

**Green County Development Corporation Board Notes**  
**December 19, 2019**  
**Green County Courthouse, Monroe, WI**

1. **Attendance:** Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial), 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), David Mosher (Mosher & Associates), Craig Fuchs (Orchid International), Art Carter (Green County Board Chair), April Fuhr (Village of Monticello), Beth Luchsinger (County Board), Rick Waski (Monroe School District), Joan Rufenacht (County Board), Drake Daily (Village of New Glarus), 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:** No guests were present.
4. **Approval of Agenda, Minutes and Financials:** Motion by John McNeil; second by John Bernstein. Motion carried.
5. **Events Update/Staff Update:** Cara provided a written report and a brief update.
  - a. **Revolving Loan Fund Update:**  
There will likely be an application for the County RLF by the end of the year. We have not received any applications for the new Grow Opportunity Fund, but have heard interest.
  - 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. **Broadband Grant Applications:** Applications to the Public Service Commission are due today. GCDC's Litewire application was submitted yesterday. The Bug Tussel grant will be submitted today.
  - d. **Annual Meeting Update:** The date is Tuesday, February 25. Those who agreed to be on the planning committee include: John McNeil, Nikki Matley, Doug Sutter and Joan Rufenacht.
  - e. **Crossroads Church University Update:** Crossroads Church is working with Northwest University in Kirkland, WA to provide Bachelor degrees (4-5 subjects) in Monroe. Here is their website: <https://www.northwestu.edu/partnership/> They are expecting an enrollment of 12-15 students starting this fall and are just beginning the process of getting the word out. They may also attract employed professionals who are interested in a Business degree.
6. **Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board member Business for the Good of the Order:**  
*Mike Sanders (Monroe Clinic)* – Mike's successor has arrived! Jane Curran-Mueli (rhymes with smiley) started Monday. She is anxious to get plugged into the community, and we will invite her to be part of GCDC meetings. She has adult children and comes most recently from Manitowoc. Congratulations to Mike on his retirement!

*John McNeil (Big Radio)* – John recently taped a Spotlight on Green County with Cara on the new Revolving Loan Fund. He offered to all who attended to let him know if their business has something going on that could be part of the Spotlight. Big Radio is in the process of renovating the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Parker Building in Janesville, and that should be complete in March. They are looking forward to another great year with 16 stations. Big news: grandchild #2 is arriving in June!

*John Bernstein (City of Brodhead)* – After 14 years on City Council, John is running as a candidate for District 20 of the County Board.

*David Mosher (Mosher & Associates)* – Mosher & Associates was recently named in the Top 100 for IMT company. Mosher & Associates can now provide coverage for hemp production. Dave is helping plan the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of New Glarus in conjunction with Switzerland that will be held the first weekend of August during Folksfest. More than 200 runners ran in the Turkey Trot and raised \$7,000 for local scholarships. May 7 is Founders Day at the Ludlow Mansion. Paul Robbins and Gavin Luter will be speaking about Earth Day and the UniverCity program in Green County. They are just winding down the United Way campaign. If you haven't had United Way director Teresa Keehn to your business please invite her. Payroll deductions are United Way's biggest source of funding.

*Joan Rufenacht (County Board)* – Joan was recently appointed to the GCDC Board. She is currently on the Pleasant View and the Health Committees. The Health Committee voted to table a resolution regarding prohibiting the legalization of marijuana (that would be passed along to the state). At Pleasant View, they have been talking about the shortage of RNs and CNAs.

*Rick Waski (Monroe School District)* – The most recent newsletter outlined potential facilities changes for a fall 2020 referendum. Facilities are in rough shape and the school district is considering five options. They have received positive feedback about looking at possibilities. A comprehensive community survey will be sent out in January and February with results expected in March. The “fix it approach” for 40 years has proven more action needs to be taken.

*Beth Luchsinger (County Board)* – Happy Birthday Beth! Today is Beth's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday! Beth is also helping with the 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration, revitalizing the Edelweiss Stars music group. New Glarus is doing a Community Window Walk. Every evening there is one window revealed starting at 6 pm. Beth is on the Human Services committee and has found that Human Services has so much to offer the community, that many people don't know about. New Glarus had a groundbreaking for Home of Our Own residential facility last Friday. Three television news stations covered it. Mary Anne Oemichen has done a lot of work to get this project going. They plan to have a ribbon cutting in one year. Beth added that the old “Roughing It” building across from Tofflers is available for retail space.

*Drake Daily (Village of New Glarus)* – Drake has been the Village Administrator for 6 months. The library project is moving forward. They plan to break ground in 2021 and still have some fundraising to do. The new library site is next to the Swiss Center on highway 39. The Village recently published a big to improve the electrical system. The Home of Our Own project is a \$5 million project.

*Art Carter (County Board Chair)* – Tax bills have been sent out. There is nothing on the horizon for new construction for the county. Pleasant View is self-sustaining, other than their resolution. A \$5 million radio system is going in for law enforcement. Art added that the Greenco Christmas party is today, beginning at noon.

*Craig Fuchs (Orchid International)* – Orchid received their Christmas present of a large refund from a customer. With that money, they were able to pay off their entire line of credit. They are moving toward a couple of acquisitions. The Great Game of Business book and concept was rolled out to all employees. It allows all employees to act like owners of the company.

*Richard Thoman (City of Monroe/County Board)* – Richard has a new grandchild (two for 2019)! The search for a new City Administrator is underway. They hope to hire someone within 90 days.

*Ron Schaaf (Sugar River Bank/Bank of New Glarus)* – Ron mentioned that he is the President of United Way this year. Susie Speer retired and they were lucky enough to be able to hire Teresa Keehn. He also encouraged every business to invite Teresa to speak to their organization. People would be amazed at the number of people you know who use a services funded by United Way. For the bank, they bought the drug store building on the highway and are in the process of remodeling. Ron's oldest grandchild turned 10 today!

*April Fuhr (Village of Monticello/Bug Tussel)* – Broadband grants are due today. Bug Tussel is submitting for Green, Iowa, Rock, Kewaunee and the Menomonee Nation. The Village of Monticello just closed applications for their clerk position. Beginning January 1, 2020, April will have a new position at Bug Tussel – she'll be a training coordinator and Bug Tussel University instructor.

*Doug Sutter (Keller)* – Doug explained what Keller does: Keller is a design/build firm. They have 270 employees statewide with 6 architects. They get projects going without an architectural bill. When they built the headquarters for PDC a few years ago, they designed and redesigned and repriced the Water Tower location. When that location didn't work out, they redesigned the new building. PDC received no bill from Keller for architectural design. This process is faster because the designer and the builder are working in the same direction. They can take projects from dream to design and cost in three months. They also figure out how to get projects within their budget, because if the project is not within budget, Keller doesn't make money. The value engineering experience helps keep prices down. Typically the more a project costs, the more a typical architect makes. It is the opposite with Keller.

*Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial)* – If you know of an organization that needs something, Thrivent Financial has people with Action Teams that could contribute funding. Let Nikki know if you are working with groups that have needs.

7. **Next Meeting:** The next GCDC Board meeting will be Thursday, January 16 at the Green County Courthouse.
8. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by John McNeil, second by John Bernstein. Motion carried. Adjourned at 8:45 am.