

Green County Development Corporation Board Notes
Thursday, September 17, 2020
Via Zoom Call

1. **Attendance:** Nikki Matley (Thrivent Financial), Matt Urban (Blackhawk Technical College - BTC), John McNeil (Big Radio), Richard Thoman (Monroe City Council/County Board/AmericInn), Beth Luchsinger (County Board), Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville), Becky Olson (Village of Belleville), Ron Schaaf (Sugar River/Bank of New Glarus), April Fuhr (Village of Monticello/BugTussel), Mike Williams (Colony Brands), Tom Johnson (Monroe Truck Equipment), Joan Rufenacht (County Board), Donna Douglas (City of Monroe), Jane Curan-Meuli (Monroe Clinic), Craig Fuchs (Orchid International), Drake Daily (Village of New Glarus), Rick Waski (Monroe School District), Doug Sutter (Keller), David Mosher (Mosher & Associates), Mark Borowicz (BTC), Cara Carper (Green County Development Corporation).
2. **Call to Order:** President Nikki Matley called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.
3. **Introduction of all on the call:** Mark Borowicz, Director of Workforce and Community Development at BTC introduced himself.
4. **Approval of Agenda, Minutes (August 20, 2020) and Financials:** Motion by John McNeil; second by Ron Schaaf. Motion carried.
5. **Events Update/Staff Update:** Cara provided a written report and a brief update.
 - a. Driftless Homes Pilot Application Update – We submitted a proposal. We hope to hear more in a month.
 - b. Driftless Homes Project Update – Brodhead and Monroe are getting closer to decisions about this opportunity. There is also interest in Monticello.
 - c. COVID Response – GCDC is working with United Way of Green County to strengthen existing childcare providers and grow new, regulated providers.
 - d. Green County Leaders – Forty-eight people attended the first virtual class (held second Wednesdays from noon-1:30 pm). Sign up here:
<https://green.extension.wisc.edu/community-development/green-county-leaders/upcoming-opportunities-refer-a-friend/>
 - e. Talent Pipeline Management – We plan to start up again with healthcare providers in the fall.
 - f. Community Kitchen Project – We are working on an application for funding from Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation for a facility in New Glarus.
 - g. Leadership Breakfast Idea – We are in the process of pinning down a speaker.
6. **BTC Public Safety & Transportation Training Center Referendum presentation by Matthew Urban** – Matt provided a brief presentation regarding the facility and the upcoming referendum. Mark Borowicz of BTC added to the discussion. A newsletter regarding the referendum will be sent to all residents in the district next week.
7. **Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board member Business for the Good of the Order:**

Craig Fuchs (Orchid) – September is Chamber of Commerce Month, so the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be hosting a tailgate party Friday from 2-6 pm with a presentation about the new Monroe mural. Things are very busy at Orchid. They seamlessly integrated an additional business, Carter Motor Company, into their facility.

Beth Luchsinger (County Board) – New Glarus is still seeing plenty of tourists, some are masking and others aren't. Numbers are down because the brewery is not open. The Village is very supportive of not having large crowds. Home of Our Own (HOO) has started taking applications to live in the facility. The County Health Department has been continually busy. They work 7 days a week, sometimes 24 hours a day. The Health Department has started doing Covid testing in Green County.

John McNeil (Big Radio) – This month the Spotlight on Green County was on Green County Leaders. (John was in the 2008-2009 GCL class.) John strongly suggested participating in GCL. There are a few sporting events at the high school level. Tonight will be volleyball at Darlington and next week Big Radio will cover football games (live and on bigradio.fm on the web). Businesses are still struggling. Be sure to shop, dine and drink locally to help our neighbors. Keep Spotlight on Green County in mind for things going on at your business.

Drake Daily (Village of New Glarus) – Village Hall is currently closed. Board meetings are virtual. They began renovation on the Police Department. That will be a 3-4 month process. A couple of downtown businesses have closed. The Village is preparing for the November election. They got all requested absentee ballots out. Voting will be held in the fire department to allow for more spacing.

Mike Williams (Colony Brands) – Many administrative employees will continue to work from home into 2021. The Outlet is expected to open in November. They are recruiting employees for the holiday season.

April Fuhr (Village of Monticello) – The new Monticello clerk has started training for the position. They are gearing up for the election. Community wide garage sales and the pancake breakfast went well. April is available for hire for grant writing and community development.

