

GRANT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MONTHLY MEETING

January 27, 2010- Meeting Minutes

Lancaster Country Club – Lancaster, WI

Present:

Boscobel: Barb Bell, Jerry Linder
Cassville: Louie Okey
Cuba City: John Beinborn, Rich Brown
Dickeyville: None
Fennimore: Marty Tollefson
Grant Co.: John Beinborn, John Patcle, Lester Jentzen, Kyle Vesperman
GCTC: Denise Tolzman
Hazel Green: Bill Weigman, Sara Saylor, David Kuhle
Jamestown: None
Lancaster: Jerry Wehrle, Stephen Crane, Natalie Thares, Chris Prange, Angie Day, Dennis Morgan
Livingston: Lou Vosberg
Montfort: Rodney & Theresa Sander, Tom & Tina Arndt
Muscoda: Karen Ewing
Platteville: Dorothy Genthe, George Krueger
Potosi: Frank Fiorenza, Larry Percival
SWWRPC: Larry Ward
SWTC: Dr. Karen Knox
UW-Ext.: Paul Thares
UW-Platte: None
GCEDC: Ron Brisbois, Becky Becker
Special Guests: Phil Garthwaite, 49th Assembly Representative; Senator Dale Schultz; Bob Borremans, Workforce Development Board; Paul Norris, MSA Professional Services; Carol Wetuski, USDA Rural Development

CALL TO ORDER:

President George Krueger called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

MINUTES:

Louie Okey *made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 3, 2009 Meeting; seconded by Larry Ward, motion carried.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Given by John Patcle

Balance on hand as of 1/27/10 was \$114,828.46. Total income since the last report was \$52,867.00; Total expenses since the last report are \$9,180.19. Expenditures to date total \$9,080.19. 4% of the year has elapsed, and 7% of budgeted funds have been expended. *A motion was made by Dennis Morgan to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by John Beinborn, motion carried.*

LANCASTER REPORT – given by: Stephen Crane

- The city, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, passed a 5% room tax in Lancaster. The money will be kept within the city and by law 70% of the tax receipts must be used for marketing and promotion of Lancaster. Under an agreement between the city and the Chamber of Commerce 80% of the tax receipts will be used to market and promote the City of Lancaster through the Chamber. 2% of the money will be returned to the establishment collecting the tax, 8% of the tax the city will retain for administrative costs and the remaining 10% the city will dedicate to a fund for signage and street-scape improvement projects.
- The Lancaster Chamber is hosting a business retention breakfast on Feb. 25th at 8:30am in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Guest speakers for this event are Roberta Gassman, Secretary of Workforce Development for the State of WI, as well as Dan McDonald, Vice President of existing business for Greater Dubuque Development Corporation. There will be a round table discussion held after the breakfast. This event is free for existing chamber members and \$10 for non-chamber members.
- The City is working on the beginning process of implementing a historic district.

In Lieu of a Speaker the Group Toured Woolwich Dairy in Lancaster's Industrial Park.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **WEDA Conference:** The WEDA Conference will be held the second weekend in February. Ray Saint is running for the WEDA Board this year.
2. **Dues Request:** GCEDC has received almost all of their annual dues so far for the year. Ron checked in to a marketing grant from Dairyland, but found out we will not be able to receive one.

ONCE AROUND – Share the Top 3 Things to Happen In Your Community

Boscobel – Jerry Linder

- Mike Reynolds, city engineer, presented the plans for the second half of the city's main street project.

- The airport is in the process of installing a fuel card reader and they have also purchased snow removal equipment that has accessories for many other jobs as well.

Cassville – Louie Okey

- The Village received a grant from the state to fix up the boat landing along the river. Bald Eagle Days are in Cassville this weekend. Bring your family and enjoy the fun & educational activities the Village has planned for all!

Cuba City – Rich Brown

- Wausaukee Composites received a \$980,000 tax credit and will be hiring back most of their employees as well as possibly adding some in the near future. Cuba City received a grant for energy improvements to the City Municipal Building.

