



**Bluegrass Economic Development Advisory Committee (BEDAC)  
December 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

The December 3, 2020 meeting of the Bluegrass Economic Development Advisory Committee (BEDAC) was held at 10am via Zoom video conference call. The meeting was made public through advertisement on the BGADD website and a meeting recording is available.

In attendance were:

David West (Committee Co-Chair), Jessamine County Judge Executive

David Duttlinger, BGADD  
Greyson Evans, BGADD  
Shane New, BGADD  
George Leamon, BGADD  
Logan Hart, BGADD  
Janice Westlund, BGADD  
Bob Casher, BGADD

Ken Parsons, Garrard County  
Mike Willand, Mercer County  
Joe Crawford, Estill County  
Tom Calkins, Jessamine County  
Pam Brough, Anderson County  
Jody Lassiter, Boyle County  
Jack Conner, Scott County  
Bert Thomas, Madison County  
Terri Bradshaw, Franklin County  
Gordon Wilson, Bourbon County  
Craig McAnelly, Jessamine County

Judge David West, Committee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, and began by conducting a roll call. Each Committee member and BGADD Staff member present introduced him/herself.

• **Discussion and Review of Proposed BEDAC By-Laws**

- Greyson Evans asked the committee for any comments or questions concerning the Committee's new by-laws. Ken Parson (Garrard County) asked if it was correct that only two attendees constated a quorum. Greyson noted that this was consistent with the other committees at the BGADD. Greyson then mentioned that members from the community are welcome to join the meeting, but the language in the by-laws was changed to no longer make reference to them as they are not voting members of the Committee. A vote was then held to approve the by-laws. A motion to approve was made by Jody Lassiter (Boyle County) and the motion was seconded by Ken Parsons (Garrard County). The Committee voted unanimously to approve the new by-laws.

- **Press and Development Updates**

- Greyson Evans opened up the floor for any committee members to discuss any updates on their respective counties. Judge West kicked off the conversation by announcing that Jessamine County has begun paving the first portion of their new industrial park. Jessamine County hadn't had an industrial park in the county for over 30 years. Jody Lassiter then mentioned that in Boyle County the state had just certified the 16<sup>th</sup> build ready site in Kentucky. It consists of a 100,000 sq. ft pad on 17.8 acres and both of which are expandable by design. Terri Bradshaw then mentioned that Franklin County is now dealing a significant amount of vacant office space and is asking Committee members to reach out if they have any advice on how to deal with this issue.

- **Discussion Regarding Economic Resiliency**

- Greyson Evans opened the discussion by giving a brief overview of the ADD's goals in regard to the COVID 19 resiliency plan being drafted by the ADD. Greyson then mentioned that through one-on-one interviews with the region's economic development officials, the ADD has learned that across the region, the hospitality sector of the economy has been hardest hit, with small businesses struggling the most and large corporations struggling the least. Manufacturing has also struggled because of supply chain issues. Most counties reached unemployment rates of 15-20% in the spring, but the vast majority are back in the 5% range or better as of the end of November. Workforce has found that most counties have a number of job openings, but have a limited number of qualified applicants available to fill those positions. This is a result of a variety of factors including generous unemployment insurance and a lack of available childcare. There is also significant competition between employers looking for these applicants. In terms of assistance programs, PPE has generally been regarded as effective, while the EIDL have not been as popular.
- Greyson Evans then opened the floor to comments from the committee members who have already been interviewed in order to give them the chance to speak about any findings that weren't mentioned earlier. Jack Conner (Scott County) the biggest priority for Scott County remains labor. Terri Bradshaw (Franklin County) then mentioned that there remain many unfilled positions within the county and that the County is also dealing with a lack of housing. Scott County has seen the construction of over 3,700 new housing units in the past 10 years, while Franklin County has seen 73 over the past 10 years. The County is working on housing development strategies. Jody Lassiter (Boyle County) reinforced what Jack Conner said. The lack of labor is a major challenge facing Boyle County. A lack of childcare is also an issue facing Boyle County. Joe Crawford (Estill County) then mentioned that Estill County doesn't have enough housing and commercial space within the county. Like the other counties, Estill also lacks the necessary workforce. Craig McAnelly (Jessamine County) noted that the unemployment rate in Jessamine County has dropped below 4% and that the County is preparing to launch a website that will allow potential businesses to find a suitable application within the county. Mike Willand (Mercer County) noted that like other counties, housing and labor shortages remain a concern, as does childcare.

- David Duttlinger with BGADD then mentioned to the Committee the change in USDA rules regarding broadband. Previously, in order for an applicant to be eligible for a USDA broadband grant, that community could not have mobile internet speeds reach 10mbps down and 1mbps up. This rule has since been changed and communities with these mobile internet speeds are now able to apply.
- Terri Bradshaw mentioned the need for trainings for companies on company culture. Other members of the Committee expressed interest in finding available trainings for businesses in their communities.
- **KIRPs for Consideration**
  - The Committee voted unanimously to approve the KIRP that was up for committee review and approval. A motion to approve was made by Craig McAnelly and was seconded by Jack Conner.
- **Next Meeting**
  - Judge West announced that the next meeting was scheduled for March 4, 2021. Greyson then thanked everyone for their participation and for those who haven't yet been interviewed to be on the lookout for emails from ADD staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Logan Hart  
Bluegrass ADD