

Green County Development Corporation Board Notes
Thursday, January 21, 2021
Via Zoom Call

1. **Attendance:** Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial), Matt Urban (Blackhawk Technical College - BTC), John McNeil (Big Radio), Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville), Becky Olson (Village of Belleville), Mike Williams (Colony Brands), Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus/Sugar River Bank), Joan Rufenacht (County Board), Drake Daily (Village of New Glarus), David Mosher (Mosher & Associates), Mike Sanders (1000 Partners), Beth Luchsinger (County Board), Jane Curran-Meuli (Monroe Clinic), Doug Sutter (Keller), Dave Lothspeich (City of Monroe), Rick Waski (Monroe School District), Monica Sundal (Senator Tammy Baldwin's office), Cara Carper (Green County Development Corporation).
2. **Call to Order:** President Nikki Matley called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.
3. **Introduction of all on the call:** Welcome to Monroe City Administrator Dave Lothspeich!
4. **Approval of Agenda, Minutes (November 19, 2020) and Financials:** Motion by John McNeil; second by Jane Curran-Meuli. Motion carried.
5. **Events Update/Staff Update:** Cara provided a written report and a brief update.
 - a. Childcare Initiatives – Boot Camp and Safety Saturday starting in March
 - b. Small Business Development Center results for 2020
 - c. Growth Opportunity Fund change – now available for manufacturers in Green County of any age
 - d. Executive Leadership Breakfast report
 - e. Driftless Homes update – working on new proposals for 2021
 - f. Green County Leaders – sign up here: <https://green.extension.wisc.edu/community-development/green-county-leaders/upcoming-opportunities-refer-a-friend/>
 - g. Click Thru Job Fair – January 27
 - h. Annual Meeting reminder – An Annual Meeting to meet bylaw requirements will be held at the regular March GCDC Board meeting (Thursday, March 18).
6. **Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board member Business for the Good of the Order:**

Ron Schaaf (Sugar River Bank/Bank of New Glarus) – The bank had a Director retire from the SRB/BNG Board. The new Director is Russ Davis of Colony Brands. The second round of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is up and running. As of this morning, the bank already has 50 applications for \$2.7 million. They are happy to help businesses with their PPP applications.

Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville) – Belleville has seen about a 4 percent growth per year over the past few years. Belleville Chiropractic Clinic has built a new clinic that will be opening in the next week or so. The new Library is waiting on carpeting and will be completed in February. They will move in and open in March. Bakers Woods continues to build. There have been another 12 permits issued for houses under Phase 2. Phase 3 is still in planning.

Beth Luchsinger (County Board) – The Human Services Department continues to work under the constraints of Covid. They are doing well and almost to the point where they are able to bring all staff back to the office. The Health Department is moving ahead with a vaccine plan. The numbers of Covid positive cases in the county are down a bit. There was no County Board meeting this month, so no update.

Jane Curran-Meuli (Monroe Clinic) – The Clinic is focused on Covid and vaccines. More than 800 Monroe Clinic employees have been vaccinated with their second dose. There has been a huge decrease of employees with symptoms. The Clinic vaccinated 134 EMS/EMT staff as well as 20 unaffiliated healthcare staff. Yesterday the state did a sudden pivot away from vaccinations for people 65 years of age and up. The age is now 75 and up. More than 1,300 appointments were already scheduled for next week, which the Clinic will honor. Then the focus will be on those 75 and up. They are set to do 1,600 vaccinations per week, so at that rate it will take about 2 months to get those 75 and over vaccinated. They will expand vaccinations as soon as they are able. Some people are putting their names in many places to get vaccinated, but that is causing situations that take spots away from others. The Clinic has moved to Yellow Status where visitors can now attend with patients. In other healthcare news, Monroe Clinic has hired a permanent Radiation Oncologist who will provide cutting edge treatment.

