

MINUTES
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
KENTUCKY RIVER AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
April 24, 2019
12:00pm

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Judge Scott Alexander called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Larry Parke gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Judge Scott Alexander led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL

*Pam Pilgrim called the roll with the following members present:
(*Denotes proxy/designated representative)*

BREATHITT - *Judge Jeff Noble
Mayor Laura Thomas*

KNOTT - *Judge Jeff Dobson
Mayor Tracy Neice
Mr. Larry Parke
Mr. Larry Perkins*

LEE - *Judge Chuck Caudill
Mayor Scott Jackson
Mr. Everett Marshall*

LESLIE - *Mayor Carol Joseph
Mr. Hiram Cornett*

- LETCHER** - Judge Terry Adams
Mayor Todd DePriest
Mr. Jack Burkich
*Ms. Donna Perkins
- PERRY** - Judge Scott Alexander
Mayor Tom Burns
Mr. Gregory Whitson
Ms. Meriwether Wash-Hall
- WOLFE** - Judge Raymond Banks
Ms. Pam Pilgrim
*Ms. Dena Rice
- KRADD Staff** - Ms. Michelle Allen, Executive Director
Ms. Kim Coomer, Finance Officer
Ms. Angelia Smith Hall, Assoc. Dir., Community & Economic Development
Ms. Donna Hardin, Community & Economic Development Planner
Ms. Stacie Noble, Associate Director Human Services
Ms. Sherry Burchell, Human Services Planner/Title V Coordinator
Ms. Karlena Campbell, Human Resources Coordinator/Staff Accountant
Ms. Jessica Leedy, Grant Writer
Mr. Kasey Malone, Grant Writer
Ms. Elizabeth Duty, Staff Accountant/AP
Ms. Eunice Holland, Transportation Planner
Ms. Shana Agee, Public Administration Specialist
Ms. Kimberly Sapp-Allen, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mayor Tracy Neice to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2019 meeting; motion seconded by Judge Jeff Noble, all in favor with no objections, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion made by Mr. Jack Burkich to approve the March 2019 financial reports as presented; motion seconded by Judge Terry Adams, all in favor with no objections, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Judge Scott Alexander called the meeting to order and stated before he got to the introduction of the guest speaker he wanted to do two things, one being the scholarship program, and he wanted to inform those present that he had a meeting at 1:00pm with the gas people at the industrial park; therefore he would be leaving early. Chairman Alexander then turned the meeting over to Michelle Allen, Executive Director.

Ms. Allen stated that last year at KRADD's 50th Anniversary Dinner, we made the announcement that we were going to start the scholarship fund/award in honor of Mayor Long. So this year is our first annual scholarship award in honor of Mayor Charles Long. Last week we'd planned to have Mayor Long here with us, but unfortunately he's recently had some health issues over the weekend and was in the hospital on life support. We have received news today that he is awake, knows everyone, and hopefully the prognosis is good. We have Mr. Nelson Bobrowski, Mayor Pro Tem and City of Booneville Council Member, representing the City of Booneville for the Mayor Charles Long Scholarship. We have had numerous applications and she wanted to thank the committee members made up of staff and community members for their hard work over several months in designing the application and reviewing all the applications. Our winner this year is Mr. A. J. Miller from Breathitt County High School. (Recognition of and applause for Mr. Miller.) Mr. Miller plans to attend the University of Kentucky and major in foreign language and international relations and economics. We wish Mr. Miller well and are happy to have him as the first recipient of the Mayor Charles Long Scholarship. Mr. Bobrowski then presented the scholarship award and congratulated Mr. Miller. Mr. Bobrowski informed Mr. Miller that Mayor Long is a long time community servant from the greatest generation and Mr. Miller had some big shoes to fill.

Ms. Allen then announced our guest speaker, Ms. Sandi Curd, Promise Zone Coordinator, Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation, Ms. Curd then passed out packets of information/flyers on how to make the process easier for applying for and receiving projects funds, and to make our applications more competitive. Five years ago a federal initiative began called Promise Zone, a modest competitive advantage in going after certain federal funding streams. In the past five years they have written 422 of those letters of support for funding streams, in order to bring more money into our region. They are now on the downhill side of the ten year designation and they have been able to identify \$818,000,000.00 due to come into this Promise Zone. The competition is tough and you have to have a fabulous application. Letcher, Perry, and Leslie Counties would've benefited from being in the Promise Zone. The Promise Zone would not allow submission of applications for more than 200,000 people; therefore, they drew a line around 199,962 people to make it as big as they could. They also had to select counties within their nonprofit designated service areas, of which they have 22. The third thing they had to do was to make the most competitive story regarding the impact coal had in their service area, deciding that made the most compelling argument. They were thrilled to be named in January 2014, Americas Very First Rural Promise Zone. They were in the company of Los Angeles, San Antonio, Philadelphia, and the Choctaw Indian Nation of Eastern Oklahoma. They have been encouraging and trying to get people with opportunities for funding any way they can. They have found ways to add support to grants that are out there if there was an impact within that Promise Zone area. Email or call her and she will be glad to write a letter of support, and stated that is her number one priority. On May 14th in Perry County they are having a Faith Based Convening on Rediscovering the Doctrine of Work. Part of our population has become so distrustful of work that they don't even consider it as an option for their lives. She continues by stating that we have got to be able to change their mindset, through presentations. Making us the

