

**GRANT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MONTHLY MEETING
June 30, 2010- Meeting Minutes
LJ's River Inn – Muscoda, WI**

Present:

Bloomington: None
Boscobel: Steve Wetter, Barb Bell, Kempert Krogan, Ray Saint
Cassville: None
Cuba City: John Beinborn
Dickeyville: None
Fennimore: None
Grant Co.: John Beinborn, Lester Jantzen, Vince Loeffelholz, Grant Loy
GCTC: Brian Stuart – Shopping News
Hazel Green: Bill Wiegman, Sara Saylor
Jamestown: None
Lancaster: None
Livingston: None
Montfort: None
Muscoda: Jack Enslow, Brent Stadele, Dorothy Hackl, Richard Hackl, Richard Imhoff, Diane Imhoff, Josh Prochaska, Nicole Prochaska, Wed Conley, Jack Meister, Milford Feryance, Cinda Johnson, Troy Wardell
Platteville: George Krueger, Zach Zaputil
Potosi: None
SWWRPC: Larry Ward
SWTC: Dr. Knox
UW-Ext.: None
UW-Platte: None
GCEDC: Ron Brisbois, Becky Becker
Special Guests: Richard Kiesling, Kiesling Properties /Cuba City; Mark Cupp, Executive Director Lower WI State Riverway; WI State Senator Dale Schultz; James Schneider, Candidate for WI Lt. Governor

CALL TO ORDER:

President George Krueger called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

MINUTES:

John Beinborn *made a motion to accept the minutes from the 5/26/10 Board of Directors' Meeting; seconded by Dorothy Hackl, motion carried.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Given by Ron Brisbois

Balance on hand as of 6/30/10 was \$104,970.08. Total income since the last report was \$272.94; Total expenses since the last report are \$9,916.64. Expenditures to date total \$61,030.38. 46% of the year has elapsed, and 50% of budgeted funds have been expended. *A motion was made by Grant Loy to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Richard Imhoff, motion carried.*

MUSCODA REPORT – given by: Brent Stadele

- Muscoda will be receiving a grant from the Dept of Commerce Emergency Assistance Program for \$1million for the 2nd Street reconstruction project which will consist of new and replacement water, sewer and storm water mains. Bids were opened last Thursday and there were 17 bidders in all. The contract was awarded to Iowa Grant Trucking for underground work and Badger Environmental for the paving.
- The Industrial Park is still going strong, even with the economic downturn. There are no new prospects right now, but at the same time, the Village didn't lose any of their existing businesses either.
- There are many visitors utilizing the campground and our beautiful Wisconsin River this summer!

SPEAKER: Mark Cupp, Executive Director of the Lower WI State Riverway

TOPIC: Update on Lower WI Riverway, Scenic Byways & Other River Activities

- Mark has been taking many people on the Voyager Canoe trips on the WI River. These canoes are larger than normal and seat more people too. Last year he did 18 trips in 21 days and so far this year has done 12 trips in 15 days and still has more planned. He is in the process of writing a grant to purchase some voyager canoes instead of having to rent them each year and having access to them for only a few days at a time.
- He is involved with many programs in the area that involve the WI River and went over some of those with us such as Effigy Mounds. This is a self guided tour and there has been a huge surge of interest in the Mounds lately.
- The Scenic Byways Project has many local groups involved in this and takes an extreme amount of involvement and planning. The designation of Hwy 60 as a Scenic Byway from Lodi to Prairie du Chien and the fact that we have the Great River Road intersecting in our area is a huge draw for travels and river enthusiasts alike. They are working on organizing this as a 501c3 and

partner with the Great River Road to advertise and promote the driftless area.

- Mark has a very good map of the river and also maintains a website, blog and video clips about the weather, area events and community events going on to keep viewers informed.
- He also showed us a "Muscodia Walking Trails" map that designates many routes throughout the village that people can take. Any community can do this and by looking at the Muscodia map you may get some good ideas on how to go about this.
- Mark is always looking for new ideas and new information about the river and its rich history. If you have any information you'd like to share with him or any questions please feel free to call him or email him at anytime!
- The website is: www.lwr.state.wi.us

OLD BUSINESS: 1. SWEDC Regional Co-op – Things continue to progress and everything should be approved and ready to go by August. They applied for a grant from Alliant Energy for marketing and website development.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **WEDA – New Building and Site Website:** Currently we use the Statewide Network called the LOIS Network, which was created by Alliant Energy and Forward WI, to advertise vacant commercial buildings in the County. WEDA has announced their intention to create a new site to be used in the same manner as LOIS. If this site is created we will list the buildings on the new WEDA site and will likely keep them listed on the LOIS site as well.
2. **GDCB-ED Loan – Wausaukee Composites:** This is a federal loan of \$1.5million to help Wausaukee secure 200 jobs at their facility and when the money is repaid it will go back into the County's Revolving Loan Fund and can be lent out to other new businesses. Wausaukee Composites is not planning to start construction until next year.

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

Boscobel – Ray Saint

- Boscobel's main street project is going well and will look so much better once it is complete.
- Great Lakes Higher Education Corp is currently going through another hiring phase and looking for another 9-13 employees.
- Milk Specialties, located on the west side of town is also hiring more employees and has more employees now then ever before.
- The new solar panels are now up and going at the Boscobel Swimming Pool. The temperature of the water went from 78degrees to 89 or 90 degrees in one day because of the new heat system.
- Boscobel's Annual 4th of July Celebration is coming up this weekend. The Firemen do a great job each year and put on one of the largest fireworks displays in the area. Join us for some fun on the 4th!!!

