

Green County Development Corporation Board Minutes
Thursday, June 16, 2022
In Person Meeting

1. **Attendance:** Nikki Matley Austin (Thrivent), John McNeil (Big Radio), Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus), Joan Rufenacht (County Board), Drake Daily (Village of New Glarus), Donna Douglas (City of Monroe), Amy Charles (Blackhawk Technical College, BTC), Casey Jones (City of Brodhead), Doug Sutter (Keller, Inc.), Mike Williams (Colony Brands), Olivia Otte (Green County Development Corporation).
2. **Call to Order:** President Nikki Austin called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.
3. **Introduction of New Director:** New GCDC executive director Olivia Otte introduced herself.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by John McNeil; second by Joan Rufenacht. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of the Minutes (June 16, 2022):** Motion by Casey Jones; seconded by Ron Schaaf. Motion carried.
6. **Approval of the Financials (February 2022):** Motion by Joan Rufenacht; second by Doug Sutter. Motion carried.
7. **Staff Updates:** Olivia gave an update on her activities and outreach for this week so far along with upcoming meetings she has scheduled.
8. **Community Roundtable/Partner Reports/Board Member Business to Advance Economic Development in Green County:** Each member provided an update from their business/community.

Drake Daily (City Administrator of New Glarus) – Reported that tourism is in full force in New Glarus. They have entered festival season and have the Blues, Brews, and Food Truck Festival on June 25, along with the Heidi Folk Festival and Heidi Play. The Village of New Glarus also debuted a new mural. All are invited to go and check it out.

Mike Williams (Colony Brands) – Colony Brands is in between seasons right now. They are focusing on recruiting. The new location in Janesville opened in May and is so far successful.

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

Ron Schaaf (Bank of New Glarus) – the new building has is hoping to have an occupancy date of late December. The Bank of New Glarus has hired a number of key people, including new lenders.

Casey Jones (Village of Brodhead) – Brodhead is also entering festival season. Family Fest is on June 25. The village has postponed further construction on the covered bridge until after Family Fest. The Economic Development Committee now meets at 3:30pm. Brodhead is looking into building on their industrial park.

Joan Rufenacht (County Board) – Her district recently passed an ordinance for five different areas of ATV use. Resolution of ARPA funding have also been passed.

Donna Douglas (Mayor of Monroe) – the city splash pad will be open by July 4. The council has been touring local government departments and has had a 100% participation rate.

Businesses on the square are allowed to turn in their plans for outdoor makeshift seating, similar to what is in front of Baumgartners.

John McNeil (Big Radio) – Based in Monroe and Janesville, with Freeport, Lena offices and a call station in Beloit. The radio is an open forum for GCDC and spotlights on businesses and community stakeholders alike. The Green County Fair will be on July 20. Big Radio will broadcast four live auctions taking place at the fairgrounds.

Amy Charles (Blackhawk Tech) – Amy announced the Blackhawk Tech recently did a number of programs such as “Train the Trainer”. This program had 8 graduates. Blackhawk Tech also just graduated 16 people from the CNA class, and 12 people from their phlebotomy class. BTC and the Monroe Chamber of Commerce have also partnered together for their first Lunch and learn which will be held on July 14 at BTC. BTC is also looking at moving forward in forming a state line manufacturing alliance which promotes manufacturing and industry-based careers for young kids. Lastly, there will be an open house for Janesville Blackhawk Tech campus on June 30 from 4-7pm. All are welcome.

Nikki Austin - Nikki extended a big thank you to everyone who was involved in the hiring process for the new executive director. She also announced that the ARPA committee, in which GCDC had a seat, submitted their official recommendation to the County Board Finance Committee. For School Board news: the new superintended, Rodney Figueroa, will be officially starting on July 1.

9. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the GCDC Board will be IN PERSON on Thursday, August 18 at 7:30 am in the courtroom of the historic Courthouse, downtown Monroe.
10. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by John McNeil, second by Joan Rufenacht. Motion carried. Adjourned at 7:52 am.