

Green County Development Corporation Board Notes
July 11, 2019
Swirl Station, Monroe, WI

1. **Attendance:** Matt Urban (Blackhawk Technical College), John McNeil (Big Radio), Craig Fuchs (Orchid International), Mike Sanders (Monroe Clinic), Richard Thoman (Monroe City Council/County Board/AmericInn), Joe Hunter (Colony Brands), April Fuhr (Village of Monticello), Doug Sutter (Keller), Ron Schaaf (Sugar River Bank/Bank of New Glarus), John Bernstein (City of Brodhead), Dr. Tracy Pierner (Blackhawk Technical College), Jesse Duff (Fehr Graham), Art Carter (County Board Chair), Cara Carper (Green County Development Corporation).
2. **Call to Order:** Past President Matt Urban called the meeting to order at 7:33 am.
3. **Welcome to Swirl Station!** Swirl Station Manager Troy welcomed the GCDC Board to the Swirl Station. This has been a dream of owner Jim Becker. They have been open for just over a year and business is good. They have 32 flavors of ice cream and food too.
<https://swirlstation.com/> Stop by and thank Jim for today's coffee and ice cream for the Board!
4. **Welcome of Guests:** No guests today.
5. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by John McNeil; second by John Bernstein. Motion carried.
6. **Approval of Minutes (May 16 and June 20, 2019)** Motion by Ron Schaaf; second by John McNeil. Motion carried.
7. **Approval of Financials (May/June/July 2019):** Motion by Mike Sanders; second by Ron Schaaf. Motion carried.
8. **Events Update/Staff Update:**
 - a. Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) Update: We have two manufacturers signed on to be part of TPM: Colony Brands and Orchid International. We'd like to add a few more. Cara has been trained on the database, but doesn't have login credentials yet. We will get this up and running soon to show other businesses the value of TPM.
 - b. Revolving Loan Fund Update: GCDC received a \$375,000 matching grant to re-establish a Revolving Loan Fund. We will be sending a letter this month to communities, larger employers and lenders to ask them to invest in the fund.
 - c. Opportunity Zone Fund Update: Cara has followed up with Duxstad & Bestul to research the possibility of starting a fund for Monroe's Opportunity Zone. It is likely Qualified Investors would be more interested in specific projects to fund, rather than providing general funding for the Opportunity Zone. A pocket housing proposal has come before Monroe Planning Commission within the Opportunity Zone. Cara is working with the developer to move it forward.
9. **Update and Welcome from Jim Becker:** Swirl Station owner and serial entrepreneur Jim Beck stopped by to welcome the Board and discuss plans for his newest business. The new business will involve hemp extraction with no chemicals. It would produce pure cannabinoids

in powder form that could be used in research or in wholesale applications. This is the first plant of its kind in the U.S. He has a 300 acre capacity that could be doubled. He expects to hire 6-8 full time employees year round and part-time and seasonal as well. This business will come before the County Zoning Committee on Wednesday, July 31 at 8:30 pm in the county board room of the courthouse, if any Board members would be interested in attending.

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

Craig Fuchs (Orchid International) – Craig visited the new Clinic building and thought it was impressive. As mentioned last month, Craig is working to change the backstop at the Chamber of Commerce in Monroe. This is a legacy project for the Chamber. It will be an attraction and catalog for businesses. They are also looking at doing a coupon book for local businesses. Craig has a draft schematic of what could be displayed on the board. Nothing is final yet. The goal is to have the board up by Cheese Days 2020. Craig is looking for volunteers to help.

Mike Sanders (Monroe Clinic) – Things are going well with the new building. It is a whole new patient experience. Mike has announced he is retiring at the end of the year. He and his family came to Monroe in 2001 and it has been a wonderful experience. He plans to stay in Monroe. The search for a new person will begin soon.

Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus/Sugar River Bank) – They bought the building next to the New Glarus bank building and are expanding. They are now a \$300 million bank. The residential home buying market is nuts in all Green County communities.

Jesse Duff (Fehr Graham) – They are working on a duplex project in Brodhead. They are also working with Monroe Truck Equipment on rezoning to Planned Development (PD) to help with work flow. The highway 11 project is busy. They have switched over some ramps and all will be switched to the south side at the beginning of August. They are repainting the inside of the Monroe Industrial Park tower.

Dr. Pierner (Blackhawk Technical College) – Things are going well at BTC. They had a strong fiscal year. The Main Campus Student Success Center has been revamped, and they are also redesigning Student Services and making changes to the library. BTC purchased 34 acres adjacent to the Janesville campus. They will be developing a public safety complex beginning with an Emergency Vehicles Operators Track in the spring. The new Ag Facility will be complete by the end of July. BTC has had an offer to buy the Transportation Studies and will be building a new one. They are working on a Hospitality Program in anticipation of a new casino. They are launching many new programs for the fall.

Matt Urban (Blackhawk Technical College) – The new Ag Center classrooms are being painted. The facility is 4,000 ft² including the greenhouse. They will be transforming the former ag space into a food lab. Watch for BTC's display next week at the Green County Fair.

Eight manufacturers joined together in a consortium and received a Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) grant from the state to provide training for their employees. This opportunity will be available next year if anyone is interested. They have developed a new welding program for Monroe Truck Equipment for new hires at the Milton Campus.

Art Carter (Green County Board Chair) – The county is working on a bond refinancing issue that will be resolved by fall. They hope to save money based on lower interest rates. Upgrades at Pleasant View are planning, including upgrade of air conditioning and electric. A new radio system for the county will cost \$5 to \$7 million. They may also need to replace the roof of the courthouse and air conditioning.

Doug Sutter (Keller) – Keller has been helping BTC building the new Ag facility. They just finished Badger State Cold Storage and are starting on an addition to Precision Drive Control (PDC) and a project in Belleville.

Richard Thoman (City of Monroe) – The City hired a new clerk/treasurer and is in the process of hiring an assistant. The Assistant City Administrator Sam Liebert has taken a new position, so they are considering hiring a Director of Community Development to replace that position. (GCDC provided a letter of support and phone calls to support the position.)

John Bernstein (City of Brodhead) – There are two big events coming up at the Brodhead Airport. On Friday is a groundbreaking ceremony for the Kelch Aviation Museum. Then July 18-20 is the Brodhead Pietenpol/Hatz Fly-In. It is the 40th anniversary of the fly-in and they expect planes from all over the country.

Joe Hunter (Colony Brands) – Nothing to report this month.

April Fuhr (Village of Monticello/Bug Tussel) – Monticello is hiring a new clerk. They are hoping the offered position will be accepted. They purchased a new garbage truck. Monticello Homecoming is this weekend with lots of great entertainment. As far as Bug Tussel, new towers have gone up near Argyle, Prairie View, Exeter. In August, Assemblyperson Spreitzer and Senator Ringhand will be hosting a Rural Broadband listening session. April is helping Cheri Bell of Twisted Tree restaurant with her marketing. Stop by and enjoy a great meal!

John McNeil (Big Radio) – This month's Spotlight on Green County highlighted the Monroe Optimist Club and their 50 years in the community. \$1.5 million has been donated since 1972 (due to sales of cheese curds). It is the 68th anniversary of Big Radio this month. In 1951 they had one station, now they have 16. Big Radio will be broadcasting from the Lafayette, Stephenson and Green County Fairs.

11. **Next Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be Thursday, August 15 at TBD.

12. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by John Bernstein, second by John McNeil. Motion carried at 8:57 am.