



Judge Executive's Report

By George Sparks

April 2025 Monthly Report

April has been filled with meetings and time working on projects.

I attended the Vanceburg Lewis County Industrial Development Authority meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kenny Clark. The past meeting minutes and the financials from 7/12/2024-1/3/2025 were reviewed. We discussed the FY26 budget. Officers were elected and a few other things were discussed before adjourning. We are excited to have Dr. John D. O'Cull to serve as a new board member. BTADD Executive Director Kevin Cornette attended and gave the board an update of what he is working towards for Lewis County and the Industrial Authority.

The Buffalo Trace Road Commission bid opening was held at BTADD on April 3, at 10:00 a.m. This included laying asphalt, rock salt, transport, corrugated and aluminized pipe, fuel oil, chip and seal, cold mix asphalt, bituminous materials, and rip rap. A meeting of the Road Commission immediately followed.

I met with Brian Storz from the Division of Water. Elizabeth Johnson of the Army Corp, BTADD's Kristie Dodge and Kaleigh Zeigler, City of Vanceburg Mayor Dane Blankenship and Brenda Bear, Ben Collier Business Manager Local 248, and Lewis County EM Director Dennis Brown were in attendance. We toured several sites in Vanceburg and in the county including both the Vanceburg and Garrison boat ramps. We brainstormed ideas at all the sites. We discussed water shed management, clean water, protecting the water ways, grants, tourism, economic development and community development.

The Lewis County Extension District Board met on April 4. The meeting was called to order by co-chairperson Ammon Cooper. Christa O'Cull read the minutes. Raven Ford presented the financial report. Pam Evans updated us on the funds that were in CDs and the dates they would mature. Both were approved. Kennedy Cannon discussed farmers using the equipment and the deposit price that can be refunded upon the return of the equipment without damage. We approved the sale of two pieces of equipment that are not used. We also discussed soil samples and decided not to charge farmers for them. Ashley Hunt discussed 4-H Camp that has already reached capacity for attendees. We approved funding for Youth Field Day in memory of Philip Konopka. Raven Ford and Christa O'Cull covered the FY26 budget that they have been working through. BTADD's Melissa Hardy and Blake Jones of the KY Transportation Cabinet met with me to discuss the six-year road plan for Lewis County.

Next, I opened the BTADD Executive Committee meeting. Minutes from 2/18/25 and the executive director's travel/ timesheets were approved. We discussed a new loan committee member. Director Cornette's six-month review was covered. All members agreed that Kevin is doing an outstanding job as Executive Director. We discussed personnel, policies, procedures and a few other upcoming things before adjourning the meeting.

I was able to get out and enjoy our beautiful county as I visited some businesses in town and invited them to the May 9th Unity in Business forum at the extension office. This event is for all Lewis County businesses. The event will be from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. This will be a time to meet other business owners in Lewis County and build partnerships. SBDC, along with the TENCO Workforce Development,

will share how they can both support and assist a business. These services are all free for businesses. Lunch will be served, and we look forward to this event. I appreciate the partnerships we have with both SBDC and TENCO!

TENCO Workforce Development invited me to a Zoom meeting to discuss the Local and Regional Strategic plan for the East Region. Director Denise Dials explained the plan and led the discussion.

EM Director Dennis Brown and I attended a Zoom conference with KYEM, Governor Andy Beshear, and the National Weather Service. We were given recovery updates from the record rainfall and flooding that occurred across Kentucky on 4/3/25-4/6/25.

Next, I attended the annual Lewis County Shooting Sports fundraiser. Kenny Ruckel and his team worked very hard and had an awesome turnout for this event.

I presided over the April 14, 2025, Fiscal Court meeting. The meeting was opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. We heard from Brandon Howell of KTC about the Rural Secondary Program. We approved a grant agreement with ARC for Riverport planning. We approved Resolution #25-07 Jailer salary and duties. The 2nd reading of ordinance #25-01 budget amendment for the FY-24-25 spay and neuter grant. We acknowledged the receipts of the 2025-26 Fiscal Court Budget tentative. We accepted the BTADD Road Commission Bids. We approved the Rock Salt Agreement. Compass had the lowest bid for Lewis County. We approved an updated contract with BTADD and the E-911 Center. We reapproved a lease agreement with KCTCS. We approved the hiring of four full-time litter abatement workers starting on the following Tuesday and two additional hires to start when school is out. Acknowledged receipt of Lewis County Soil Conservation District budget 2025-26. Approval to lease two tri-axel dump trucks and one semi tractor. Monthly reports were given and approved by all departments.