best human we can be. The Keynote speaker, immediately after lunch will be Mr. Todd Lamphere, President Trump's Advisor to the White House Office of Faith Based Initiatives Chief of Staff, Paula White's Chief of Staff. Included in her packet was a list of grants that have Promise Zone preference. There was also information on a low interest \$7500.00 loan for agriculture from tobacco settlement money. Anything to do with food and agriculture, this is available.

Ms. Allen then announced our second guest speaker, Mr. J. C. Young, Executive Director, Kentucky Coal and Mineral County Coalition, and Executive Director of the Kentucky Magistrates and County Commissioners Association. Mr. Young commends the board of the selection of Ms. Michelle Allen as Executive Director of Kentucky River Area Development District, and offers Ms. Allen his congratulations on a wonderful job. He then introduces Ms. Cathy Marshall, Kentucky Association of Counties, and the Kentucky Coal and Mineral County Coalition, stated she has worked there for twenty years. He states that he is a supporter of all ADDS. He shared a packet of information regarding coal severance funds. Mr. Young provides handouts showing current statistics of severed tons and the current price per ton. Most of the coal that is mined is currently shipped. Coal communities are different and have different economies. We are mining more coal in the United States than we ever have; we just are not doing that in Kentucky. Going forward, the only way we can return severance dollars to counties/cities is when the severance will be minimal to the state. Mr. Young discusses the severance numbers for 2019 thus far in comparison to 2018 and provides handout to those present.

Ms. Allen then revisited the scholarships. Ms. Allen states that there was one situation/application that really stood out to committee members. One young man that applied was interested in trade school/welding school rather than college/university. The committee discussed whether they were missing a group of students that were good students and could be productive members of society, even though they did not meet the application criteria for university scholarship funds. The Mayor Charles Long Scholarship awarded to Mr. Miller today, provides the recipient \$500.00 per semester for four (4) years for attendance at college/university. The recipient has to provide grades and proof of continuing enrollment. However, this particular young man, Mr. Lathan Lee from Wolfe County, would like to attend Kentucky Welding Institute, Flemingsburg, Kentucky, a six month program which would provide all the necessary certificates, and guarantees 100% job placement upon completion. The scholarship committee would like to give this young man \$1000.00 to help pay for this school, and the cost of this school/course is \$17,000.00 and this school does not have any type of financial aid. So, upon the board's approval, the committee respectfully requests that the board do this, this one time for him, but the committee would also like to establish a technical school scholarship that would be \$500.00 per semester which is usually a two (2) year program for most technical school program from this point on, and give two (2) scholarships, one (1) for a college/university student, and one (1) for a technical school student. Ms. Allen called for a vote; Mr. Jack Burkich made the motion to approve, Mayor Tom Burns seconded, all in favor with no objections, motion carried.

Ms. Allen then presented personnel policies changes, the first one being on performance reviews of new employees. The current policy states that new employees be reviewed at three (3) months, then again at six (6) months. After discussing this policy with the individual supervisors that would review their staff, it was decided that three (3) months isn't a long enough time period in order to perform an accurate performance evaluation. We are asking to omit the three (3) month performance review period and leave the six (6) month review period, doing the first performance evaluation for new hires at the six (6) month employment anniversary. The second policy is the social media and internet policy. The current policy simply states that KRADD will have a Facebook

Page; and we do, however, that language limits us to any other type of social media, i.e. YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, should we want or decide to do any of those other social media. So, anywhere on those pages (page 29/30 of our personnel policies) where it specifically says, "KRADD Facebook" we would like to change to, "KRADD social media." Ms. Allen asks members to review those and we'll vote on those at next month's meeting.

