

GRANT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MONTHLY MEETING
May 26, 2010- Meeting Minutes
Katina's Kitchen – Dickeyville

Present:

Bloomington: None
Boscobel: Steve Wetter
Cassville: None
Cuba City: Bob Schink, Tim Nolan, John Beinborn
Dickeyville: Dale Neis
Fennimore: John Murphy
Grant Co.: John Beinborn, Lester Jantzen, Vince Loeffelholz, Carol Beals, Grant Loy
GCTC: Bob Schink, Grant Loy
Hazel Green: Bill Wiegman, Dave Kuhle
Jamestown: Faber Runde
Lancaster: Jerry Wehrle, Dennis Morgan
Livingston: None
Montfort: None
Muscoda: None
Platteville: Dorothy Genthe, George Krueger, Zach Zaputt, Terry Vaassen, George Curry
Potosi: Frank Fiorenza, Larry Percival
SWWRPC: Ed White
SWTC: None
UW-Ext.: None
UW-Platte: George Krueger
GCEDC: Ron Brisbois
Special Guests: Megan Graney, Scenic Rivers Energy Co-op; Phil Garthwaite, 49th Assembly Representative

CALL TO ORDER:

President George Krueger called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

MINUTES:

John Murphy *made a motion to accept the minutes from the 4/28/10 Board of Directors' Meeting; seconded by John Beinborn, motion carried.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Given by Ron Brisbois

Balance on hand as of 5/24/10 was \$114,613.78. Total income since the last report was \$115.33; Total expenses since the last report are \$12,573.63. Expenditures to date total \$51,281.74. 38% of the year has elapsed, and 42% of budgeted funds have been expended. *A motion was made by Dennis Morgan to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Frank Fiorenza, motion carried.*

DICKEYVILLE REPORT – given by: Dale Nies

- The library applied for a received a Gates grant for \$7,000 to purchase computers.
- The wastewater treatment facility will be upgraded in 2011 to make it more energy efficient.
- Land has been purchased near 151 and will hopefully be developed early next year. They would like to annex this property into the Village and use it for commercial purposes and create a TIF district.

JAMESTOWN REPORT – given by: Faber Runde

- The town board has decided to purchase a new fire truck for the fire dept. The Dept recently had their 50 year anniversary and should receive the new truck by November. A new town truck has also been purchased.
- They will be doing some updating to the sewer treatment plant in the next year or two.

SPEAKER: Kevin Bernhardt, UW-Platteville

TOPIC: PACCE Program & the potential for a Center for Entrepreneurship on UWP Campus

- **If you would like a copy of Kevin's handout please contact Ron or Becky and we will get you one.**
- Who are his targeted customers as a professor at the University? There are 3...one of them, the biggest one being the students. Secondly is the employer and third is the parents of the students. The main focus of tonight's conversation will be the students.
- What is PACCE? Students meeting & learning objectives through participating in a real activity, with real people, in the real world, with real consequences. The requirements for the program are: must be for credit, must involve faculty, student, and community partner, must be in-depth and reciprocal relationship between students and community partner.
- Why? To build students' preparation for both work and citizenship, higher education needs to give new emphasis to fostering practical judgment and problem solving "in the field". Community-based learning should be integrated into the curriculum, and efforts to strengthen the quality of students' learning from such experiences should become an integral part of contemporary

liberal education. "They must learn, while still in college, how to apply their experience and knowledge to solve increasingly complex problems and succeed in a competitive, global economy.