I presided over the BTADD monthly Board of Directors meeting. The meeting was called to order, followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The past meeting minutes from both the executive and full board were approved. Stephen Culp presented the budget versus actual finan-

cial report, and it was approved. Executive Director Kevin Cornette spoke about purchase orders and their approvals. We heard the Washington update from James Stephens from Senator Rand Paul's office. Staff reports from each department were presented. Director Cornette gave his report and spoke about employee compensation. I am thankful to the employees of BTADD for the great work they are doing in our region and to the board for their commitment and service to the board before adjourning.

I attended Governor Andy Beshear's monthly Zoom meeting with local officials. We were given an update on the most recent flooding disaster. This is the 14th federal declaration disaster in the past five years since Governor Beshear has been in office. We heard from KYEM Director Eric Gibson and Commissioner Bobbie Jo Lewis of KTC about roads and bridges. We also heard from Rebecca Goodwin, the Secretary of Energy, and Dr. Stacks who encourages people to get the measles vaccination. It is 97% effective. There was no bird flu found in any of the milk cattle that have all been tested throughout the state. The Governor thanked KYEM and all EM Directors for the good work they are doing as we recover from these most recent disasters.

Trinity Fish and Game held their monthly meeting. After a great meal, President Marty Wright called the meeting to order. Marie Applegate read the past meeting minutes and gave a financial report. Both were approved. They thanked the county maintenance crew for mowing and weed eating the property. They discussed hunting, fishing, and encouraged current members to recruit new members.

I completed the annual Criminal Justice Information Services Security and Pri-

vacy Training.

I attended the Philip Konopka Memorial Lewis County 4-H Field Day at the Tollesboro Lions Club. This was a great event with great turnout. Thank you to the Extension Office Staff and the Lions Club for this great learning experience for our children!

HMB Professional Engineers out of Frankfort came to Lewis County to look at the LC Detention Center and brainstorm ideas to repurpose the building into an Emergency Operations Center.

Next, LVCAP held their Board of Directors meeting. I called the meeting to order, then Mayor Van Alexander offered prayer, and the board said the Pledge of Allegiance. The past meeting minutes were approved. Sidney Gray presented the financial report, which was approved. Executive Director Kenny Walters gave updates on the programs, organizational standards, and agency funding updates. A few other things related to the senior centers were discussed before the meeting was adjourned.

I attended the Hospice of Hope finance/audit committee meeting via Zoom.

I attended the 1st Hope Coalition meeting by Zoom. Alex Halsey with the LC Health Department has worked putting this coalition together. HOPE stands for healing, outreach, prevention, and education. There will be more goals in the future but starting off by reducing the stigma for those in the community that are in or have been in recovery.

I went to BTADD to receive training on Special Purpose Government Entities (SPGE) by Department of Local Government. Rebecca Morton was the instructor.

I attended the Buffalo Trace Agency for Substance Abuse Policy Board. The past meeting minutes and fi-

nancial report were approved. Savannah O'Hearn gave a presentation on Bridge the Gap. We were given an update on the 24-25 grant, supporting awareness campaign, mini grant 2025, and harm reduction initiative grant by Tara Anderson. We discussed our review of membership and heard announcements before adjournment.

The Comprehend Inc. Board of Directors monthly meeting was next on the agenda. The meeting was called to order by Rebecca Cartmell. A mission moment on the 1st Day Forward Program was presented by Cherika Poe and Cassie Hill. The past meeting minutes and financial reports were presented and approved. Mr. Baker gave the CEO report, followed by Rebecca Cartmell presenting some resolutions that were all approved. June 20 is the upcoming fundraiser program titled "Together We Thrive." The meeting was then adjourned.

Toward the end of the month, Buffalo Trace Workforce Development's Cassie Hunt and Steven Peed joined me to invite more business owners and representatives to attend the May 9th Unity in Business Forum at the Lewis County Extension Office.

CDFD Troy Hughes, TSHD architect Kirk Donges, and BTADD came to the courthouse to discuss advertising the Camp Dix VFD project for bids for the

third time. We are hopeful of receiving an acceptable bid this time and seeing construction begin soon.

The county road crew is continuing to improve the road conditions. This year, we have had more than our fair share of severe weather that has damaged many of the roads. We have recently been working on three new special-order culverts, a detour for a new bridge, several slip repairs, and graveling/pothole repairs. Some of these projects have been larger than normal and have taken away from the normal road maintenance. Kentucky overall has had a great deal of severe weather starting the first week of January 2025. Just a few weeks ago, Lewis County received eight inches of rain in a three-day period over much of the county. That much water has done costly damage to our roads. I'd like to thank our road department for their hard work throughout these events.

