

## Green County Development Corporation Board Notes

Thursday, August 17, 2023

1. **Attendance:** Richard Thoman (AmericInn, County Board, City of Monroe) Glarus), Joan Rufenacht (Green County Board), Donna Douglas (Monroe Mayor), Nikki Austin (Thrivent), , Mike Sanders (Monroe Golf Club, 1100 Partners), Casey Jones (Brodhead Mayor), Dave Mosher (Mosher Insurance), Jane Curran-Meuli (SSM Health), Jon McNeil (Big Radio), Mike Furgal (Green County Board), John Fick (UW Platteville), Amy Charles (BTC), Tracy Pierner (BTC), Brittney Rindy (Monroe Administrator), Ellen Tyler (SWWRPC), Chris Schindler (City of Monroe Alderman) 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:** Not enough for a quorum, so no approvals this month
4. **Events Update/Staff Update:** Olivia provided a brief report and update.
  - Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) meetings with investors and other businesses continue. Municipal administrators have been included in the visits and is very well received. No surprises, housing and broadband continue to be top of mind.
    - If you have other suggestions or referrals for businesses to connect with, please contact Olivia
  - Community Conversations: getting out to all communities in Green County to discuss needs, create awareness and work together towards common goals. The program began in Albany this past Spring.
    - Brooklyn: July 27 – partnered with Brooklyn Chamber and the city. Small group, but powerful conversations with government officials and local entrepreneurs.
    - NEXT Brodhead: October 18 - 5:30-7:30PM at the Brodhead Memorial Library - reveal of the Community Economic Assessment completed by UW Extension.
  - Green County Leaders will begin the 2023/2024 session with 38 participants on September 6. Victoria will be able to be more involved this year and GCDC will provide a supporting role.
  - Pop-Up Shop: trial program to support local entrepreneurs with initial rent or mortgage payments. 1 applicant is in the works. Thanks to those that agreed to be on the committee. This program is supported by a \$5k grant from Compeer Financial.
  - Home Construction Cooperative with MHS, SSM Health, BTC and GCDC will begin in the fall. The program has received very positive feedback. The home donated by SSM is in good shape and will be a good start for the program. \$40k has been raised so far to support the program and grants have been applied for as well. A contractor has walked through and will provide a breakdown of projects to help determine the direction for the high school students. A part-time instructor/general contractor will be hired by GCDC to support the students at the house and the full-time high school teacher.
  - Housing Study and TIF/TID Seminar -December 7. The Green County Housing Study conducted by SWWRPC will be complete and presented at this event, following will be an educational session on TIF/TID to help government leaders, elected officials, and contractors understand what options and incentives can be available with TIF/TID districts. The goal is to educate and inform with focus on decisions for housing.
  - World Dairy Expo October 5 & 6. A partnership participation event with BTC and GCDC to share information on BTC Ag programs and Green County in general.

- **Fall Breakfast will be held September 21 at the Wegmueller Farm** to discuss The Future of Agriculture. This will also be the September board meeting. Kimmee's Kitchen and Woodford Bank are providing partial sponsorship along with the Wegmuellers. Sign-Up is required as this is a limited seating event.  
<https://GDCDFallBreakfast0921.eventbrite.com>

**5. John Fick with UW Platteville** – presentation on the Civil and Environmental Engineering senior design program. This program brings seniors to companies and civil locations for engineering projects – a hands on experiential opportunity in Green County funded by the Economic Development Association. The PowerPoint and discussion showed examples of what can be done and the timelines for students to complete projects. Projects can include (mechanical engineering) prototypes for products and (civil engineering) for civic projects like abandoned spaces redesign for housing, or EV Charging, inclusive playgrounds, etc. These are great opportunities to create presentations to councils and provide project details for grant opportunities. PowerPoint will be included with the minutes. September and January are when projects start getting assigned. Contact John to provide your project ideas.

UW Platteville invites you to their campus to see recent renovations and also to visit the Dairy Innovation Pilot Plant – possible through a \$1M grant from Compeer Financial.

The robotics team come in 1<sup>st</sup> at the world championship – this is the second year in a row.

## **6. Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board member Business:**

**Donna Douglas (Mayor Monroe):** salary and wage study was approved to get salaries in line for employee retention. The Fire Chief position is being posted. Kudos to Brittni Rindy for jumping right into her new role.

**Nikki Austin (Thrivent):** school bond is moving forward with various organizations to keep the high school construction project moving forward.

**Richard Thoman (City of Monroe):** Hiring to replace Brittni's vacated position is in process. Side note regarding article in county magazine article about state room occupancy increasing but Green County is decreasing (page 38 in Wisconsin Counties magazine August 2023)

**Dave Mosher (Mosher Insurance):** Green County Healthy County Coalition is asking for contractor names and contact information to seek input for sharing at the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Jane Curran-Meuli (SSM Health):** hospital volumes were declining but now back up. The dialysis program is serving an average of 11 people per month. Janes role is expanding to St. Mary's in Janesville. Beyond the house donation to GDCDC, SSM has also donated land to Habitat for Humanity for a 2024 build.

**Mike Sanders (1100 Partners; Monroe Golf Club):** 2 reminders: there is a lot of golf season left and the recent Chamber golf event went very well. Wednesday evening there is a free concert on the lawn at Monroe Arts Center.

**Ellen Tyler (SWWRPC):** the housing study for Green County will be completed in December and presented on the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month in Monroe. Green County strategic plan is set to be completed in 2024. The study will help the government create a strategy for working together.

**Tracy Pierner (BTC):** fall semester starts Monday, August 21. Enrollments are up.

**Brittney Rindy (Monroe City Administrator):** the BRE visits with Olivia have been very valuable. The Dolan property had an RFP out with only one respondent submitting for residential and mixed unit housing plan. The city is planning a zoning team TIF101 for the common council in September. The police held a National Night Out that was very successful.

**John McNeil (Big Radio):** recently did a spotlight for GCDC regarding the Revolving Loan Fund, planning Pop-Up Shop next. Reminder that football season starts Friday. Can find the entire schedule at bigradio.FM

**Mike Furgal (Green County Board):** the county has approved a contract to remodel and add an addition to the child advocacy center. Kundert Construction was awarded the contract for \$619K. The advocacy center is for abused and neglected children.

**Chris Schindler (City of Monroe, city council):** the wage and compensation study was completed with the goal of bringing salaries more in line with other municipalities.

**Casey Jones (Mayor of Brodhead):** The Community Economic Development plan in partnership with the UW Extension was very successful for the first two meetings. The next meeting is in September, with the findings presented on October 18. He recently met with representative Clint Anderson to discuss the budget funds and shared there is a lot of housing and older community property funds available for construction loans and lower income funds to fix up homes. The Bed & Breakfast in Brodhead and he and his wife have purchased the Gospel Hall for a quilt shop. Brodhead focus is now towards a convention center and hotel.

**Amy Charles (BTC):** fall semester is starting. There are still spots open for the EMR and CPR classes. They will be partnering again with Pleasant View for the CNA program.

**6. Next Meeting: September 21, 7:30 at the Wegmueller Farm** – this will coincide with the Fall Breakfast.

**7. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 8:29 AM 1<sup>st</sup> John McNeil, 2<sup>nd</sup> Casey Jones