- Some of the projects students in the PACCE program have worked on this past semester include: engineering students who designed a new gym and renovated facility for St. Mary's School in Platteville, Chemistry students who worked with a lab in Maryland on cutting-edge research on the Gene MK591, group of agricultural students who worked on animal welfare issues with the University Farm, a group of students who designed a more efficient warehouse system for a business in Prairie du Chien, a group of business students who went to China this year and worked with a Lancaster firm to develop a new market for that firm, a group of students who worked for the Dept of Health Services in Madison on building security and traffic safety, a group of criminal justice students working with a group engineering students developing a design for a museum and also security for the artifacts in that museum, a group of engineering students who have developed toys for kids with disabilities to use – this has been done the past few semesters, another project was a new way of making snow at Sundown Mtn Ski Resort in temperatures much higher than normal. This just gives you an idea of the broad range of projects these students can be involved in.
- The Center for Entrepreneurship – a "center" for Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship. The vision is "to be a catalyst and resource for creating both a spirit and capacity to be more creative, innovative, and entrepreneurial leading to stronger communities where people want to live, work, play and learn. In Kevin's words, the Center for Entrepreneurship would take a student from the beginning and nurture them, somewhat slowly, through all the steps to develop their own business. The student has to have an idea or they have to work with a business that has an idea or a new market and they would use that to continue to develop all the way through. Part of this would be classroom work like feasibility studies, part of it would be putting the organization together, part would be going to a business plan competition and then maybe the winning plan would get incubator space to launch their business off and to make it happen.
- There are many options with an entrepreneurial career: Start up venture, corporate, academic, cultural, social, non-profit, public sector, intrapreneur within professions, family businesses, rapid growth ventures, and early growth ventures.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. SWEDC Regional Co-op – Things continue to progress, although a little slower than originally anticipated. They are working on the authorizing resolutions for the regional ED co-op. Grant and Crawford Counties have issued authorizing resolutions of support. Ron will go in front of Iowa County in July. Once they have the authorizing resolutions the Board of Directors will be set, 3 at-large members from across the region will be elected and also the officers will be elected as well. If things go well they should be operating by August.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **TIF Legislation** - New legislation has been signed by Governor Doyle which allows communities that have multiple TIF's to move funding over from one TIF to another. This would happen if you had one TIF that was doing well and bringing in a lot of increment in and another that was not doing so well, you would then be able to get permission to move money from one over to another.

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

Boscobel – Mayor Steve Wetter

- Boscobel is still working on their downtown revitalization project at the moment. One block is done with the sidewalk and new lights are in. This project came in 23% under the bid so some of the extra money will be used to put a sound system in the downtown.
- The swimming pool is getting solar panels to help heat the pool. The structure is up and they are just waiting for the panels to come in so they can install them.
- The new park shelter at the Fireman's Park is getting ready to go up.
- The City just helped Great Lakes Higher Education, which is located in the city's industrial park, celebrate their 10 year anniversary. When they first started they had 10 employees and today they have 126 and they have to expand again and will be looking for more building space.

Cuba City – John Beinborn

- A city council alderman, Greg Welp, has resigned as he has moved to Illinois. The City has appointed Denis Rischler to fill the vacant seat on the council.
- Coming up is the street dance for Dairy Days on June 12th. At this time they will also honor their farm family of the year who this year is Duane and Sue Klein who farm just outside of town.
- The Cuba Fair will be coming up June 18-20th.

Fennimore – John Murphy

- Fennimore Produce Auction – large Memorial Day sale – quilts, crafts, new furniture, flowers and in-season produce. Monday, May 31 auction begins at 9:30 a.m. – 14800 County Hwy T – East of Hickory Grove Golf Course.
- Working with several businesses on expansion plans
- Fennimore Swimming Pool is assisted by Fennimore Schools to add mural at pool. Mural designed by Fennimore Elementary School Art student – will be painted by High School Art Class. Kick-off party and mural dedication planned for June 13.
- Party in Arborvita Park (located in residential area east of Good Samaritan Center). A fundraiser for new play ground equipment will be held Wednesday, June 2 (rain date June 3).
- Fennimore Water Tower being painted – expected to be completed within a month.

Grant County – John Beinborn

- Dwight Nelson has been appointed to the County Board to represent the 17th district. Julia Clark has decided not to appeal.

- The Sanitation Dept has been combined with the Planning & Zoning Dept. so that will no longer exist. Also, the Tourism Council has been combined with Economic Development and from that there will be 1 representative, Grant Loy, going to the meetings to cut down on some of the cost. In the past there have been 3 members going to the meetings.

Grant County Tourism Council – Bob Schink

- The figures for tourism expenditures in 2009 are in and the state was down \$1 billion or about 10% from the year before. The good news is Grant County was only down about 6.9% from the year before, which is better than other counties.
- At the BEST Conference, the tourism council was awarded the Regional Collaboration Award which is the result of the group working closely with Tri-State Tourism, Hidden Valleys and other groups. They are also working closely with the WI Dept of Tourism and joining them at their shows to distribute Grant County literature.

Hazel Green – Bill Wiegman

- The village will move into the new city hall building on June 7 & 8. The new hall has a large library and other great features.
- A new subdivision will open up with 12 lots available. Two are already sold and one is ready to build.
- There are several streets and sidewalks in the Village to repair this summer.
- On Aug 14th there will be an open house at the new city hall. This will be in conjunction with their Veteran's Memorial with games and a parade during the day.

