

# Green County Development Corporation Board Notes

Thursday, May 18, 2023

1. **Attendance:** Jane Curran-Meuli (Monroe Clinic), Richard Thoman (AmericInn, County Board, City of Monroe), John McNeil (Big Radio), Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus), Ellen Tyler (SWWRPC), Mike Sanders (GCDC, interim Fowler Dental administrator), Joan Rufenacht (Green County Board), Keith Geisler (Orchid), Dave Mosher (Mosher Insurance), Tracy Pierner (Blackhawk Tech), Richard Thoman (AmericInn), Mike Furgal (County Board), Doug Sutter (Keller Builds), Olivia Otte (Green County Development Corporation) Tracy Brewer (Green County Development Corporation).

2. **Call to Order:** Olivia Otte, GCDC Executive Director called the meeting to order at 7:33 am.

3. **Approval of Agenda, Minutes (November 2022), and Financials:**

No Quorum available to approve minutes or financial documents.

4. **Events Update/Staff Update:** Olivia provided a brief report and update.

- Small Business Series – concluded May 17 with a Pitch Contest with three winners to be announced via social media and press release. The program was very successful and plans are to hold another series, and perhaps additional educational programs throughout the year.
- Green County Leaders graduation May 10. Thank you to Mike Sanders for helping out. 32 participants completed the program and projects were presented as well. There are already 5 signed up for next year.
- Olivia attended the Mid-America Economic Development Council's Best Practices conference in Kansas City. She was able to attend via scholarship as one of five recipients. This also included participation in the Mentorship Program. The focus was on infrastructure and industrial connections such as marketing industrial sites, railways etc. She is looking forward to the November Competitive Conference, hosted by the same group, which will focus more on placemaking and community development.
- Aspiring Leaders a Green County Leaders community project is a restart of the Young Professionals group. The goal is to help young, and new to the area professionals feel more settled and connected in our area. This will be filtered through GCDC, as is Green County leaders with regards to finances etc. The kickoff is on May 24 at Cactus Co.
- Green County Housing Summit was held Tuesday May 16 with approximately 100 people in attendance. This was part of the Green County Healthy Community Coalition. The focus was on connections and momentum.
  - Dave Mosher brought up the fact that the focus leaned more towards affordable and senior housing, and perhaps a better focus would be on available housing as it affects our businesses. Jane Curran-Meuli included that the new school will impact housing positively
- GCDC has a new housing rehab program starting in partnership with Monroe High School, BTC and SSM, through a generous donation by SSM of a house. 16 high school students will be remodeling the house through the 2023/2024 school year, with GCDC handling the final sale. Funds made will return to GCDC for the next home rehab project. The focus is on industry need and community impact.

5. **Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board member Business for the Good of the Order:**

*Dave Mosher: shout out to Olivia on a job well done. Great things are happening. He asked if there was a way to tie employment together for spouses or significant others coming to the community, i.e. a job brings one spouse to the area, is there a way to connect them to opportunities here as well. Additional kudos to the Monroe Track team on their 5<sup>th</sup> division title – with coach Scott Mosher.*

*Jon McNeil: Breakfast on the Farm May 27 at the DeVoe Farm N266 Twin Grove Road. Busy with high school ball. Would like to do a housing spotlight. Green County Fair is coming up!*

*Ron Schaaf: many thanks to GCDC for partnering with The Bank of New Glarus with the Small Business Series. The number of participants and quality of speakers rivals Dane County.*

*Mike Sanders: Fowler Dental Clinic is looking for a full time administrator, someone that is a collaborative leader with underserved and underinsured populations. Also looking for dental hygienists. Monroe Golf Club is open with a newly remodeled banquet facility and ready for the season!*

*Ellen Tyler: SWWRPC is working on a 5 year strategic plan that includes outreach to all counties to focus on areas of attraction and retention of people and businesses and look to the relevance of other considerations beyond five years.*

*Doug Sutter: staying very busy in Monroe and surrounding areas (and sorry Doug, for the technical difficulties)*

*Joan Rufenacht: attended the housing summit and thought it was very informative. She shared an example of a commuter from Rochelle that is not able to find a home.*

*Richard Thoman: looking to fill the city administrator role in the next month. They are marketing the Dolan property for a subdivision. The AmericInn “refresh” is almost done. Coming up is Balloon Fest and Dairy Breakfast.*

*Ron Shaaf: is working with SWWRPC on the revolving loan fund. They are looking ahead to remodeling of The Bank of New Glarus’ Brodhead branch and others in the future now that Monroe is done.*

*Jane Curran-Meuli: SSM is having a busy May with a full house and reminded us that COVID is still out there. 14 8<sup>th</sup> graders graduated from Club Scrub.*

*Mike Furgal: shared there are AARPA funds being used for the Child Advocacy Center.*

*Donna Douglas: City Administrator applicants are down to 6 and will be narrowed to 3 face to face interviews soon. The Ad Hoc Fire Department completed a list of items for working together. Main Street is doing an awesome job, and the city parks are full and people are getting out again!*

**6. Next Meeting: June 15 at 7:30AM IN PERSON at the courthouse – DONUTS!!**

**7. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:12 AM