Joan Rufenacht (County Board) – No report

Becky Olson (Village of Belleville) – Becky has had a couple of showings of the historic Depot building (downtown Belleville, next to the trail). They would love to see a great business there. In Belleville's December 17 newsletter, Becky focused on resources residents might need. The next newsletter will focus on the Childcare Business Boot Camp. Becky is excited to get back to her office after an extended quarantine.

Mike Sanders (1100 Partners) – Thank you to healthcare workers! Hug the healthcare workers in your family bubble – otherwise, stay 6 feet away. Kudos to Kristi Smith at Small Business Development Center for her help with Mike's family business, as well as his new management consulting firm.

Monica Sundal (U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's office) – A lot has happened in Congress since the last GCDC meeting in November. The Covid Relief package passed the end of December. It included: PPP updates to improve the program and provide a second round of payments; vaccines development and distribution funds; testing and tracing funds; rural broadband funding; and help for farmers and childcare facilities. It did not include direct payments to state or local governments. Senator Baldwin looks forward to working with the new Congress and is hoping for "chairwomanship" for a number of committees. She is hopeful for action on her Buy American bill next week. She is also working on another Covid package and Economic Recovery package. If you, or someone you know, is struggling with a federal department (like the Small Business Administration) please contact Senator Baldwin's office for help.

David Mosher (Mosher & associates) – Our local businesses need us! Please buy local. Many are down 40 percent and despair that if it continues, they won't be here in the future. We can easily call Farm & Fleet or Ace Hardware or get a takeout meal. It's tough right now. Be safe. Last week Dave volunteered to answer phones for the Green County Hotline for families having a hard time. Contact United Way of Green County if you would like to volunteer.

Blackhawk Technical College is offering a Cyber Liability program. This topic is extremely important now. Remember the Monroe Kiwanis meet virtually every Thursday at 12:30 with great programs. Let Dave know if you'd like to join them.

Mike Williams (Colony Brands) – The Colony Outlet Store has been closed since March. It is now being used as a Covid testing site.

Doug Sutter (Keller) – Doug is working on three projects in Monroe that he hopes to be able to share with the Board next month. The construction industry is busy. Materials like lumber and steel continue to get more expensive.

John McNeil (Big Radio) – John taped a Spotlight on Green County about the upcoming Childcare Business Boot Camp classes, as well as ads promoting the classes. Basketball is continuing with more local teams playing. Lady Badger basketball is also covered by Big Radio.

Rick Waski (School District of Monroe) – The school is managing Covid. They have been in a hybrid model most of the year. They currently plan to bring all of the elementary school students back into schools, Monday through Thursday, on February 1. There has been an increase in the number of quarantines in one building affecting 60 people (students and staff). There are currently 11 cases of Covid in the District, but no one has been hospitalized for the whole school year. All school staff will be offered vaccinations in February. It appears about 85% of staff is willing to be vaccinated. This will have a great benefit in getting kids back in school. The District is planning an April referendum for improvements to Northside Elementary. The need for improvements at the high school is still a major issue, with a Fall 2022 referendum being considered. (This referendum would have no tax increase.)

Drake Daily (Village of New Glarus) – On Tuesday, the Village Board approved a Covid Relief program for businesses operating store fronts in TID 4 (Downtown and Backtown). This is being funded from surplus funds from the Brewery TID.

Dave Lothspeich (City of Monroe) – Dave thanked board members for their welcome. He has been with the City for 3 months and is getting his feet underneath him. He will share new economic development projects in the future. He would like to make personal contacts with GCDC Board members so he can get to know everyone.

Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial/Monroe School Board) – Thrivent has had more requests to start their seminars back up again, so they are offering:

Feb. 3 – “5 Keys to Retiring Fearlessly”

Feb. 10 - “Social Security—Timing is Everything”

Feb. 17 – “Will Taxes Affect My Retirement?”

Please contact the Thrivent Financial office to sign up 608-325-8100.

7. **Next Meeting:** The next GCDC Board meeting will be Thursday, February 18.
8. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Beth Luchsinger, second by Joan Rufenacht. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.