

Green County Development Corporation Board Notes
Thursday, June 18, 2020
Via Zoom Call

1. **Attendance:** Matt Urban (Blackhawk Technical College - BTC), John McNeil (Big Radio), Richard Thoman (Monroe City Council/County Board/AmericInn), Jane Curran-Meuli (Monroe Clinic), Mike Sanders (1100 Partners), Beth Luchsinger (County Board), Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville), Doug Sutter (Keller), Dr. Tracy Pierner (BTC), Donna Douglas (City of Monroe), Drake Daily (Village of New Glarus), Art Carter (County Board Chair), Cara Carper (Green County Development Corporation - SBDC), Kat Cisar (Monroe Times), Steve Genoway (UW Platteville).
2. **Call to Order:** Past President Matt Urban called the meeting to order at 7:34 am.
3. **Introduction of all on the call**
4. **Approval of Agenda, Minutes (May 21, 2020) and Financials (June):** Motion by John McNeil; second by Jane Curran-Meuli. Motion carried.
5. **Events Update/Staff Update:** Cara provided a written report and a brief update.
 - a. Driftless Homes Project Update – Brodhead continues discussion regarding potential properties and number of homes needed. Cara did a presentation for the Village of Monticello last night and will be attending the Monroe City Council meeting July 6.
 - b. Revolving Loan Update – Our first Growth Opportunity Fund application is in and will be considered Monday. We’re still working with WEDC to gain some flexibility in the contract to allow businesses more than 5 years old to access the funding.
 - c. Covid Response – Cara provided an update on “We’re All In” grants, the newly reopened Economic Injury Disaster Loan and the soon to be closing Paycheck Protection Program. An EZ forgiveness form is now available for the PPP.
 - d. Drive Though Job Fair – Will likely be held July 15 in the BTC Monroe Campus parking lot from noon-4 pm. All businesses are invited to provide sheets with jobs for the bags to be distributed.
 - e. Green County Leaders – We will not be recruiting a 20/21 class this year, due to the pandemic. We will, however, be offering online classes for alumni and those who would like to learn more about leadership.
 - f. Business Leadership Initiative – Cara will be working with businesses to gather information to be shared with local elected officials regarding future needs for community investment.
6. **Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board member Business for the Good of the Order:**
Mike Sanders (1100 Partners/Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Public Information Officer) – The EOC is in an education phase about the importance of social distancing and wearing masks. The group is watching the numbers and is ready to act. How we get students safely back to school will be the next issue. The Department of Public

Instruction (DPI) will be releasing guidelines Monday. (We have heard much of the responsibilities for direction will be pushed to local health directors.)

Jane Curran-Meuli (Monroe Clinic) – The Clinic is seeing many more people coming without masks (masks are required for all patients, visitors and staff) and people are expecting free masks. All services are back at Monroe Clinic. The Gift Shop is the only thing not open. Volunteers are not back. Monroe Clinic is within 20% of its goal and expects to be back on track by July 1. Jane responded to a question about a potential for drive up Covid testing for non-symptomatic people. Fast Care will have drive up tests soon. Currently the Clinic is only doing symptomatic tests. They are also considering antibody testing, but research is unclear as to the level of antibodies needed to make a person immune to Covid.

Monroe Clinic employees are returning from furlough. The Skywalk is coming down next week. They are getting the old building ready for demolition (later this fall). Demolishing the Skywalk will help get movement around the campus flowing.

Art Carter (County Board Chair) – County Clerk Mike Doyle is retiring on July 3 after more than 30 years in county government. They are working on a new solar project for the Government Services Building. Most county employees are back, some are still working from home.

Donna Douglas (City of Monroe) – The City Administrator that was hired has decided not to take the position. The position was reopened and so far they have 28 applicants. They expect interviews in July and to have someone in the position by September 1. Business has not moved back into Council Chambers yet. The contract with Rural Fire District and the Monroe Fire Department was extended to the end of December. They are still working on that issue. The National Historic Cheesemaking Center is reopening and will be open Thursdays through Sundays from 10 am-3 pm. Masks are required.

Dr. Tracy Pierner (BTC) – Students started Summer Session Monday, June 15 with lots of new safety protocols. BTC will be moving to Stage 5 on Monday, June 22 and campuses will again be open to the public. They have begun construction on the Emergency Vehicles Operating Track in Janesville. On the Monroe campus, they are finishing renovating the old agriculture lab to be a food service lab. Mark Mayer has rejoined the BTC board.

Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville) – Last week Belleville approved a permit for Kwik Trip in Bell West. Construction is expected in 2021. There is a preliminary plan for senior housing (27 homes for seniors). The old elementary school has been sold to a daycare from Verona for expansion. Construction continues on the library. The Community Picnic in August has been scaled back, but will include a drive through chicken dinner on Sunday.

Drake Daily (Village of New Glarus) – New Glarus is back to normal, despite Covid. Lots of visitors and tourists are flocking to town. The hotel is back to 80% capacity. The pool is open. The library has limited services. Baseball and softball are starting. Marine Credit Union is closing. Drake is starting on the 20/21 budget.

Doug Sutter (Keller) – Doug is working on an exciting opportunity potential in Green County and will keep this committee updated as plans become public.

Beth Luchsinger (County Board) – In New Glarus, Home of Our Own housing is going nicely. They will start taking applications in August. There already is a list of people interested in living there. Human Services department is working to get back to normal. Workers are in teams, so have are at home so the whole team doesn't get sick at once. At the Health department, Director RoAnn Warden is working tirelessly. There is a new dashboard of Covid statistics on their website, updated daily - <https://gcpublichealth.org/coronavirus/>.

Steve Genoway (UW Platteville) – UW Platteville submitted an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Build to Scale Grant to create a business accelerator program. The full value of the program will be \$1 million and they will know if they received the grant in October. UW Platteville students will be returning to campus on September 2 with a hybrid model. Some classes will be in person, others online, some both. Furloughs will be intermittent to help the budget.

Richard Thoman (County Board, City of Monroe, AmericInn) – Things are picking up at the hotel. The Sheriff's department reports the radio system is moving along. One less tower was needed, so there was some cost savings. Protests in Monroe have been peaceful. Senior housing near Walmart may break ground in fall or spring. It is unclear when the Monroe Senior Center will reopen. The Monroe pool is opening with limits. The 4th of July fireworks will be held. There is a new industrial park agreement with EKE (Regez) to add more employees in a \$500,000 addition.

John McNeil (Big Radio) – Storm season has started, so be aware. Big Radio stations are tied to Emergency Management. Big Radio's WBGR 93.7 will be broadcasting patriotic music for the fireworks in Monroe. Many businesses have been remodeling during the pandemic, so watch for new openings. Things are going fine with the remodeling at the Parker Pen building in Janesville and live local programming continues.

Matt Urban (BTC) – Matt is happy the campus will be open on Monday. Phlebotomy and CNA classes have been ongoing (CNAs are mostly Brodhead High School students finishing up their course). BTC has been reengaging with companies to restart their training programs. There are Industrial Combustion employees learning on campus today. Six other companies will be starting up in July and August under the Workforce Advancement Training Grant (WAT). Another WAT grant was submitted Monday. The 20/21 grant is for \$116,000 from the state for Kuhn North America, Orchid International, Industrial Combustion, Family Fresh Pack and Wisconsin Cheese Group. 170 individuals will be trained under this grant.

7. **Next Meeting:** The next GCDC Board meeting will be Thursday, July 16.
8. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Mike Sanders, second by Jane Curran-Meuli. Motion carried.