Gateway Area Development District
Special Session Board of Directors' Meeting
September 19, 2025 | 11:00 AM
110 Lake Park Drive | Morehead, Kentucky 40351

Meeting Minutes

1. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Al Botts gave the invocation. Board members, staff, and guests in attendance joined Chairman Botts in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Botts.

3. ROLL CALL

Judge Forrest McKenzie, Secretary, called the roll and a quorum was declared. The following Board members were in attendance:

Bath County Members	Menifee County Members	Montgomery County Members
☒ Judge Forrest McKenzie	☒ Judge Hector Alcala	☒ Judge Chris Haddix
☒ Mayor Gary Hunt	☒ Mayor Stacy Smallwood	☒ Mayor Al Botts
☒ Ms. Jacky Watson	☒ Ms. Phyllis Lawson	☒ Ms. Taunya Jones
Morgan County Members	**Rowan County**	**Regional**
☒ Judge Jim Gazay	☒ Judge Harry Clark	☐ Mr. Quentin Murphy
☐ Mayor Kyle Risner	☒ Mayor Laura White-Brown	
☐ Ms. Regina Thomas	☒ Mr. Bill Redwine	

4. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

a. The August 26, 2025, Board of Directors' meeting minutes were presented for consideration. Judge Jim Gazay moved, and Mr. Bill Redwine seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

5. SURPLUS PROPERTY

A document was provided to the Board. Mr. Farrow reviewed the list of items to be considered as surplus property and disposed of. Mayor Gary Hunt moved to surplus the items presented, and Judge Gazay seconded. Motion carried.

6. AGING & INDEPENDENT LIVING DEPARTMENT AND SENIOR CENTERS DIVISION OPERATIONS

A memorandum from the Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) was distributed to the Board. Mr. Joshua Farrow briefed members on developments since the memorandum was received on September 8, 2025. The memorandum communicated that Area Development Districts (ADDs) will only receive their original federal and state funding allocations this fiscal year to operate the senior meal program.

Mr. Farrow reported that he and his counterparts across the state have been working to address the $10,607,069.21 shortfall facing the 15 ADDs this year. The Governor's Office was contacted regarding potential funding to cover the deficit; however, no funds are available. Mr. Farrow noted that GADD's legislators have been engaged and expressed hope that an in-year budget allocation might be considered during the upcoming legislative session, though no decision will be known until March/April 2026.

GADD is currently projecting a $725,686.00 deficit, with available funding expected to be fully expended by January 2026. Mr. Farrow emphasized the significant impact this will have on senior center operations. He reviewed the successes achieved with Expanded Senior Meal Program (ESMP) funds in recent years, highlighting the Meal Voucher Program and MotorMeals Program. A summary document was provided to the Board outlining regional impacts and the current home-delivered meal client count.

Ms. Diann Donaldson presented a spreadsheet outlining potential cost-saving options, none of which would fully resolve the shortfall. She reviewed these options in detail, and Board members provided input during the discussion.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Laura White-Brown to make the following operational changes to the Senior Centers Division, effective October 6, 2025: (1) transition from disposable plates, cutlery, and cups to reusable dishes and flatware, (2) adopt the "average" method to determine the number of congregate meals prepared daily for each senior center site, (3) discontinue all to-go meals; participants wishing to take food with them must first dine in, then transfer their meal into a personal container they provide, (4) suspend the Senior Meal Voucher Program indefinitely, and (5) place all new home delivered meal referrals on a waiting list. Judge Harry Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was also the consensus of the Board to begin contacting all current home delivered meal participants to complete a new Level One Screening. Through discussions, at a future meeting, the Board may find it necessary to reduce the number of participants, in accordance with their priority score, due to a lack of sufficient funding.

Members requested that GADD compile salary information by senior center and analyze potential cost savings associated with reducing the number of in-person operational days.

7. CLOSED SESSION

a. Closed Session per KRS 61.810 (f), if Necessary – No motion made to enter Closed Session.
b. Possible Action Following Closed Session – No motion made to enter Closed Session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Botts asked for a motion to adjourn. Judge Clark motioned, and Ms. Phyllis Lawson seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVED:

Mayor Al Botts, Chairman

Judge Forrest McKenzie, Secretary

9-30-2025
Date

9-30-25
Date