

MINUTES – April 26, 2016

**FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance – Board of Director’s Meeting
Greater Pensacola Chamber, 117 W Garden Street – Boardroom**

Board Members Present: *Treasurer Gary Huston (Presiding), Secretary Tim Haag, Lewis Bear, Jr., Rebecca Ferguson, Amy Lovoy, and Donnie McMahon*

Staff Present: *CEO Scott Luth, FloridaWest Attorney Margaret Stopp, Libby Brown, Kelly Reeser, Katie Kelly, Danita Andrews, and Patrick Rooney*

Others Present: *Clay Ingram, Todd Thomson, David Lister, Philip de Boar, and Allison Jones.*

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Gary Huston at 2:00 PM.
2. **Public Notice:** The meeting was publicly noticed on April 19, 2016.
3. **Public Comment:** Secretary Huston asked the room if there was any public comment. There was none.
4. **Action Items:**
 - a. **Approval of February 18 Minutes:** The February 18 minutes were presented to the board. Secretary Haag requested amending the minutes to include the staff present, and Amy Lovoy requested that there be a note on the minutes that the meeting was properly noticed according to Sunshine Law regulations. It was MOVED by Lewis Bear, Jr., and SECONDED by Rebecca Ferguson to approve the February minutes and the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Approval of March 1 Committee Meeting Minutes:** With the same amendments noted as above, it was MOVED by Secretary Tim Haag and SECONDED by Treasurer Gary Huston to approve the Executive Committee Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
 - c. **FloridaWest Audit Presentation:** Saltmarsh Representatives David Lister, Allison Jones, and Philip de Boar presented the FloridaWest audit of FY 2014 to the board and congratulated the team on no significant findings in the audit report. It was MOVED by Donnie McMahon and SECONDED by Lewis Bear, Jr. to accept the FloridaWest Audit. The motion passed unanimously.
 - d. **Financials Discussion:** With the transition of our IT support and only recent completion of the FloridaWest audit, our accounting firm could not provide financials at this time. Scott instead provided the board with bank account balance sheets for the public and private accounts and a Profit and Loss that was not reviewed by the accountants. No action was taken.
5. **Discussion:**
 - a. **Chamber Update from CEO Clay Ingram:** Clay spoke to the board on the need to continue fundraising efforts through future campaigns and proposed that he meet with Scott Luth and President Jim Waite before the end of the month to begin discussing strategy. It was brought up that there was a remaining balance of approximately \$200,000 owed to FloridaWest from Vision 2015. It was MOVED by Donnie McMahon and SECONDED by Lewis Bear, Jr. for FloridaWest staff to invoice the Chamber Foundation for the remaining Vision 2015 economic development allocation after confirmation of the amount by CEO Scott Luth. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Dedicated Funding:** Donnie McMahon spoke about the challenges that FloridaWest faces without a dedicated funding source for economic development projects and programming. He proposed that we begin researching the viability of a percentage of the Local Option Sales Tax funds, which collects \$42 million a year and grows an average

of 4% per year, to be allocated to the county economic development trust fund. Donnie volunteered to work with Scott to flush out the details before bringing a proposal to the FloridaWest, PEDC, City of Pensacola, and Escambia County.

- c. **Next meeting:** Treasurer Gary Huston proposed that the board convene a workshop to discuss the overall state of economic development and the role of FloridaWest. The meeting will be convened in the next two weeks and will not have any board action, and a full board meeting will be convened on May 24th at 2:00 PM at the Greater Pensacola Chamber in the boardroom.
 - d. **Staff Reports:** The FloridaWest team gave short reports on their activities and their reports were included in the agenda packets.
 - e. **Economic Development Contract:** Attorney Margaret Stopp reviewed the economic development CEO staff contract with the board, and asked the board to send any revisions to her.
6. **Adjournment:** The FloridaWest Board of Directors adjourned at 2:00 PM.