Fennimore – Marty Tollefson

- The Fennimore Chamber is hosting a seminar on Monday, March 1st at the Lenz Conference Center at SWTC. Guest speaker will be Ray Saint and he will discuss topics such as better customer service, communication and leadership. The cost of the seminar is \$39/person or \$99 for 3 or more in any organization. To register call Linda Parrish at 822-3599 by Feb. 22nd.
- Secretary Leinenkugel was in Grant County on Feb. 5th and stopped for a visit at the Rayovac Plant in Fennimore. Also, the plant recently hired 2 new engineers.
- Fennimore has a couple of Community Promotions going on right now:
- Get Fit Weight Loss Competition & the 2nd annual Southwest WI Power & Energy Fair on Feb. 6th at SWTC – 9am-3pm

Grant County – John Patcle

- The County is preparing for the spring election in which the County Board will be downsizing from 31 members to 17.
- Seven members decided not to seek re-election; five of those seven members were the youngest members of the board.
- The County has also been working with Focus on Energy to see what can be done to save money on some of their buildings.

Grant County Tourism Council – Denis Tolzman

- The Tourism Council, in conjunction with the Shopping News, has recently finished printing 20,000 copies of the 2010 Grant County Travel Planner books. They are available at the Platteville Chamber of Commerce.
- Margo King did quite a bit of the transporting of the travel planners throughout the tri-state area and this year she has decided to retire from that duty so if anyone is traveling outside the area and would like to take some books along to drop off at various places please let Denise know and she will make sure to get some to you.

Hazel Green – Bill Weigman

- The City Hall is now closed in and they are working in doors now. The new in floor heat is working well.
- Because of IBM locating in Dubuque, Hazel Green has a few new families living in the Village.
- A new house is up and ready for sale. Rental homes in town are filled as well. The craft fair in December was a success.

Montfort – Theresa Sander

- The Montfort Fire Department is receiving a \$40,000 grant to aid in the upgrading of their portable radios.
- There will be a bowling tournament on Feb 1 to benefit the Fire Dept as well. Go to www.montfortfire8pin.com for more info.

Muscoda – Karen Ewing

- The Village has applied for some grants to assist with the storm sewer replacement on 2nd St. The project has been on hold for the time being as it is thought to have some archeological significance. The City Hall received a new roof recently.
- The City has had great success with loaning out money through their RLF program. Many of the loans have been paid back and the balance of the account is currently over a half a million dollars. If you know of someone who may be interested in starting a business in the Muscoda area, please encourage them to apply for a loan through the village office.

Platteville – George Krueger

- Taste of Platteville will be on Sunday, Jan. 31st.
- The Governor Dodge Convention Center has been sold to local investors. They will be tearing down the pub and building a new national chain hotel. The current motel will be used for student housing.

Potosi – Frank Fiorenza

- In 18 months the brewery has had over 50,000 visitors and has had an impact of about \$4million in the region so far.
- Three beers and the root beer are going to be bottled and packed in Stevens Point now.
- When visitors stop at the brewery they want to know what else is going on in the area at the same time. We need to find a way to keep the brewery informed of current events that are going on in the region so the people at the front desk can share that information with visitors and keep them in Grant County for an extended period of time.

SWWRPC – Larry Ward

- Regional planning is working to finish up the Grant County Comprehensive Plan.
- They are now starting on a regional comprehensive plan which will focus on the needs of the region and identifying grant opportunities for communities and counties.
- SWWRPC recently assisted with a \$1.5million grant for the Belmont Sewer Plant, has a deal pending with the Potosi Brewery and another project in Mineral Point they are working on as well.
- If you have any thoughts on how regional planning can help, any questions or any information please don't hesitate to contact the regional planning office.

SWTC – Dr. Karen Knox

- The Southwest WI Power & Energy Fair will be held on the SWTC campus on Feb. 6th. The college will be showing the new computerized energy system on campus and how it works.
- There will be an open house on Feb. 10th from 3-7pm that will feature the new childcare facility and the ag & auto tech facility. They are waiving the \$30 application fee that evening for anyone who would like to apply for a program.

- Yesterday the college received approval for the purchase of land for the new public safety training facility.
- This Sunday there will be a trivia competition held on campus sponsored by the Foundation.

