

**Green County Development Corporation Board Notes**  
**November 21, 2019**  
**Green County Courthouse, Monroe, WI**

1. **Attendance:** Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial), Matt Urban (Blackhawk Technical College - BTC), Joe Hunter (Colony Brands), John McNeil (Big Radio), Richard Thoman (Monroe City Council/County Board/AmericInn), Doug Sutter (Keller), John Bernstein (City of Brodhead), Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus/Sugar River Bank), Mike Sanders (Monroe Clinic), Craig Fuchs (Orchid International), Art Carter (Green County Board Chair), Linda Kuhlman (Village of Brooklyn), Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville), Beth Luchsinger (County Board) Cara Carper (Green County Development Corporation), State Senator Janis Ringhand
2. **Call to Order:** President Nikki Matley called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.
3. **Welcome of Guests:** Welcome to State Senator Janis Ringhand.
4. **Approval of Agenda, Minutes and Financials:** Motion by John McNeil; second by Ron Schaaf. Motion carried.
5. **2020 Budget Discussion and Approval:** Motion by Ron Schaaf; second by Brian Wilson. Motion carried.
6. **Events Update/Staff Update:** Cara provided a written report and a brief update.
  - a. **Revolving Loan Fund Update:** We are still \$92,500 short of meeting our \$375,000 goal for match. Cara attended a Community Reinvestment Act Network meeting to request funding. We haven't heard back yet.  
The County set aside additional funding for a County Revolving Loan Fund. The balance is at \$68,000. There is a pending application for those funds.
  - b. **Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) Update:** The cohort of Healthcare providers is on Strategy 4 (of 6). Cara will attend TPM training in 2020.
  - c. **Executive Leadership Breakfast Update:** Eighty seven people attended – more than twice the number from last year
  - d. **Annual Meeting Speaker Suggestions:** GCDC provided a suggestion of Rick Dickinson from Greater Dubuque Development Corporation. Let Cara or Mary Jane know if you have a good speaker suggestion.

Conversation on legalization of marijuana use in Illinois beginning January 1, 2020. Ron Schaaf mentioned that FDIC rules may prohibit lenders from banking marijuana operations. Colony and Clinic are also considering this issue because pre-employment blood tests currently block people with marijuana in their systems from employment. Commercial Driver's Licenses may also be put into jeopardy.

7. **Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board member Business for the Good of the Order:**  
*Matt Urban (Blackhawk Technical College)* – Tuesday, December 3 at 3:30 pm is the Ribbon Cutting for the new Ag Center at BTC. All GCDC Board Members are invited.

Friday, December 6 is Ag College Preview Day at BTC for high schools. Students will meet representatives from many colleges and have the ability to attend 4 seminars.

*Linda Kuhlman (Village of Brooklyn)* – Two new duplexes have been built and two more are started. All lots in the business park have been sold. The last two went to O & A Manufacturing from Verona (a metal manufacturer). Northern Roofing and Metal is expanding on the other lot. Brooklyn has a new business – Andy Meyer of Meyer Masonry is opening a music venue in town for live music. Ziggy's of Oregon is also looking into opening a shop. The Brooklyn Chamber will be hosting a Business Fair in February. December 7<sup>th</sup> is Santa Day and the tree lighting.

*Joe Hunter (Colony Brands)* – Only 34 days until Christmas! Colony Brands invested \$6 million into the Monroe Distribution Center this year to create more efficiencies. The facility is ready to tour for all who might be interested.

*Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus/Sugar River Bank)* – Last night the bank purchased the drug store building in New Glarus. All operations will be moved to the larger location to provide more space. The bank purchased an education website that will provide financial literacy courses for adults, such as budgeting courses and preparing to buy a home. The site will also be tied to the United Way website.

*Craig Fuchs (Orchid International)* – Orchid recently started a new program for employees that provides a success consultant for 4 hours every two weeks. (The Employer Resource Network from the Foundation for Rural Housing.) It has been well received. Orchid recently found out about a large project to get reimbursed by a customer that was approved for several million dollars.

*Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville)* – The budget is complete. There was an increase to the EMS district to provide a paid position during the day. The internship (Kyle Knott) is ending in May. The part time Economic Development person (Gale Hellpap) will become full time and include the responsibilities of marketing specialist. Kyle Knott presented at the League of Municipalities conference regarding the Belleville Market Study. Last week was the open house and ribbon cutting for the new police department. The library project was approved for a lower USDA interest rate and should be completed by early 2021. The elementary school site is still available. Workforce housing is still needed. The Economic Development Committee is working to attract a new restaurant. Belleville hosted a 100 mile run on the Badger State Trail with 400 participants. They are still dealing with FEMA on needed repairs for the dam.

*Richard Thoman (City of Monroe/Green County Board/AmericInn)* – Richard announced he became a grandpa again today! The City approved a Senior Housing project on the Dolan property with 47 units (for people 55 and older). They also rezoned a property the school is purchasing on the south end of town.

*Art Carter (County Board Chair)* – The County passed the budget. The County is not allowed to increase the budget, but did bond for the radio system and work at Pleasant View. At Pleasant View, the rehabilitation unit is full and there is a waiting list. The

County is under a hiring freeze – no new positions unless they are completely funded from another source.

*State Senator Janis Ringhand* – The Senate is currently on recess until the new year. With a divided government there has been a light legislative load. Thirty bills passed last week. Senator Ringhand is on the Governor's Council on Workforce Development. They are working with WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) on a talent-pipeline-like program to allow the different organizations under WIOA to interact. Senator Ringhand is also on the Dairy Task Force. They have stressed the need to find more ways to use more fluid milk. The new WEDC Secretary Missy Hughes comes from Organic Valley and is very interested in rural economic development.

*John McNeil (Big Radio)* – Today the Blackhawk/Warren Warrior football team will be playing for the state championship (update: Blackhawk WON 6-0 over Edgar!) As John has mentioned, Big Radio has grown to 16 stations and covers 2 million people. They have 55-70 employees (more during sports seasons). They are in the process of incorporating stations, sales and newsrooms to the Parker Pen building in Janesville. If you have any ideas for a Spotlight on Green County, let John know. They are broadcasting the Brewers, Badgers, Bucks, Packers and Wisconsin Women's Basketball.

*Mike Sanders (Monroe Clinic)* – The renovation of the 1990s clinic building continues. The radiation therapy unit has arrived and they have hired a physician. The Radiation Therapy Unit is expected to open in Feb/Mar 2020. There will be some changes to the cancer program. The partnership with UW has worked well for 15 years, but Monroe Clinic was recently notified that the UW must pull their people back – leaving Monroe Clinic understaffed. One of the UW physicians is coming to Monroe Clinic full time, so they will have more coverage than in the past. (This change had nothing to do with SSM.)

UW Chancellor Blank came to Monroe yesterday to tour Colony Brands and Monroe Clinic with Senator Marklein and Representative Novak. She touted Monroe Clinic's partnership with UW's training programs. In the last three years, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Physicians have gone through this training program and 25% of those who went through the program were hired by Monroe Clinic. Monroe Clinic is fully staffed for Family Physicians. The state helped fund this Residency Program. Mike is retiring at the end of the year. Final interviews for his replacement will be completed this week.

*John Bernstein (City of Brodhead)* – There are big changes going on in Brodhead. The old antique mall will be a new carpeting/flooring center. Huntington Bank will be the new Brodhead Business Center. Brodhead Tire is expanding their business. On December 6, the Fire and Ice Celebration will be held downtown.

*Beth Luchsinger (County Board)* – The Home of Our Own residential facility will host a groundbreaking ceremony in a few weeks. The Governor was in New Glarus last night for a meet and greet and debate watch. The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) in Green County is not just for people with disabilities. It provides all kinds of great services for people over 55. If you need a ride, they will help provide it – although they are looking for volunteer drivers. Please let your civic groups know this need. The

new director for Human Services, Dan Williams, came to us from Jackson County and is doing a great job.

*Doug Sutter (Keller)* – Keller is finishing the PDC addition. They helped Jim Becker get his hemp facility on County KK up and running. They recently started a Riverfront Center remodel in Janesville.

*Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial/Monroe School Board)* – Monroe School District is looking into an upcoming referendum based on recommendations from the building committee. Nikki would appreciate everyone's thoughts on the proposals. All students and teachers will be affected by the proposed changes.

8. **Next Meeting:** The next GCDC Board meeting will be Thursday, December 19 at the Green County Courthouse.
9. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by John Bernstein, second by Beth Luchsinger. Motion carried.