

Green County Development Corporation Board Notes

Thursday, April 20, 2023

1. **Attendance:** Jane Curran-Meuli (Monroe Clinic), Richard Thoman (AmericInn, County Board, City of Monroe), John McNeil (Big Radio), Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus), Cory Rittenbusch (SWWRPC), Mike Sanders (GCDC, interm Fowler Dental administrator), Joan Rufenacht (Green County Board), Amy Charles (Blackhawk Technical College), Kathy Ryan (Monroe Truck), Keith Geisler (Orchid), Dave Mosher (Mosher Insurance), Tracy Pierner (Blackhawk Tech), Casey Jones (Brodhead Mayor), Kathy Ryan (Monroe Truck), Gabe Altenbernd (Belleville Administrator), Joan Ruttenbauch (County Board), Lauren Freeman (New Glarus Administrator), Nikki Atley (Thrivent), Doug Sutter (Keller Builds), Olivia Otte (Green County Development Corporation) Tracy Brewer (Green County Development Corporation).

2. **Call to Order:** Olivia Otte, GCDC Executive Director called the meeting to order at 7:33 am.

3. **Approval of Agenda, Minutes (November 2022), and Financials:**

Agenda: 1st Jon McNeil; 2nd Joan Ruttenbauch

Financials approved: 1st Mike Sander; 2nd Dave Mosher

Minutes from January and February approved: 1st Casey Jones; 2nd Richard Thoman

No March minutes because of Leadership Breakfast.

4. **Events Update/Staff Update:** Olivia provided a brief report and update.

- Entrepreneurial Support
 - Small Business Series began with 23 people, lots of energy and great ideas. SBDC presented how to ID customer base and legal side of business. 15 businesses hoping to get started. All sessions on Wednesdays through May 17 at Monroe's Bank of New Glarus.
 - Pop-Up Shop program in partnership with several financial institutions – getting closer to starting. Likely launch after Business Series
- Broadband: Green County IT, SWWRPC, with GCDC partnering for rural broadband. GCDC role is contacting rural businesses to get feedback and attract providers for grant writing.
- Green County Leaders last session with graduation May 10th. Olivia will send the official invite to register. Graduation starts at 2pm with project presentations and social time following. The event will be held at Hawks Mill Winery in Browntown.
- GCDC Community Conversations is a new initiative to get out to communities and make them more familiar with GCDC and to listen to their needs. Albany spurred the idea with success as Albany is now an investor. These will start in June in Brodhead, July in Brooklyn and likely New Glarus. Dates will be shared in hopes of getting local support and attendance by GCDC board as well.
- Housing CDBG funding have been shifted from the county to GCDC to allocate these funds. Funds are for housing health issues such as lead paint, fire code updates, etc. These funds are heavily regulated with approximately \$150k available.
 - Dave Mosher concern is with trades people to do the work
 - Dave Sutter offered to send a list of hazmat abatement contractors
 - Nikki suggested to take to interim admin to connect with Jeff Nieces (Spelling?) as he is talking to home owners about these issues.
- Housing Summit coming up May 16 – GCDC is a partner host with many others to bring people of different backgrounds and experiences to the table to move housing forward in Green County.

5. Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board member Business for the Good of the Order:

Dave Mosher: excited about the White Block project which will be starting soon believing it to be a great attraction for visitors to Green County. He expressed concern about the school conflict and students leaving the community.

Casey Jones: DG Market (a Walmart Neighbor store), the first in the state of Wisconsin is going up in Brodhead (Rock County side). Brodhead had a referendum that failed – city must cut budget by 15% or increase income. CEA project starts in May with the UW Extension and GCDC. New Bed and Breakfast – 2 hits off of GCDC website! Wisconsin Dells trip to address the Joint Finance Committee. Got 2 minutes to represent rural mayors (bibs worn) for revenue sharing in regards to public safety.

Mike Sanders: Fowler Dental Clinic is looking for a full time administrator, someone that is a collaborative leader with underserved and underinsured populations. Also looking for dental hygienists. Monroe Golf Club should be opening soon, and renovations of the event space are taking place now.

Tracy Peirner: busy time of year at BTC with graduation and healthcare pinning ceremonies. Walls are going up for the Public Safety Building which will be ready next summer. The board approved funding for a manufacturing center on the central campus.

Cory Rittenbusch: SWWRPC string involved, either he or Ellen will be at our meetings. They are currently working on a marketing audit, looking at online and physical presence of all 5 counties in their region. They are also working on a tree service program and transit planning.

Doug Sutter: construction supply chain is doing well, labor still is a struggle. Many projects on the cusp in Green County and he hopes to be able to talk about them soon.

Nikki Austin: school board lawsuit should be settled by May 3. Concerns with families leaving if not approved. Thrivent's 1300 action teams have had a \$1.8M community impact – something to be proud of for sure.

Keith Geisler: Orchid Monroe is now officially UPG Electric. They have brought on 15 new people with the help of QPS Staffing, and are ready to hire 10-15 more.

Jon McNeil: Breakfast on the Farm May 27 at the Devoe Farm N266 Twin Grove Road. Busy with high school ball. Would like to do a Housing Summit spotlight.

Joan Ruttenbauch: on the committee for Pleasant View, currently has 47 on a waiting list, 30 beds open but not enough CNA's available.

Amy Charles: BTC hoping to help with another CNA cohort training and open enrollment classes in June. Other classes, Excel, Basic Spanish (almost full) and ELL (full), and GED reminder – all at Monroe Campus.

Kathy Ryan: Monroe Truck has been busy with high school tours – Stockton and Monticello, and career days in Darlington and Monroe. They have a Youth Apprentice starting in the summer.

Richard Thoman: welcomed new members to the city council. They are working hard to move the Dolan property north of Walmart – hold up is price and infrastructure is not readily available and needs to be remedied.

Ron Shaaf: is working with SWWRPC on the revolving loan fund. They are looking ahead to remodeling of The Bank of New Glarus' Brodhead branch and others in the future now that Monroe is done.

Gabe Altenbernd: new administrator for the Village of Belleville. He is looking forward to future meetings.

Lauren Freeman: new administrator for the Village of New Glarus. Exciting project in the works with the New Glarus Hotel.

Jane Curran-Meuli: held their first community forum in three years due to covid. Great conversations and looking forward to the next session in September. Working a lot with food insecurities and are now screening patients and working with food pantries to provide food and

connect them with resources and possible jobs. They enjoyed their experience with the Launch students from Monroe. They are a CMS 5 star hospital, noted for quality, outcomes and cost, putting them in the top 7% in the nation.

6. **Next Meeting:** Next week May 18 at 7:30 am via Teams.

7. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:17 AM