Ms. Allen then addressed the upcoming May and August Board Meetings. Our August Meeting is our Annual Meeting in Buckhorn. That coincides with the Governor's Local Issues Conference this year, therefore, Ms. Allen called for a vote to move the August 2019 Meeting to the third Wednesday, August 21, 2019, because most of our officials go to that conference. Ms. Allen called for a vote; Judge Chuck Caudill made the motion to approve, Mr. Everett Marshall seconded, all in favor with no objections, motion carried. Ms. Allen then reminded all in attendance that the May Board Meeting will be at the Challenger Learning Center and Mr. Tom Cravens is here (introduced Mr. Cravens) he graciously thanks the KRADD Board for their support of the summer program and stated that he appreciated that greatly. Mr. Cravens detailed a variety of summer programs available this summer for students. Mr. Cravens provided summer camp brochures, and stated this is their 20th Anniversary, and invited all to their facility for our May Board Meeting. Ms. Allen stated that notices would be sent out reminding all of the change of venue for the May meeting; thanking Mr. Cravens for his offer of hosting.

Ms. Allen then discussed the Department of Aging Board Training. Part of our Aging Contract this year requires our board to take a three (3) hour training session. There's two (2) different ways you can do this, KRADD is hosting, and already had one of these last week with twelve (12) Board Members in attendance, doing webinars at our offices which members can come and do these together if they choose. There are two (2) more, one (1) on May 17th 9:00am-12:00pm, and then on June 12th 1:00pm-4:00pm. There are also several online options that you can watch from your own computer and there is a schedule placed about in the middle of your packet which details when those dates are. It's in three (3) sections and you have to complete all three (3) sections in order to qualify as completed, and if you're an elected official you do get training hours through League of Cities and DLG (Kentucky Department for Local Government) for those if you complete the survey at the end. Ms. Allen reminded board members to complete the survey, and stated that 70% must have completed the trainings by June 30th.

Ms. Allen reminded those in attendance that May 14, 2019 is Kentucky Gives Day and KRADD is listed as one (1) of the nonprofits to donate to our senior citizens' programs on that day and Mr. John Chester, GIS/GPS Specialist/IT Manager, is currently working on getting that set up via our website in order to accept donations either by debit or credit card. Ms. Allen then acknowledged and thanked Judge Caudill from Lee County for being a great voice for our senior citizens' programs and has personally contributed to the program, as well as Judge Raymond Banks from Wolfe County. Ms. Allen also recognized the City of Booneville for their contribution of \$1,800.00 to the Owsley County Senior Citizens Center; also Appalshop in Letcher County is supporting a senior for a year, which is roughly \$1,700.00 which they have donated to support a senior meal for a year.

Ms. Allen then asked Ms. Stacie Noble, Associate Director Human Services, if she wanted to address the Board. Ms. Noble reminded those in attendance that May 9, 2019 was Senior Games at the Knott County Sportsplex and invited all to attend, and detailed the awards to be given. Ms. Noble also reminded everyone to wear purple on May 3, 2019 in recognition of Elder Abuse. Ms. Noble stated that May is Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

Ms. Allen then recognized new employees: Ms. Kim Sapp-Allen, Executive Assistant, who will fill the vacancy left by Ms. Betty Combs, Receptionist/Secretary, when she retires in June 2019; and will take over doing Board duties from Ms. Shana Agee, Public Administration Specialist in a few months as well. Mr. Kasey Malone, who is our new grant writer; Ms. Elizabeth Duty, our new accountant; and Ms. Jessica Leedy, who is also a grant writer.

Ms. Allen then asked if anyone had anything else. Ms. Andrea Begley, Field Representative for Congressman Hal Rogers, reminded everyone about the RX Summit which will be on Facebook Live and she will get the confirmed date to everyone. Ms. Begley also stated that Congressman Rogers will be at the Hazard Airport on May 6th at 1/1:30pm and invited everyone to attend.

Ms. Allen asked if there was anything additional. Mr. Larry Combs, Broadband Implementation Manager, stated that the Center for Rural Development has a technology assistance program which assists in the planning, funding, etc... of broadband projects, studies, everything outside of building a network, can help fund that, and reminded everyone that on June 6, 2019 10:00am-3:00pm they are having a Broadband Summit, along with a barbeque, and inviting everyone to attend. They plan to discuss work from home projects and any other issues related to broadband, and our uses of the internet in Eastern Kentucky. The funding was awarded last year through ARC, and any of these grants that come in to them are graded, scored, and awarded out of Somerset; so you're only competing with the counties in which the center serves. Therefore, the chances of receiving funding are very high. Ms. Angelia Hall, Associate Director Community & Economic Development, asked Mr. Combs if there was any chance in receiving any funding to start a regional broadband committee. Mr. Combs stated that they can actually pay for a consultant to come in to help form the committee, and to put it in the form of a grant. These grants are open to any nonprofit.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Allen then called for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Tracy Neice made the motion, Judge Chuck Caudill seconded; all in favor with no objections, the motion carried.

Judge Scott Alexander, Chairman

Judge Terry Adams, Secretary