Lancaster – Jerry Wehrle

- The city is looking at putting antennas on top of the new water tower which would be used for telecommunication purposes.
- The City has been meeting to discuss turning the downtown district into a historical district.
- July 15th there will be a 50+ person band from Germany (their sister city's band) – part of the band is related to the Busch's that are in the band in the area. The following night (the 16th) there will be a "Big Truck Parade" around the square and different things going on up at the Fairgrounds.
- July 9th the Kids from Wisconsin will perform in Lancaster at the High School.
- Lancaster is waiting for the money to come through so the houses in the flood plain can be moved.

Livingston – Grant Loy

- The village is losing their only grocery store.
- The village just received a grant for a new fire truck, but have found out that it is 3 feet too long for the existing fire house so they are going to have to build a new fire house.

Platteville – Ed White

- O'Reilly Auto Parts has broken ground on a new building just west of Heartland Credit Union.
- There is a new business in the incubator.
- The Police Dept has volunteered to drug testing of all of the employees. All employees have passed the test and the internal investigation is still on-going.
- The city has broke ground on the Chestnut/Marquee Rd project (new entrance to UWP). Over \$3 million in Federal stimulus money was used for this project.
- \$408,000 in EDA funds were received for the retention pond in the Industrial Park.

Potosi – Frank Fiorenza

- Things continue to go well for the brewery. Three of the Potosi Beers are on sale throughout the state of WI and NW IL. In the next few months they will be on sale in the Twin Cities and other parts of MN, especially along the river.
- The brewery has 30-40 bus trips lined up for the summer already. They are training new tour guides for the brewery.
- Tomorrow the village will meet with about 6 or 7 engineers to decide on the plans for the new Potosi Point Observation Deck. Hope to have it done by this fall and to apply for a grant from the Dubuque Racing Association or Alliant to help with the cost.

SWWRPC – Ed White

- Updating regional plans for the counties. Broadband is something that wasn't mentioned in these plans last time they were done that needs to be added now. The plans should be online in June.

Special Guests – Phil Garthwaite, 49th Assembly Representative

- The bids for Hwy 61 are going out in August. If they hadn't done it the way they did it, it wouldn't have gotten done until 2017.
- Phil was not at our last meeting, he was in Washington, DC to speak with Russ Feingold at the Senate Democratic Rural Summit speaking about rural issues such as infrastructure, broadband, school districts declining population and other things of that nature.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- GCEDC is working with expansions of several businesses within the County.
- Our work with Scot Industries in Muscoda and their electrical rates in Muscoda has been challenging. Ron has met with the owner who flew in from Texas to discuss electrical rates in Muscoda and compare them to that of Texas, Ohio and Indiana.
- Montfort has been awarded a CDBG grant in the amount of \$218,000 for their sanitary sewer system. GCEDC will be administering the grant.
- Jamestown has been awarded a TEA Grant in the amount of \$150,000.
- Ron will be attending the WEDA Spring Conference in Milwaukee in June.
- Been a part of the WIRED Committee for the last several months now and that is starting to wind down now.
- Ron has done retention visits to several businesses in the County, specifically Curwood Inc in Boscobel as their merger with Milprint is now complete.

GCEDC Board of Directors' Monthly Mtg. 5/26/10

- The County Board approved a new RLF loan for Pink's automotive in Lancaster. They were the first RLF loan to be issued in the County when the RLF was introduced 10 years ago or so and they just finished paying off that loan and now took out a new one. They made their first payment before we could even get the new loan into the computer!
- An application for a \$50,000 RLF loan for a Cuba City/Platteville business is currently being reviewed.
- We had another inquiry from a potential daycare business in the Cuba City/Hazel Green area regarding the RLF and other business related questions. Ron recently met with the potential owners and talked with them about what they would need to do to apply and gave them some suggestions for their business.
- Ron attended a tourism marketing workshop today in Potosi at the brewery.
- Our office is mailing out an ENORMOUS amount of travel planners and our website hits for April were the best we've seen at 243,000, until the May statistics came out and we were at 249,000 so far and there's still a few more days in May left! We will keep you updated on this at future meetings!

The next Grant County Economic Development Corporation Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 30th in MUSCODA at LJ's River Inn.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Beinborn, seconded by John Murphy. President George Krueger adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Becker, Executive Assistant