Church Notice

Revival

Petersville Church of God revival will be May 7-11, Wednesday-Saturday. Service at 7:00 p.m. Sunday Service at 11:00 a.m. Evangelist Markus Hagen. Guest singers, Carter Mick Legacy Southern Gospel Duo.

Card of Thanks

On behalf of the family of Robert "Bob" Lykins we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to those who helped us to navigate through the beginning of our time of loss and those who are still helping us as we travel this path we are on.

For the visits, gifts, flowers, cards, food, kind words, and especially your prayers.

John and Krista Lewis who carried out Bob's funeral service with songs and message. You are special people, thank you for your support.

To Bob's pallbearers who served willingly at our request: Lathe Brady, Randy Fite, Mario Mercado, Aubrey Ruggles, Matt Wenz, and Tom Wilson. Also, Bob's beloved brothers, Tim Lykins and David Lykins, as honorary pallbearers.

Thank you to those ladies and gentlemen who gave of their time and resources to provide food before, during funeral day, and after. Thank those of you who served our family and friends.

Finally, William Waddell and staff for the fine job with Bob's funeral care and arrangements.

May God whose eye is on the sparrow watch over each of you for your kindness and support.

Carla Lykins, Josh and Sabrina Lykins, and McKenley Lykins

COMMUNITY EVENT

KENTUCKY PUBLIC RETIREES - The Covered Bridge Chapter of Kentucky Public Retirees will have their May Meeting, Thursday, May 8, at 11:00 a.m. at the Double S Entertainment Center on Foster Street in Flemingsburg. This will be our last meeting before a summer break. We will be installing officers for the new year. All city, county, and state retirees are welcome.

Licking Valley Community Action Program Transportation Fares Increase

We would like to inform you that, effective **June 1, 2025**, there will be an increase in transportation fares across all routes and services.

Fare Distance	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Within Same County	\$6.00	\$12.00
One County Over	\$10.00	\$20.00
Two Counties Over	\$25.00	\$50.00
Anything Over 2 Counties	\$50.00	\$100.00

We know these proposed changes have an impact on our riders, and we want to hear your feedback. Here's how you can contribute.

Attend our public meeting on May 16, 2025, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. at the Fleming County Senior Center, 316 Panther Ave., Flemingsburg, KY 41041.

Online option: link will be posted on our Facebook page and Website www.lvcap.com

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Benefit Quarter Auction & Meal

Saturday, May 10, 4:00 p.m.

Fleming County Industrial Park Shelter House

Tenderloin Sandwich, Chips & Drink \$8.00
Hot Dog, Chips & Drink \$5.00



All proceeds will go to
Jamie Smith-Marshall to help alleviate financial burden while battling colorectal, liver and lung cancer.

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Advertisement for Bids

Project No. 22-049

Lewis County Fiscal Court and Camp Dix Volunteer Fire Department

Separate sealed bids for the renovation and expansion of the Camp Dix Fire Station for Camp Dix Volunteer Fire Department (Lewis County, KY) will be received by the County at the office of Lewis County Judge Executive George Sparks, 112 Second Street, RM 201, Vanceburg, KY 41179, until 1:00 P.M. local time, Friday, May 23, 2025, and then at said location in the Courthouse publicly opened and read aloud.

A pre-bid meeting can be held by appointment only by contacting the architect at 740-354-0021. The Camp Dix Volunteer Fire Department is located at 10494 KY-59, Vanceburg, KY 41179.

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications and Form of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at the following:

Buffalo Trace Area Development District, 201 Government Street, Suite 300, Mayesville, KY 41050, during the hours of 8:00AM to 4:30PM M-F. Lewis County Courthouse at 112 2nd Street, Vanceburg, KY 41179, during the hours of 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, or 8:00AM to noon on Wednesdays.

Copies may be obtained at the office of the Architect at 1010 Cules Blvd, Portsmouth, Ohio. By phone at 740-354-0021, or email at nresence@schindhardtcs.com.

The owner reserves the right to waive any irregularities or to reject any or all bids. Each bidder must deposit his bid security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and minimum wage rates to be paid under the contract. These include Section 3, Segregated Facility, Section 109 and E.O. 11246. Further, Title VI Minority bidders are encouraged to bid.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

May 6, 2025

Public Notice