

Green County Development Corporation Board Notes

May 16, 2019

Historic County Courthouse, Monroe, WI

1. **Attendance:** Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial), John McNeil (Big Radio), Craig Fuchs (Orchid International), Phil Rath (City of Monroe), Doug Sutter (Keller), John Bernstein (City of Brodhead), Mike Sanders (Monroe Clinic), Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville), Richard Thoman (Monroe City Council/County Board/AmericInn), Jesse Duff (Fehr Graham), Ron Schaaf (Sugar River Bank/Bank of New Glarus); Beth Luchsinger (County Board), Gale Helpap (Village of Belleville), 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:** Welcome to Gale Helpap, the new Economic Development person for the Village of Belleville.
4. **Approval of Agenda, Minutes (March 21, 2019) and Financials (April/May 2019):** Motion by John McNeil, second by Mike . Motion approved.
5. **Events Update/Staff Update:**
 - a. Annual Meeting Update: 168 people attended, a larger crowd than in years past, attendees appreciated the energy of the UniverCity students
 - b. UniverCity Update: All reports from work completed in Green County will be on the website: <https://univercity.wisc.edu/greencounty/> . If you community has potential projects that students could be working on in the future, let Cara know. We now have some excellent contacts within UW Madison (and also UW Platteville).
 - c. Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) Update: Green County manufacturers will be meeting to discuss TPM on Monday, June 10 at 1 pm in Warren, IL. The main goal of the meeting is to discuss interest in moving forward with the TPM process.
 - d. Green County Leaders Graduation is Wed. May 15 at Black Walnut. We will be starting to recruit our next class in June, so let Cara know if you (or someone you know) would be a great Green County Leader.
 - e. Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board is hosting “Building Your Manufacturing Talent Pipeline through Apprenticeships” lunch and learn Monday, May 20 at BTC.
 - f. Our intern Will Oemichen continues to do Business Retention and Expansion interviews in Brodhead.
 - g. You are all invited to a Barn Party at Cara’s place on Saturday, May 25. Son Miles’ graduation is from 3-6 pm followed by our traditional every-other-year Barn Party until 11:30 pm. Great food. Great music. Bring your instruments (and your band) if you play. Bring your friends, families, neighbors. The more the merrier.

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

Doug Sutter (Keller) – Keller’s big project, Badger State Cold Storage, will be open soon. It is a 68,000 square foot cold storage facility behind Pick N Save. Keller is also working on an addition for PDC, the new BTC Ag Building, and is looking for more projects.

Craig Fuchs (Orchid) – Craig is working on a personal scholarship for a technical college in memory of a classmate. He has found that his whole class may have interest in doing a scholarship from the class. Orchid had a number of Engineering Interns last year and professors are now recommending students. Orchid has hired new interns. They have just started a Tool Maker Apprenticeship Program which rolled out Saturday, May 11. Orchid will pay for tuition and books for employees who will go to school one day a week (and get paid for their hours at school too).

Phil Rath (City of Monroe) – The City is staffing back up. They are filling the City Clerk and City Treasurer with a combined position with an Administrative Assistant who will be the first point of contact at City Hall.

Jesse Duff (Fehr Graham) – Fehr Graham is working with Keller on the Cold Storage and PDC addition, as well as with Monroe Truck on plan development and rezoning. Monroe Truck plans to make \$1 million in capital investments in the next 2 months. They have 65 open positions and are really busy. Jesse suggests that everyone watch the Monroe video series. The videos can be found at:

https://www.elocallink.tv/m/v/player.php?pid=w5ay9zx82&fp=wimonr18_wel_iwd. Click on the business name to view the videos. The old City garbage incinerator is coming down. Fehr Graham offers 15-20 internships every summer. They are always looking for students with ties to the community.

Richard Thoman (City of Monroe/ County Board) – Richard suggests everyone watch “Green County – Welcome to SWISS-consin” by Discover Wisconsin at

<http://discoverwisconsin.com/video/green-county/>

Next week the Monroe Chamber is offering a lunch and learn on Employee Retention.

Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville) – Brian mentioned that Gale Hellpap has been busy setting up Business Retention and Expansion appointments. Bakers Woods development is continuing to build across from the high school (both commercial and residential is planned). They are working on a strategic plan to promote the Depot building to trade organizations (for a unique restaurant opportunity). They plan to develop a sell sheet for the Depot. The walls of the new Police Department are up and it should be complete in September. Now they need additional police officers. There is a problem with the dam. It is not water tight anymore. They are working with DNR to fix it and with FEMA on flood mitigation.

Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus and Sugar River Bank) – The Bank has purchased the drug store building in New Glarus. The drug store will remain, but Absolute Interiors had already planned to move out. The Bank will be remodeling the upstairs (which was once Brandi’s and before that Swiss Miss) as a new loan department for the bank. They are in the process of hiring new employees. The CFO retired and they were able to hire Kate Goecks from UB&T.

Beth Luchsinger (County Board) – New Glarus is embarking on a new library study (the library has been a 20 year issue). She hoped everyone had a chance to meet the new Village Administrator Drake Daily and hopes he can attend GCDC meetings. Bekah Stauffacher is the new Chamber Director. Festivals are starting! Kudos to Noreen Rueckert of Green County Tourism for the wonderful Discover Wisconsin episode. The County Health Committee learned about immunization concerns regarding an anticipated outbreak of measles. Greg Holcomb is retiring from Human Services. Daniel Williams from Jackson County will be filling the position. County Board voted for Pleasant View to raise their starting wage and wages for CNAs. The ADRC received a grant for \$400,000 to combat dementia. They will be renovating Pleasant View to include a 6-unit dementia care facility (partnered with Lafayette County).

John Bernstein (City of Brodhead) – There is an ADRC Open House today if you'd like to learn more. In Brodhead, Kelch Aviation Museum has a contract for construction to begin in August. Then a banquet facility will be built next year.

John McNeil (Big Radio) – Severe weather season has begun. Be aware! John has taped some great Spotlights on Green County, most recently an Annual Dinner update. Breakfast on the Farm is May 25. Take the bus from Walmart or Powers Auction Service (sponsored by local banks). Bailey's Run hosted a Bug Tussel Broadband Summit this week. About 40 people attended with great speakers. Bug Tussel has built 104 towers in the past 18 months. Broadband is an important workforce issue. People who move here want fast internet.

Mike Sanders (Monroe Clinic) – Fast Care is moving Monday and will open again on Wednesday at Monroe Clinic (behind the coffee shop). Then it will move to another space in Monroe (after renovation) in September. Fast Care sees 700-900 patients per month. It is busiest during the winter months. Tonight from 4:30-6 pm is an art event at the Clinic along with a United Way silent auction. The new building addition will open on June 10, including the new south entrance. It will be a great new patient experience. Monroe Clinic is seeing the benefits from residency training – they are now hiring those residents. Kelsey Schmidt, a Monroe high school grad, was recently hired.

Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial/ Monroe School Board) – Nikki was pleased to announce \$224,000 in scholarships to this year's class of seniors. The School Board currently has a vacancy. If interested, applications are due until May 24. The Consolidation Committee has been meeting to talk about consolidating buildings (and potentially decommissioning Abe Lincoln school). There are a number of options, but status quo is not acceptable. The Building Committee is also coming out with options for a potential 2020 referendum.

7. **Next Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be Thursday, June 20 at Mosher & associates in New Glarus.
8. **Adjourn:** Motion by Phil Rath, second by Richard Thoman. Motion approved at 8:45 am.