

**MINUTES – January 31, 2017**  
**FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance – Board of Director’s Meeting**  
**McMahon-Hadder Insurance, 3 W Garden Street – Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Rebecca Ferguson, Donnie McMahon, Bonita Player, and Tim Haag

**Members Not Present:** Bentina Terry, Jim Waite, Lewis Bear

**Staff Present:** Scott Luth, Kelly Reeser, Attorney Margaret Stopp, Libby Brown, Clancy Bambrick, and Accountant Chris Walker

**Others Present:** Philip de Boar, Allison Jones, and David Lister of Saltmarsh, Cleveland & Gund

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Donnie McMahon at 2:06 PM.
2. **Public Notice:** This meeting was publicly noticed on January 5<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Public Comment:** Vice President Donnie McMahon asked the room if there was any public comment. Willieminia Gadson introduced herself as a resident interested in economic development.
4. **Action Items**
  - a. **Approval of November 29 Meeting Minutes:** With no changes, it was MOVED by Tim Haag and SECONDED by Rebecca Ferguson to approve the November 29 Board of Director Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. **Approval of Financials:** Chris Walker presented the November 2016 financials to the Board. It was MOVED by Tim Haag and SECONDED by Bonita Player to approve the financials and they passed unanimously.
  - c. **Approval of 2016 Audit:** Representatives of Saltmarsh, Cleveland & Gund presented the FloridaWest audit to the Board. The 2016 FloridaWest audit was APPROVED unanimously.
  - d. **TaxWatch Study:** Scott Luth presented the TaxWatch contract to the Board of Directors. The contract, that would normally be routed through the PEDC, can only be funded with private dollars, and is therefore presented to FloridaWest. The results of the Tax Watch study would provide an independent economic impact analysis of the Bluff’s site. It was MOVED by Bonita Player and SECONDED by Tim Haag to authorize Scott to sign the contract. It was unanimously approved.
5. **Discussion Items:**
  - a. **Recommendations for Office Space:** Scott Luth explained that there were three appropriate choices available for leasing space, and that it will be necessary to move soon, as the Chamber moved out of their building in December. It was MOVED by Tim Haag and SECONDED by Rebecca Ferguson to authorize Scott to choose and execute a lease to move out of the chamber building.
  - b. **Public Sector Funding Update:** The County Commission would like to hold an Economic Development Summit in March to talk about FloridaWest’s organizational activities and how it works with its partners.
  - c. **Co:Lab Update:** The CIE has officially rebranded to Co:Lab, or “Company Laboratory.” Kelly Reeser provided an overview of Co:Lab’s rebranding process it its recent unveiling.
  - d. **Cyber Security Consultant Introduction:** Janet Woolman of Strategic Innovations, LLC has executed a contract with FloridaWest to develop a cyber security strategic plan for the community and has already begun interviews with cyber professionals and community leaders as part of the first deliverable in the contract.



- e. Board Forum: Donnie asked if there was any other discussion to be had with the board before adjournment. Sena Maddison provided a list of upcoming events, including Jupiter Group celebrating its 20,000 nacelle and Skills USA at the end of February.
- 6. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 PM.

**New Billing Address:**

FloridaWest EDA  
PO Box 1992  
Pensacola, Florida 32591