

Green County Development Corporation Board Notes
March 15, 2018
Green County Courthouse, Monroe

1. **Attendance:** John Bernstein (City of Brodhead), John McNeil (Big Radio), Bryan Gadow (Village of New Glarus), Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville), Mike Klassy (Village of Monticello), David Mosher (Mosher & Associates), Richard Thoman (AmericInn/County/City of Monroe), Craig Fuchs (Orchid International), Phil Rath (City of Monroe), Sam Liebert (City of Monroe), Mike Sanders (Monroe Clinic), Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial), Kristi Smith (Small Business Development Center), Rick Waski (Monroe School Superintendent), Orion McCarty (Monroe Golf Club), Mary Jane Grenzow (Green County Development Corporation), Cara Carper (Green County Development Corporation).

2. **Call to Order:** President Nikki Matley called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

3. **Welcome of Guests:** None at the time.

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

Sam Liebert (City of Monroe) - The City is working with Ehlers to expand the boundaries of TID 9 (Dolan property north of Walmart). The City applied for Opportunity Zone Designation and letters of support were sent by Representative Novak and Senator Marklein on their behalf. The City is looking into bids for floors at City Hall. Arianna Voegeli is the new City Clerk. The City has signed an Memorandum of Understanding with JTT (Twining Valley) to develop workforce housing near the Middle School to meet housing demand.

Mike Sanders (Monroe Clinic) – Monroe Clinic is continuing integration with SSM Health. The building expansion is going up. They are breaking ground on a clinic in Durand, IL using new design principles that will also be used in the Monroe Clinic expansion. Flu cases were bad this year, but numbers are going down. January and February 2018 were the busiest months at Monroe Clinic since the new building opened. Yesterday the new County Health Rankings came out and Green County is now number 10 in the state in overall health. This is the highest Green County has ever been in the rankings. Last year we were at number 18. Our worst component is “environment” due to long commuting times by residents.

Craig Fuchs (Orchid International) – Orchid hosted Green County Leaders in March. Craig praised the Green County Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) as a great place to help people research nursing homes for their parents. He also praised the Monroe Clinic Retirement Seminar as a great learning experience.

Rick Waski (Monroe School District) – Monroe Schools are into their first few months of a facility study. They are also retiring debt. Their newest school was built in 1986. Through the facility study they found the Middle School is the best structurally. School security modernization is being considered. They agreed to a 5 year rate freeze on health

insurance with Dean Health. That will be a huge cost savings. On August 29, the school district will be hosting a Business Tour for all 300+ employees to increase knowledge of employment opportunities in Monroe. He hopes businesses will be willing to be part of the tour.

Dave Mosher (Mosher & Associates) – Dave suggested write in candidate Teresa Keene for Monroe School Board. He introduced Orion McCarty from the Monroe Golf Club and mentioned the golf course is a great reason for people to come back to Monroe. Public opportunities to use the facility are coming up soon.

Orion McCarty (Monroe Golf Club) – Orion said their focus is on the golf club as a community course where organizations can hold their weekly meetings. On April 27 they will be hosting a Business After 5 with the Monroe Chamber. They are planning a Friday night public couples league. They would like to break the stigma of “country club” and be utilized by all.

Richard Thoman (Green County Board) – Pleasant View will soon have a new entrance for security and aesthetics. They are also renovating some rooms.

Mike Klassy (Village of Monticello) – There have been lots of business changes in Monticello, from one owner to another. The coffee shop will soon be opening, as well as a restaurant in the former Dining Room storefront.

John Bernstein (City of Brodhead) – There are many great things going on in Brodhead. An entrepreneur is remodeling a church to be a 10-12 room bed and breakfast. The former Earth Rider shop recently sold. Thanks to the Brodhead Community Foundation, the City will be doing a feasibility study for a new hotel.

John McNeil (Big Radio) – John highlighted Big Radio’s state basketball coverage. Congratulations to the local girls teams at Blackhawk and Monroe. The Spotlight on Green County is about the grant and the Enterprise Center. Kristi Smith also taped one that is running now about one-on-one free, confidential business counseling services she provides. Jim Becker has a new business opening soon next to Sloan Implement. It will be a Hardware Hank store, as well as and ice cream shop with Babcock ice cream, sandwiches and cheeses. Opening mid-April.

Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville) – Belleville has design approval for a coffee shop on Main Street. The first meeting for the library design was held. Final plans are expected in July. Next month the architect will begin the police department design. The Community Development Authority (CDA) is taking the lead on a unified theme for downtown buildings, based on the Market/Brand study. There were 4 bids for street reconstruction/waterline/new municipal well and well house.

Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial) – Nikki provided a reminder card and information on upcoming events including: April 4 (U.S. Tax Reform), May 15 (Wills & Trusts), June 12 (Social Security) and July 28th is Generosity Day. May 19 is the Kiwanis Disc Golf

Event. Kiwanis is looking for sponsors. Let Nikki or Dave Mosher know if you are interested.

Bryan Gadow (Village of New Glarus) – On February 27th, WEDC held a façade improvement seminar. Twenty five people attended. They had some good ideas for business owners. Culvers in New Glarus is expanding. They are working on a grant from Wisconsin Historical Society to get historic designation for the 2nd Street Corridor for tax credit opportunities. New Glarus is creating a TIF handbook.

Phil Rath (City of Monroe) – The CDA discussion was declined by the City Council. They are hoping to revitalize the Redevelopment Authority (RDA) instead. The RDA would not have as much authority as a CDA would have had. City Council has 5 open seats, 3 incumbents, 2 vacancies and 2 write in candidates (Mickey Beam and Donna Douglas). Others can be write in candidates, but need to register with the Clerk. The mayor position is also up for re-election.

5. **Approval of Agenda, Minutes and Financials** (January 2018)
Motion by Bryan Gadow, second by David Mosher. Motion approved.
6. **UniverCity Update:** Cara provided an update of the timeline. UniverCity faculty are currently pitching 85 potential Green County projects to UW Madison faculty.
7. **Enterprise Center Open House Invitation (April 19)**
The Enterprise Center Open House will be held Thursday, April 19 from 5-7 pm at the NEW Enterprise Center (north end of Blackhawk Technical College – entrance across the street from Alp & Dell Cheese Store).
8. **Annual Meeting Update (May 8 and workshop May 9)**
Mary Jane Grenzow provided a brief overview of the Annual meeting and encouraged Board members to RSVP.
9. **Green County Entrepreneurial Development Program Update**
The William S. Knight Foundation is interested in building an incubator in Green County. GCDC is researching incubators and is working with Keller to update plans for an incubator.
10. **Staff Update**
Mary Jane Grenzow reminded Board members to submit their Business Award Nominations. Nominations are due Thursday, March 29.
11. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday, April 19 at the Green County Courthouse in the courtroom.
12. **Adjourn:** Adjourned at 8:32 am.