

Green County Development Corporation Board Minutes
Thursday, April 21, 2022
In Person Meeting!

1. **Attendance:** Nikki Austin (Thrivent), John McNeil (Big Radio), Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus), Joan Rufenacht (County Board), Dave Mosher (Mosher & Associates), Drake Daily (Village of New Glarus), Donna Douglas (City of Monroe), Richard Thoman (AmericInn, County Board, City of Monroe), Mike Sanders (1100 Partners), Amy Charles (Blackhawk Technical College), Casey Jones (City of Brodhead), Dr. Tracy Pierner (Blackhawk Technical College), Mike Williams (Colony Brands).
2. **Call to Order:** President Nikki Austin called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by John McNeil; second by Joan Rufenacht. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of the Minutes (March 17, 2022):** Motion by Ron Schaaf; seconded by Casey Jones. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of the Financials (March 2022):** Motion by Dave Mosher; second by Mike Sanders. Motion carried.
6. **GCDC Executive Committee – Brief Recap:**
 - Nikki met with Cara and she is willing to continue helping us on a part-time basis to keep things moving. Additionally, when a candidate is hired she would be willing to mentor that new person for about 10 hours per month, possibly even more in the summer months when she's not as busy with the School District, but would appreciate some boundaries so that it doesn't create conflict for the new Director.
 - An update from the Green County Child Care Network that grants have been applied for in excess of \$20 million from different entities in an effort to put a 7% plan in place for childcare, so that childcare costs would not exceed 7% of any families' salary. They do not have a fiscal agent yet for this proposal, but Cara made it clear that this is too big for GCDC to take on.
 - Ripple Mapping: On Tuesday, March 29, University and UW Extension representatives did a Ripple Effect Mapping event with all communities/entities that were involved with the UniverCity Year projects 2017-2020. There was a great turnout, and she looks forward to reading the report. There was a lot of synergy in the room between different communities. Good connections were made and ideas shared. We had representatives from Monroe, Brodhead, Monticello, Green County Human Services, Green County Health Dept and Juda and Monticello schools. The process was particularly well done by UW Extension.
 - Nikki asked all on the board to spread the word to your networks about the opening at GCDC in hopes of finding the right fit for the group. We do have a 1 pm interview today. Exec team of Drake, Mike W, Mike S, Richard and Nikki are conducting the interviews.

7. Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board Member Business to Advance Economic Development in Green County: Each member provided an update from their business/community.

Amy Charles (Blackhawk Tech) – Scheduling classes in Monroe. Food Safety Manager program will be starting in May. Working with Melissa Even at the Monroe Chamber for Lunch N Learn opportunities and working on the Continuing Ed schedule for the Fall

Dave Mosher (Mosher and Associates)—Dave wanted to extend a HUGE thank you to Art Carter for all of his years of service on the Green County Board. Through his leadership, GCDC continues to exist today. Dave has found an excellent speaker for Founders Day in May hosted by UW Alumni and Friends. More details to follow, but mark your calendars now for May 26th at 6 pm at the Monroe Golf Club. The Monroe Golf Club is now going to be serving meals again in partnership with Tina Herbst, so it can be another option for group meetings.

Dr. Tracy Pierner (Blackhawk Technical College)—Board of Regents has approved a Bachelor of Science degree. The state lags in higher education (18%). BTC is moving aggressively into new educational opportunities and new programs will be coming on board. They continue to do the renovations on the 2 year build project and bids open today.

Drake Daily (Administrator of New Glarus) – 4 months away from a new substation in New Glarus. Bid for Wastewater Treatment plant now will be a \$5.2 million project. Design of a water tower is in the works. ARPA funding request was denied for not having “county impact”. Site plan of new primary school –Labor Day 2024 is the projected opening. Funding for municipalities continues to be an issue to provide the same levels of services to residents.

Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus) – Rehab projects at the bank have been put off due to limited contractors. They have some great new hires coming on board. Monroe building project is underway salted for Dec 2022. Reminder of the Groundbreaking ceremony on 5/2 at 4:30 pm. All are invited to attend

Joan Rufenacht (Green County Board)—New board just took seat on Tuesday night. 11 new people and lots of new ideas. They are still one person short for District 19 (Brodhead).

Donna Douglas (New Mayor of Monroe)—She took the oath of office as new mayor; 5 new alders and 1 open seat now on the council with a posting for obtaining 50 signatures and then being chosen by the Council to fill the vacant seat. Starting out, Monroe has some challenges needing to work together with the County and avoid duplicating services. She sees Monroe as a city “without a fence around it”. Fire Chief of 3 months has left due to personal issues and a new hot topic is the \$1.5 million ladder truck was voted to be purchased to replace one that is now more than 30 years old.

Richard Thoman (Green County Board, Monroe City Council, AmericInn) – Richard added the fire truck conversation was controversial passing by 1 vote. Also discussed the courthouse and its now nearly \$7 million of renovations, but we are out of options, and it needs to be completed.

Mike Williams (Colony Brands)—Monday, 4/25/22 the store on the corner will open after being closed for 2 years. 5/2 Colony Brands will be reopening their 2 main administration buildings bringing more than 500 people back to work. They are trying to hire for the summer and finding it's challenging even at \$18-\$20/hour plus signing bonuses to find people. They are leasing a new 100,000 square foot building in Janesville and will have 100 positions by the summer. It hasn't been as challenging to find people for that location.

Mike Sanders (1100 Partners Consulting and Five Quarter Construction) – Five Quarter Construction is busy, but always happy to bid projects. Think Spring!

John McNeil (Big Radio) –They recently did a spotlight on Green County with Cara regarding the SOAR program. The radio is an open forum for GCDC and spotlights on businesses and community stakeholders alike so let him know when something's going on. Breakfast on the Farm will be held at the Meier Farm on May 28th.

Casey Jones (Mayor of Brodhead) –Took office as new Mayor Tuesday night. There is a revaluation of the city and assessments have increased by 42%, but he's been helping people to understand that doesn't mean their taxes are going up by that amount. Woods Crossing sold and will now be an Opioid Rehab clinic (Wis Hope). A new 48 bed place funded by grants will be coming to the area too. In regard to tourism, the bridge to Pearl Island Corridor was funded by private funding of about \$140,000 and will be done in time for Covered Bridge Days.

Nikki Austin (Thrivent) – ARPA funding committee of which GCDC has a seat, but no vote has been meeting and is receiving more requests than the \$7.2 million in funding that's been provided. This group makes a recommendation to the Finance Committee and then ultimately the board will vote. A huge thanks to Big Radio for hosting the community forum about the school board candidates so that voters could be educated. Superintendent search is underway and candidates will be interviewed in hopes of narrowing the group from 6 to 3. Those 3 candidates will be in the district next week for tours and forums interested in meeting them. We are hopeful to have someone selected and moving forward by early May. School board reseats Monday, 4/25 with 2 incumbents keeping their post and one new one joining in place of Dan Bartholf who chose not to run again

8. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the GCDC Board will be IN PERSON on Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 am in the courtroom of the historic Court House, downtown Monroe.
9. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Mike Williams, second by John McNeil. Motion carried. Adjourned at 8:42 am.