Joan Rufenacht (County Board) – The County departments are working on budgets. Pleasant View has had no issues with Covid. They have begun testing every other week due to an uptick in county cases.

Brian Wilson (Village of Belleville) – In the West End development, there is another plan for 9-10 four family units. The planned condos are still in the first round of approvals. Forty-eight new homes have been built in Bakers Wood this year and another 22 are expected in the spring. They are working with the Town of Montrose on annexation. The new library is moving forward and expected to be open before the end of the year. A new Deputy Clerk position has been approved for Village Hall. Absentee ballot requests are way up.

Becky Olson (Village of Belleville) – Becky has been updating databases. She is working with the Chamber as their new liaison. They did a visual tour of commercial properties, focusing on the Depot. They are hoping to be able to get some fish passage and a kayak run on the dam project. She recently attended a webinar of the Craft Maltsters Guild (of which she is a member). There is a need for malted grain producers in Wisconsin. We can grow 2- and 6-row barley in our area, which is a great potential opportunity.

David Mosher (Mosher & associates) – At noon the Kiwanis are recognizing Ron Spielman. Dave read a touching letter about Ron from Matt Urban. Mosher & associates has added Nationwide as a carrier. (They now have 20 carriers, so many options for people and businesses.)

Jane Curran-Meuli (Monroe Clinic) – All services and branches are open for business. Monroe Clinic is preparing for Upper Respiratory Infection Season, “Colds, flu, Covid, Oh my!” The demolition of the old hospital is underway. It should be completely down by November. The parking lot will be completed in spring. They are starting to do community flu vaccine clinics starting in mid-October to hit the later season flu.

Doug Sutter (Keller) – Doug echoed Dave Mosher’s sentiment of a great pairing of community outreach for affordable housing, daycare and first responders. Keller has 2 projects in Monroe that are moving forward. He hopes to provide an update next month.

Tom Johnson (Monroe Truck Equipment) – It has been a strong year in sales and operations. Monroe Truck had their first case of Covid. They have a strong enforcement policy, so closed over Labor Day. Everyone was tested and are now back to work. (Thanks to Monroe Clinic and the Health Department.) Monroe Truck is looking at expanding their Monroe Campus. Their biggest labor need is for welders, and they continue to recruit from outside a 50 mile radius. Childcare and housing are major issues. Beautification of the main campus continues as they clean up the lot.

Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus/Sugar River Bank) – The bank branches are all drive-up only and available by appointment. There will be a new parking lot in New Glarus next week. They have been working around the Farmers Market held on Fridays.

Richard Thoman (County, City of Monroe, AmericInn) – The Sheriff’s Department radio project is moving along. They remodeled the Huber Dorm. The City hired a new City Administrator. He will be a great addition and start November 1. The Alice Housing project is moving forward. One of the Amlet lots in the Industrial Park has sold and there is interest in others. Farm & Fleet has been remodeling Shopko. Genthe Appliance is adding on. The Rural Fire District counter proposal will hopefully be approved Monday night.

Donna Douglas (City of Monroe) – The mayor has encouraged improving city code regarding enforcement. They appointed six new Youth in Government members. The Rural Fire District negotiations are going better. The City recreated the definition of a Streetery (street eatery) so Baumgartners (and others) can apply to serve outside in parking spaces in front of their business. The Green County Welcome Center and National Historic Cheesemaking Center is open Thursdays through Sundays from 10 am-

3 pm until November 1. People from 27 states have visited so far. Everyone wears a mask.

8. **Next Meeting:** The next GCDC Board meeting will be Thursday, October 15.
9. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Richard Thoman, second by Doug Sutter. Motion carried.

PSW WI – SBDC January 1 – September 17, 2020

County	Number of Clients	Business Starts	Capital Infusion
Crawford	8		\$1,000
Grant	31	1	\$474,100
Green*	111	7	\$1,793,200
Iowa	24	1	\$272,230
Lafayette	18	1	\$26,000
Richland	14	1	\$18,300
Total	206	11	\$2,584,830

2019 Jan 1-Dec 31 for comparison

2019 Jan 1-Dec 31	201	16	\$2,897,450
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	Number of Clients	Business Starts	Capital Infusion
Goals	80	9	\$2,204,532
Total as of 9/17/20	206 (258%)	11 (122%)	\$2,584,830 (117%)