

Green County Development Corporation Board Minutes
Thursday, February 17, 2022
Via Zoom Call

1. **Attendance:** Nikki Matley Austin (Thrivent), John McNeil (Big Radio), Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus), Joan Rufenacht (County Board), Mike Williams (Colony Brands), Dave Mosher (Mosher & associates), Drake Daily (Village of New Glarus), Donna Douglas (City of Monroe), Richard Thoman (AmericInn, County Board, City of Monroe), Mike Sanders (1100 Partners), Dr. Tracy Pierner (Blackhawk Technical College, BTC), Dave Lothspeich (City of Monroe), Casey Jones (City of Brodhead), Calvin Boldebuck (Congressman Pocan's office), Emily Legel (soon-to-be Green County Development Corporation), Cara Carper (Monroe School District).
2. **Call to Order:** President Nikki Matley called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.
3. **Introduction of all on the call:** All participants on the call were named.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by John McNeil; second by Mike Williams. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of the Minutes (October 21, 2021):** Motion by Joan Rufenacht; second by Ron Schaaf. Motion carried.
6. **Approval of the Financials:** (November-December 2021) Motion by Tracy Pierner; second by Ron Schaaf. Motion carried. (January-February 2022) Motion by Donna Douglas; second by Joan Rufenacht. Motion carried
7. **Staff Update:** Cara provided a recap of recent activities at GCDC, including recent results of the Childcare Accelerator program:

Signing Bonuses – 12

New Facilities Certified – 1 New Facilities Licensed – 3 YoungStar Increases – 5

Classes provided to date – (# in parentheses indicate number of attendees): Boot Camp (14), Safety Saturday (15), Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (29), Strengthening Families (10), Learning Environments (7), Professionalism (24), CPR/First Aid (13), Fundamentals of Family Childcare in Spanish (2), Pyramid Model (25).

To date, nearly \$74,000 of the \$100,000 grant has been used. Discussions continue about applying for another grant (United Way or GCDC) to continue this wildly successful program. More than \$184,000 in matching funds were leveraged for the Accelerator Program. (This is in addition to the Dept. of Children and Families grant United Way of Green County received to provide mental health support for childcare providers and families in 2021.)

Childcare was the topic of a meeting at Green County YMCA regarding their Wisconsin Innovation Grant. Community partners plus four state Secretaries were there from Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Wisconsin Department of Children and

Families, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and Wisconsin Department of Administration.

President Nikki Matley introduced Emily Legel as the new Executive Director for GCDC. Emily will start her new job on March 14. She is currently the Executive Director for Northwest Illinois Economic Development. Her recent focus has been on local food, main street support and a housing needs assessment.

8. **Presentation: SOAR/LAUNCH Initiatives in School District of Monroe – Cara Carper:** Cara provided a presentation about initiatives with the school district.
9. **Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board Member Business to Advance Economic Development in Green County:** Each member provided an update from their business/community.
10. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the GCDC Board will be IN PERSON on Thursday, March 17 at 7:30 am in the courtroom of the historic Court House, downtown Monroe.
11. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Joan Rufenacht, second by John McNeil. Motion carried. Adjourned at 8:35 am.