Cuba City – John Beinborn

- Mike Lisle and Associates would like to thank Ron for all of his work on their RLF loan that was just approved.
- The Cuba City Lioness Club has donated handicapped accessible playground equipment to one of the local parks in the city.

Fennimore – Read by Becky Becker

-Serendipity Salon and Day Spa (Mindy Krantz) moving to new location July 17 (next to TDS building on Lincoln Avenue). One of new services they will offer is permanent makeup.

-Children's Clothesline – (Stacy Leffler) business going very well they have outgrown current location and plan to move to 1220 Lincoln Avenue (former location of Serendipity Salon) by early August. Store sells new name brand children's clothing as well as gently used clothing and furniture.

-Fennimore Upcoming Events...Fennimore Doll & Toy Museum – July is Beatlemania Month – special performance by Ralph Kluseman Sunday, July 18 between 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Kluseman will entertain with Beatle songs and trivia. Other collectors who have Beatle memorabilia are encouraged to bring items to share with others. A free will donation will be accepted during Kluseman's Beatles performance to benefit the Doll and Toy Museum. Those attending should bring along lawn chairs as the performance is planned as an outside event. In case of inclement weather the event will be held inside the museum.

-Fennimore Chamber Chicken BBQ – Tuesday, July 20 @ Memorial Park. Serving from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Advance tickets recommended (available at Fennimore banks). Chamber will recognize Citizens of the Year & Community Awards @ 6:30 p.m.

-Fennimore Fun Fest – Friday Aug 6 and Saturday Aug 7 – Parade and Fireworks Saturday evening!

Grant County – John Beinborn

- The fun set up to replace the Blue Boy Statue in front of the courthouse in Lancaster received a \$500 donation from the courthouse employees and another \$500 donation from the UWP Union employees. Also, there are prints of the Blue Boy Statue available for \$40 as part of a fundraiser to restore the old statue.
- The Wyalusing Boat Landing is about 2wks behind schedule because of the rain we've had and the high water it's caused.

Grant County Tourism Council – Brian Stuart

- The travel planners have been boxed and shipped off to many places as well as hand delivered to some communities.
- The Platteville Chamber has had quite a lot of visitors – 2,000 since the beginning of the year that came from 15-20 different states as well as some international visitors from 10 or more different countries.
- The Driftless Film Festival is something new this year and will showcase some of the historic theaters in Grant County as well as Viroqua and a couple of other communities. There will be more information about this coming out in the near future.
- The Tourism Council is working on updating their website and will add the 2010 travel planner to it.

Hazel Green – Bill Wiegman

- The Village is all moved into the new Village Hall. The Police Dept is also located in the hall.
- There were a few homes for sale in the community that have now been sold and 2 new homes being built.
- Working on sidewalks now that the weather is nicer and getting ready for the Veteran's Memorial Parade coming up soon.

Platteville – George Krueger

- O'Reilly Auto Parts and Allen Gobin Flooring are two new operations in the city.
- The American Customer Care facility was not successful in replacing their contract, but will stay open for the time being.
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield is starting to wind down operations in the city with only a limited number of employees left working in the facility.
- John Deere and Cat have both hired back workers and are operating on multiple shifts once again so that is good news.

SWWRPC – Larry Ward

- Regional Planning continues to stay busy with the Comprehensive Planning and the Farmland Preservation Plan.
- They've also been working with Mt. Hope on some zoning issues and trying to help them resolve that.
- Regional Planning also provides grant writing services for the Safe Route to School Program so please keep that in mind if your school district is interested in applying for funding for this program.
- After getting a comprehensive plan worked out for most of the communities in Grant County, they are now working on a Regional Comprehensive plan so everything will work well together and everyone will be on the same page.
- July 27th is Regional Planning's 40th Annual Meeting at UW-Platteville with Mark O'Connell, Director of the WI County's Association as their guest speaker. If you'd like to attend please call the Regional Planning office.

Southwest Tech – Dr. Knox

- The student housing project at the college is now finished and the appliances will be delivered soon. This project will house 32 more students in the fall and will provide some much needed dorm space to students!
- The College has quite a few new programs and many of them are already filled. Electrical Power Distribution, Physical Therapy Assistant and Clinical Lab Technician.
- All of the buildings are on schedule and will be open in the fall for classes.
- Also, there is a need for more machinists which is a 1 semester CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) program in the fall so if you know of anyone who might be interested in this please have them contact SWTC as they are in need of students for this program to run.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- GCEDC has had 19 prospects so far this year.
- After much work to keep the Livingston Grocery store open, the economic downturn has forced them to now close their doors.
- The County's Revolving Loan Fund is very strong right now...both in terms of loans being disbursed and in terms of inquiries from various companies looking to borrow money to expand or start new. The County approved a loan to Mike Lisle & Associates and on Friday Ron will be meeting with another business in Platteville who has inquired about the loan program.
- Ron attended the WEDA Spring Conference in Milwaukee in June. George was supposed to attend with Ron, but was a good citizen and reported for jury duty instead! George's intern Zach Zaputil went with Ron in George's place.
- Alliant Energy is going through some restructuring right now. Two people have left their positions and one has had to re-apply for their previous position. We will not be working with the same representatives from Alliant as we have in the past.
- Quite a few months ago Ron wrote a TEA Grant for Kaiser's Chemical in Kieler for a new road in the township. The township itself would have had to put \$150,000 towards the project in order to receive the grant, but have decided against it.
- Ron submitted a grant to Alliant Energy to assist with paying for him to go to Japan. Ron would maybe be going with the chemistry professor from UWP and some students that are going as well.
- 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, July 28th in POTOSI at The Brewery.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Larry Ward, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz. President George Krueger adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Becker, Executive Assistant