

Green County Development Corporation Board Notes
April 19, 2018
Green County Courthouse, Monroe

1. **Attendance:** John Bernstein (City of Brodhead), John McNeil (Big Radio), Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville), April Fuhr (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), Joe Hunter (Colony Brands), Beth Luchsinger (County Board), Jesse Duff (Fehr Graham), Matt Urban (Blackhawk Technical College), Cara Carper (Green County Development Corporation).
2. **Call to Order:** President Nikki Matley called the meeting to order at 7:33 am.
3. **Welcome of Guests:** Craig Fuchs introduced Grant Bibby and Jeff Gould of Orchid International.

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

April Fuhr (Village of Monticello) – April is the new GCDC representative from Monticello. She grew up in Monticello and spent 14 years in Platteville working on economic development projects such as the Building Economic Strength Together (BEST) Conference. She was recently elected to the Village Board and is heading up the new Monticello Economic Development Committee

Sam Liebert (City of Monroe) – Proposals for trash pickup are due tomorrow. Bids for City Hall floor repair are due Monday. There has been some turnover at the City, so they will be posting a number of positions soon. There have been a few nibbles by developers for land in TIF 9 (Dolan property).

Mike Sanders (Monroe Clinic) – The addition for the building is moving along. The “Get Moving Initiative” starts next week.

Joe Hunter (Colony Brands) – Colony Brands hopes to soundly beat Monroe Clinic in the Get Moving competition next week. Colony Brands has toured 650 students in the past two weeks for career opportunities and scholarships. They have filled all of their 200 summer openings.

Jesse Duff (Fehr Graham) – Fehr Graham is working on the traffic signals at 6th/21st near the Lucky 7 in Monroe. They are also working on culverts due to flooding. They are working with the Town of Sylvester to ensure Pinnacle Dairy is in compliance. They are also working with Monroe on Phosphorus compliance at the wastewater treatment plant.

Phil Rath (City of Monroe) – The City is revamping the Redevelopment Authority (RDA). The number of inquiries about TID 9 continues to grow.

Richard Thoman (County Board) – The building west of Farm & Fleet is a kidney dialysis clinic, moving from the old Monroe Clinic building.

Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus) – A new Revolving Loan Fund application is likely. A company is bringing 8-10 jobs moving from Illinois.

John McNeil (Big Radio) – Two Spotlights on Green County are currently running – the Open House at the Enterprise Center and the Annual Dinner. Big Radio is always looking to better serve the local market. KK Lawn and Sport/Hardware Hank/Ice cream shop had more than 700 people attend their grand opening open house over the weekend.

Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville) – The plan commission has approved a downtown coffee shop that will serve pastries and sandwiches. The TID 3 Bakers Woods plot was approved (1/2 housing, 1/2 commercial and a Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF). There will be a fun run with Bastille Day and Lake Fest on July 14 (with a wine tasting and music). The preliminary layouts of the library have been designed. The police station designs will be done in 2-3 months with construction starting Fall 2018. The elementary school on Main Street will be vacated to the main campus. There are ongoing discussions about the site and an RFP for mixed use development. They are working on a phosphorus plan with their engineer, together with Dane County.

John Bernstein (City of Brodhead) – The Brodhead Feasibility Study will be done this week. It is John's 17th year on the GCDC Board.

Beth Luchsinger (County Board) – The county passed a wheel tax which will take effect after August. It was based on the advice of the Highway Commission because roads and bridges in the county are in bad shape. Only vehicles under 6,000 pounds will be taxed. County Board members will soon be assigned to new committees.

Craig Fuch (Orchid International) – Craig announced the Audit Committee is meeting next Friday at 10 am.

Grant Bibby (Orchid International) – Grant is in the process of moving to Monroe. He has been here the past year and is looking at houses. When Orchid purchased their transformer business, it was in decline (and continues to decline) due to the use of LED lighting. At the same time, they are changing their business to do more electric motors and generators. They have been awarded more GM contracts recently. They make the cores for electric motor shock absorbers. They are overcoming the transformer decline with positive growth and are looking to hire more engineers.

Jeff Gould (Orchid International) – Jeff has visited Monroe many times and appreciates the sense of community.

Matt Urban (Blackhawk Technical College) – Matt has been working with local businesses on Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) grants. He has a cheesemaker consortium with Emmi and Klondike, a new applicant with PDC, and Industrial

Combustion. They will find out July 1 if the grants are received. He encouraged members to attend tonight's Open House at the Enterprise Center.

Dave Mosher (Mosher & Assc.) – The New Glarus Visitor Guide campaign was successful. June 9 is Beer, Bacon & Cheese Fest. It will sell out soon. Façade improvement grants are available – Dave is taking advantage of the grant on his own building in New Glarus. Dave recently visited Switzerland and was impressed with the connections. He alerted board members that more out of town insurance agents are becoming involved in Green County. April 28th is Turner Hall's 150th Anniversary; May 3 is UW Alumni Founders Day at Hawk's Mill Winery; May 10 is the Kiwanis banquet at Turner Hall.

Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial) – July 28 is Generosity Day with 40 Action Teams. The Monroe School Board thanks Colony Brands for awards for teachers. The facilities study group is taking a deep dive into possibilities for improvements. Thank you to Colony Brands for allowing all of Bob Erb's great work on the School Board.

5. **Approval of Agenda, Minutes and Financials** (March 2018)
Motion by John Bernstein, second by John McNeil. Motion approved.
6. **Discussion and potential action regarding having GCDC Board meetings in locations throughout Green County:** After discussion, the Board decided to keep the three summer months as travel months. Brian Wilson offered CECORE in Belleville as one location for an upcoming meeting.
7. **Enterprise Center Open House:** Cara encouraged everyone to attend the Open House at the Enterprise Center tonight. We have a number of speakers and great food planned.
8. **Annual Meeting Update:** Cara reminded Board members to RSVP for the Annual Meeting, and please provide names of people attending so we can make nametags.
9. **Green County Entrepreneurial Development Program Update**
After not having any applications for the county Revolving Loan Fund since 2015, we will likely have TWO applications for committee review by the end of the month!
10. **Staff Update**
We just found out we received a \$414,234 grant from the Public Service Commission to continue to extend broadband to under and unserved areas of the county. GCDC is working with Bug Tussel Wireless to build additional towers in those areas.
11. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday, June 7 at Twisted Tree at 209 North Main Street in Monticello (the former Dining Room).
12. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Beth Luchsinger, second by Brian Wilson. Motion carried.