

Green County Development Corporation Board Minutes
Thursday, March 17, 2022
In Person Meeting!

1. **Attendance:** Nikki Austin (Thrivent), John McNeil (Big Radio), Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus), Joan Rufenacht (County Board), 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), Amy Charles (Blackhawk Technical College), Casey Jones (City of Brodhead), Jesse Duff (Fehr-Graham), Doug Sutter (Keller, Inc.), Beth Luchsinger (Green County Board), Emily Legel (Green County Development Corporation)
2. **Call to Order:** President Nikki Austin called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.
3. **Introduction of New Director:** New GCDC executive director Emily Legel introduced herself.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by John McNeil; second by Joan Rufenacht. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of the Minutes (Feb 17, 2022):** Motion by Dave Mosher; seconded by Ron Schaaf. Motion carried.
6. **Approval of the Financials (February 2022):** Motion by John McNeil; second by Mike Sanders. Motion carried.
7. **GCDC Annual Meeting – Brief Recap:**

To meet the requirements of the bylaws for the annual meeting, Nikki gave an update of the GCDC progress in 2021 from the packet provided.

Highlights included work on the childcare, workforce housing, green county leaders, the SBDC, and the growth opportunity fund.

Emily Legel was instructed to look into how to submit it to the Wisconsin Economic Development Authority.

Emily Legel and Mary Jane are working on a formal dinner meeting for May or June with a theme of new beginnings.
8. **Staff Updates:** Emily gave an update on her activities and outreach for this week so far along with upcoming meetings she has scheduled.

Casey Jones made a motion to remove Cara Carper from the First National Bank Accounts and to add Emily Legel to the account. Doug Sutter seconded. Motion carried.

Casey Jones made a motion to remove Cara Carper from the Bank of New Glarus accounts and to add Emily Legel to the account. Jesse Duff seconded. Motion carried.
9. **Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board Member Business to Advance Economic Development in Green County:** Each member provided an update from their business/community.

Nikki Austin - Nikki announced that Drake Daily from New Glarus would be joining the executive committee following the retirement of Matt Urban.

Amy Charles (Blackhawk Tech) – Amy introduced herself as a new Blackhawk Tech representative working on workforce development and for the Monroe Campus. Prior to this, she had worked with the state to allocate ARPA funds and in a similar role for Southwest Tech in Lancaster. She has several workshops coming up in April and May on community engagement and training, and she's working with Melissa at the Monroe Chamber for more workshops exclusively for chamber members.

Drake Daily (City Administrator of New Glarus) – Reported that he was 3 years into his tenure with the village. Currently at 60% completion for the substation project, a \$5 million utility investment. The village also is soon to put out bids for the wastewater treatment upgrades to treat phosphorus, per state requirements, another \$5 million project. The village is also in design stages for an additional water storage facility on the east side of town for \$2 million, to increase capacity and reduce costs of development. There had been a 50+ unit plat drafted about 15 years ago that had stalled due to the economy and cost of building. Finally, the city has a new clerk and deputy clerk/ treasurer. Board members are invited to stop by and say hello.

Doug Sutter (Keller, Inc) – his company is working on the new Bank of New Glarus project in Monroe with other projects in the county under development.

Jesse Duff (Fehr Graham) – 211 employees after the recent acquisition of the Aurora office. His company has several projects going right now including:

- Monroe – a new splash pad out for bid
- New Glarus Bank on 69
- Wastewater treatment upgrades in Monroe
- A new facility for Biotech in Monroe – plans and specs
- Upgrades of lead service lines in Monroe, a \$1 Million project

He is also working with the towns of Washington, Cadiz, and Sylvester to take advantage of Wisconsin's \$1.3 billion allocation of infrastructure funds to upgrade local roads, and a potential project with the New Glarus Brewery.

Richard Thoman (Green County Board, Monroe City Council, AmericInn) – City is working on a new housing project by Walmart; 42 unit 55+ housing. ATVs will also be allowed in city limits with the exception of some major roads.

Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus) – hoping to break ground on the new building in April. And he's looking for people, including lenders.

Mike Sanders (semi-retired, 1100 Partners Consulting and 5 Corner Construction) – the Green County Public Health COVID Response committee held their last meeting this week. He praised the county public health employees for an exemplary job as they wrapped up their 79th meeting!

Beth Luchsinger (County Board) – Announced her retirement to GCDC as she ends her term on County Board. She commended the county staff and noted businesses and orgs around the county are losing people due to better wages in Rock and Dane Counties. The county is working on raises and reclassifications wherever possible.

Joan Rufenacht (County Board) – No update

Donna Douglas (City of Monroe) – She sits on the Monroe city council and is running for mayor. Monroe expects 5 new alder persons following the elections next month. The splash pad is moving forward, with \$150,000 from the city and \$236,833 raised by Green County leaders and the community. The city is also working on a solid waste grant.

David Mosher (Mosher Insurance) – the company has over 20 employees and several locations, making it one of the top 10% of independent insurance agencies. New office in Verona. He commends GCDC for the work as public private forum, and balance. Referenced an opportunity for better communication between the city and constituents; even potential for partnerships with local businesses to provide discounts for improvement projects. He also encouraged everyone to do their homework and vote in the upcoming school board election.

John McNeil (Big Radio) – The radio is an open forum for GCDC and spotlights on businesses and community stakeholders alike.

Casey Jones (Village of Brodhead) – He's running for mayor of Brodhead, and was pushed off the Brodhead Economic Development Committee and appointed to GCDC. Woods Crossing is looking for a new tenant / owner, but the skilled nursing beds have been given back to the state. He runs the Brodhead revitalization group, and has brought in several new shops, and even has a business incubator. The referendum for a new city administrator and for the schools are on the ballot in April. He's also a Vice-Chair of the Green County ARPA committee, which is accepting proposals for funds. Finally, the covered bridge in Brodhead is getting a new cover and they're hoping to raise an additional \$50,000 for smaller improvements for the bridge. The Southwest Cap. Housing project was recently made nonprofit, costing the city \$7,000 in revenue.

Nikki Austin (Thrivent) – For School Board news: 6 people are running for 3 slots, including 2 incumbents. Public forums and board member interviews are being held to learn more about the needs in the new superintendent, whom they're hoping to hire by May. There's a new bond referendum this fall of \$88 million, to include a new high school and updates to the Abe Lincoln Elementary. Thrivent is holding estate planning workshops at 18th and 8th on March 24 at 2PM and 6PM – the public is welcome. She also brought a gift for Cara from the board as a thank you.

The Board salutes Rick Waski for his service at the Monroe School District and to GCDC and wishes him well.

Donna closed the roundtable with an Irish blessing in honor of St Patrick's Day.

10. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the GCDC Board will be IN PERSON on Thursday, April 21 at 7:30 am in the courtroom of the historic Courthouse, downtown Monroe.
11. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by John McNeil, second by Casey Jones. Motion carried. Adjourned at 8:36 am.