



Historic Green County Courthouse
2nd Floor
1016 16th Ave
Monroe WI 53566

Members Present:

Bank of Brodhead - Kellie Wand

Big Radio - John McNeil

Blackhawk Technical College - Amy Charles

City of Brodhead – Larry DiRe

City of Monroe - Donna Douglas, Richard Thoman

Green County - Joan Rufenacht, Mike Furgal, Richard Thoman*

Mosher & Associates - Dave Mosher

The Bank of New Glarus - Ron Schaaf

Thrivent Financial - Nikki Austin*

Village of Belleville - Gabe Altenbernd

Village of New Glarus – Kelsey Jenson

Woodford State Bank - Dave Sawdey

EXIT Realty- Ryan Ziltner

Access Permits- Sarah Goeke

Kundert Construction- Chad Kundert

Village of Brooklyn- Linda Kulhman

Bank CMG- Mike Maynard

1100 Partners - Mike Sanders*

GCDC April 2026 Board Meeting

Date: April 16, 2026

Time: 8:00–9:30 AM

Location

The Bank of New Glarus – Monroe

Virtual Option Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 271 588 752 341 86

Passcode: qz26ZC2n

Agenda

1. Call to Order - 8:00am
2. Approval of the Agenda - Joan 1st/Kelsey 2nd
3. Approval of January 2026 Minutes - Dave 1st/Sarah 2nd
4. Staff Updates
 1. Events
 1. Annual Dinner Recap- about 270 tickets sold and had over 40 on the waitlist. Good comments made on the survey with over 50 responses. Attendees liked the panel discussion format, so we'll most likely continue that in the future. Discussed options at other venues, because its crowded at Turner Hall and parking is an issue. A non-profit award category will be added next year.
 2. Brooklyn Business Expo – May 5 – Will be attending with a GCDC table

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3. GCHCC Housing Summit – May 6 – Morning event with about 125 people registered. Invited board to attend to be involved in the discussion of Green County housing
 4. Developers Day – May 6 – Afternoon session, about 45 registered for presentation on development opportunities, bus tour and time for networking. Developers noted a desire to connect for possible partnerships to minimize risk in their projects.
 5. Home Construction Cooperative Open House – May 11 - 4-6pm Open house invited board to attend and get a tour of the house and support students.
 6. Green County Leaders Graduation – May 13 – 2:30-4:30 at Hawk's Mill Winery. Participants will be presenting their leaders projects. Some of the projects this year include a library of things, humane society, Fowler dental program and community botanical garden.
 7. CEC Conference Presentation – May 14 – in Green Lake. New conference focused on connecting smaller communities.

2. Initiatives

1. Housing Development Fund- Developments in New Glarus and Albany applied, going to committee this month.
2. Business Revolving Loan Fund- new loan given last month to the New Glarus Hotel.
3. USDA Grant- this is for \$125,000 to replenish the revolving loan fund.
4. Public WIFI projects- Albany project is finishing up. Planning stages for use of ARPA funds to install public wi-fi space in every community by the end of this year.
5. Small Business Technical Assistance Grant- This grant has funded a bilingual business consultant for small businesses- Bibiana Gonzalez has started to help out in the Latino community, as a contact consultant.
6. Latino Leadership Development Course- Bibiana is also helping with this, essentially developing a version of Green County Leaders for Spanish speakers. Partnering with UW Extension.
7. Dairy Successional Planning Grants- \$5,000 grants available for Green County dairy farmers to help pay for long term transition planning and succession planning. Applications opened this week. We have 5 applicants now, but please spread the word. 8-12 grants available.
8. First Time Homebuyer Program- Working on Fundraising efforts for match funds from Colony Brands. Have raised \$405,000 of the \$500,000 needed.
9. Home Construction Cooperative- due to the failure of the school referendum, discussion will need to happen with the school district to see if this program will be able to continue. Next year is safe, but after that, not secured.

3. Operations

1. Teresa Keehn has joined the team! – First day was April 7th, working part time for now while finishing up her role at United Way.
5. Discussion on Fundraising for Operations- will be increasing the investor fees for municipalities on a ladder scale, formula based on population. Discussed going to each municipality board to discuss change and present the value that GCDC brings. Noted that there are many new board members and elected officials who may not understand that GCDC does, of the impact we can bring. There is also now a fee for grant writing.

6. Community Roundtable / Partner Reports

Chad Kundert – Busy with spring construction projects. Company is focused on supporting youth in the trades

John M – Happy to give local access and weekly updates to GCDC. Reminder that the Breakfast on the farm is May 30 on Pinnacle Dairy. This is also the 30th anniversary of the Thompson ownership of the radio stations.

Joan – This is her final meeting and she's proud of all we've accomplished in her time.

Mike F – There are 10 new County Board members after the election

Mike M – excited to be a new investor and board member, looking forward to working together.

Larry – New mayor in Brodhead, Phil Baxter. They are adding some investment to the downtown beautification, paint, planters. Taphouse is moving through progress. Two developers working on plans further into the year.

Richard – He's now retired from County board, but staying on the city. Biggest project for the county remains the new jail. In the city, there will be new EV chargers in the Eugene hotel parking lot. The city is also working on infrastructure for development. Clean up day this weekend.

Mike Sanders – It's golf season with a rainy start, but the golf course has invested in all new golf carts this year.

Amy Charles -

Kelly Wand – E-recycling event in Brodhead Sat 9-noon

Donna – thank you for the recognition of the lifetime achievement award, after 60 years of service to the community. Tom Miller has been elected as the new mayor. Monday night will be her final board meeting and they're having a celebration.

Sarah G – Access permits is very busy, had a great Q1 and Q2 is even busier. Mostly in nationwide restaurants, retail and franchise projects, along with local engagement.

Kelsey – New Glarus library is scheduled to open on June 4. Prairie house development phase 2 will be starting soon- expected 50 units, targeted at 50+ age group. NG Hotel renovations are progressing, planning a fall to end of the year opening. Matterhorn development- phase 1, first 25 homes will start soon. New Sugar River EMS partnership up and running, bases in New Glarus and Belleville with 4 ambulance- 24/7 on-hand-staff emergency services with 85 EMT's. Also doing may capitol projects, like Village hall renovation and some downtown updates being done, working around schedule for 4 downtown festivals this year.

Dave S – June 26 is Woodford Banks Customer Appreciation day

Ron S – Tomorrow is Bank of NG Customer Appreciation day and Shred day is Friday

David M – Congratulations to Nikki on the leadership award. Commented on the school referendum, with staff cuts required and additional staff quitting, families will move from the district. Raises concerns about the long term impacts on the community and broader consequences. Stresses the need to contact your legislative representatives to correct the system of state school funding. Also reminder to keep business local and support the businesses that support our community. Let members know that Bill Omechin is running for open Assembly seat.

Wendy – pass

Nikki – Implications for the referendum will be felt quickly, such as AV Center no longer available for printing. There are 2 new school board members. Thrivent will be having a ribbon cutting and Business after 5 for the new location on May 20.

7. Next Meeting

8 am at the Bank of New Glarus on June 18, 2026

8. Adjourn 9:01am – Mike 1st/Richard 2nd