Present**

Jeremy Buchanan, PADD  
Jason Vincent, PeADD  
Joanna Shake, GRADD  
Eric Sexton, BRADD  
Jarrett Haley, KIPDA  
Tara Johnson-Noem (NKADD)  
Kevin Cornette (BTADD)

Joshua Farrow (GADD)  
Lance Hanshaw (FIVCO)  
Eric Ratliff (BSADD)  
Michelle Allen (KRADD)  
Whitney Chesnut (CVADD)  
David Duttlinger (BGADD)

### **KCADD Staff Present**

Casey Ellis, Executive Director  
Molly Haines, Public Information Officer

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Matthew Wireman formally called to order the quarterly meeting of the Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts (KCADD) Board at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025, at the Galt House Hotel, 140 North Fourth Street, Louisville, Kentucky, second floor, Breathitt Room.

### **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 22 members present, representing all 15 Area Development Districts.

### **Introduction of Guest Speaker**

Wireman introduced the guest speaker, Rep. Jason Petrie, chair of the House Committee on Appropriation and Revenue. Petrie began his remarks in an open format, inviting questions rather than giving prepared statements. The discussion focused on key priorities impacting local governments, particularly from the perspective of Area Development Districts.

Participants identified roads and jails as ongoing challenges, emphasizing the complexities of funding and decision-making in large boards. The conversation highlighted the critical role of grant programs, particularly the effort to retain skilled grant writers amid competitive employment pressures. The meeting recognized the value of ADDs in facilitating essential functions, economic development, and support for aging populations through federal funding. The importance of smaller committee structures in supporting efficient decision-making was noted.

Other priorities discussed included workforce development and housing, with attention to staff retention and the need for coordination across agencies. It was noted that ADDs could serve as connectors or clearinghouses to unify programs and stakeholders, rather than duplicating existing services.

Broadband and substance use disorder were significant focus areas for some ADDs, with regional initiatives cited as examples of collaboration. The need to improve information sharing and feedback mechanisms between local and state entities was stressed, along with evolving expectations for ADDs to convene efforts statewide.

Local concerns such as driver's license administration and recent changes to SNAP and Medicaid requirements were raised, along with questions about how federal and state policy shifts affect high-unemployment communities with limited job opportunities. Petrie offered insights on statutory requirements and ongoing efforts to fill service gaps.

The role of ADDs in disaster preparedness and recovery was discussed, highlighting involvement in hazard mitigation planning and the recent challenges of funding changes. The importance of business practices that support preparedness was emphasized, with recommendations for further task force engagement.

The meeting concluded with reflections on the ADD mission to provide a regional forum for local governments and citizens, reaffirming a commitment to ongoing improvement. Petrie clarified that his feedback was aspirational and encouraged ADDs to strengthen their coordination, facilitation, and information exchange roles for the benefit of their communities and the state.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Wireman requested approval of the minutes from the June 11, 2025, meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the motion carried.

### **Financial Report**

Wireman called on Treasurer Slone to present the financial report. Slone noted clarifications, which were provided by Executive Director Ellis. Ellis explained that a \$50,000 prior-year carryover had been

allocated for office improvements, but the carryover was not reflected in the revenue section of the current year's budget. As a result, these expenditures appeared as expenses over recognized revenues.

Had the carryover been correctly recorded as revenue, the fiscal year would have concluded with a positive balance rather than the deficit of approximately \$4,700. The spending was preapproved and budgeted for improvements. General operations remain in a positive financial position.

A motion to approve the financial report was made and seconded. The motion carried.

### **Acceptance of FY25 Audit**

A copy of the FY25 audit report by Faulkner, King & Wenz PSC was provided. Ellis noted that a clean audit was received in May. With no questions or comments, Wireman called for a motion to accept the audit report. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

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

Ellis reported that he and Haines have started collecting fiscal year 2025 data for legislative impact reports. Last year's reports were very successful, and this year's process is expected to finish ahead of schedule. Unlike last year, when data collection overlapped with the legislative session, efforts are now underway to distribute reports before the upcoming session.

Committee operation updates were provided. Last year, the directors' association committee chairs gave brief updates rather than featuring an external speaker. This method proved effective, and the committee structure will grow more robust and accountable in the coming year. Committees will play a larger role in reviewing matters before board consideration.

Further updates included ongoing collaboration with the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority on the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Planning and Data Collection contract, with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet on possible contract changes next year, and with the Department for Local Government and economic development partners such as Grant Ready Kentucky on the creation of a centralized, statewide data collection system to facilitate access to key data for legislators, local officials, and stakeholders.

### **Adjournment**

Wireman called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded. The KCADD meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.