UW-Extension – Paul Thares

- On 9/10 and 9/11 there will be another clean sweep program held at the Youth and Ag building in Lancaster.
- The CLA just started their first class of the year. They have 25 students so far and have room for 5 more. If you know of someone who might be a good candidate for the class please have them contact Paul.
- Paul has been working in partnership with Gary Smith of the SBDC and CESA #3 on getting elementary students interested in entrepreneurship. In May of 2010 they will hold an expo at SWTC for 250 area elementary students. Area ED and business people will be speaking at the expo to get kids interested in the entrepreneurial spirit at a young age!

UW-Platteville – George Krueger

- UWP has a great program called PACE that people in the area can take advantage of. If you need students to help with projects or you know of a business that could use the assistance of students please contact UWP. The college will help pay for most of the cost of the internship as well.

Special Guests – Phil Garthwaite, 49th Assembly Representative

- Phil's office is working on a bill that would require apiaries to have a special honey certification stamp on their products.
- They are working on an agricultural bill that would allow residents to ride gators and other ATV's on the road for farming purposes.
- At the State level they are working on a new market tax credit, which will be based on the census, to assist under developed and low income areas.

Carol Wetuski – USDA Rural Development

- USDA has energy programs for small business to assist with making the business more energy efficient. There are financing programs available and loan money at fixed rate terms that can be used. This can be used for agricultural projects too.

Senator Dale Schultz

- As community leaders, everyone in the room wonders about the fiscal shape of WI and what we're going to be able to do into the future. As you know, when the state does the budget each year they estimate the revenue that will come in and then build the budget around that estimate. The good news is, the state is not so far out of whack that they will have to do a budget repair bill this year. Here's what you need to know: when the budget was created last year, it was estimated that the state would take in 1.9% more revenue over base in '09, and that in 2010 the state would take in 4.3% more revenue than 2009. Here's what happened: In 2009 the state got 2/10 of 1% new revenue, and the estimate is that we're going to have 5.5% more revenue in 2010. Dale is a little skeptical of that number, but that's what they came up with and that's what the legislature is going to work with. What this means is, is that the state is taking in less revenue in 2009 than was planned and because they're working off a smaller base for 2009 they're actually going to take in less money in 2010 than planned. The bottom line is the state is \$290 to \$300 million worse off than what they originally had planned. Either the budget deficit is going to be \$300 million worse or their going to be doing some cutting. Dale will do whatever he can to fight for this region. We all know that what's good for one village or city in this area is good for all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- GCEDC is seeing more activity now, in the first part of the year, then in the last 3 months which is very exciting. We have existing companies looking to expand and things are really starting to pick up in the area. Ron put together a proposal for a Cellulosic ethanol plant in the area. The TEA grant for Packer's Chemical in Kieler is moving ahead.
- Worked with Wausaukee Composites to obtain tax credit for an expansion project and sent letters to Feingold & Kohl's office to get them involved. This is good press and good marketing for the County,
- Secretary Leinenkugel & Secretary Gassman have both been in Grant County over the last month. We are definitely doing something right to get all of the good publicity lately! Also, Frank Fiorenza has a follow up meeting with Leinenkugel on Feb. 11th. They are planning to meet for an hour to discuss workforce development.
- An ED person representing each Iowa, Grant, Green, Lafayette, Richland and Crawford Counties has been meeting regularly to work on forming a regional ED Cooperative which will be much like New North and other regional ED groups. Once the group is officially formed with by-laws and such they can apply for \$100,000 in marketing dollars from the Dept of Commerce which will be used to advertise southwest WI.
- Universal Silencer in Muscoda recently paid off their revolving loan through the County. Also, GCEDC will be receiving \$3000 in administration dollars for administering the County RLF program. We will also be receiving a settlement for a loan that the borrower defaulted on.
- Ron has an appointment to talk with John Wells, our webmaster, to find out how to better market the area on our site as well as how we can better utilize google adwords. The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2010 in Hazel Green.

ADJOURNMENT - A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Frank Fiorenza, seconded by Jerry Wehrle. President George Krueger adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Becker, Executive Assistant