



Agenda

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| 1. Call to Order | David Bear |
| 2. Administrative Items: | |
| a. Public Notice (<i>July 2, 2025</i>) | Tabitha Lee |
| b. Roll Call | Tabitha Lee |
| c. Public Comment | David Bear |
| d. Approval of Agenda * | David Bear |
| 3. Financial Report and Minutes: | |
| a. Review of Financials – <i>June 2025</i> | Olevia McNally |
| b. Approval of Executive Committee Minutes – <i>June 5, 2025 *</i> | David Bear |
| 4. Office Reports: | Chris Platé |
| a. Community Information | |
| b. Economic Development Reports | |
| • Product Development | |
| • Recruitment and Retention Activities | |
| c. CO:LAB Report | |
| d. Marketing Activities | |
| 5. Other Business | David Bear |
| 6. Adjourn | David Bear |

*Action Needed **

Fiscal Year 24-25 Meeting Schedule

Board Meeting: 4th Tuesday of each month from October 2024 to September 2025:

- **July 22, 2025:** FYE 25/26 Budget Due to the PEDC approval per interlocal agreement Nominating committee meet

- **August 26, 2025:** Board officer nominations
- **September 23, 2025:** Board Elections

Executive Committee Meetings: 2nd Friday of each month from October 2024 to September 2025:

- **July 8, 2025**
- **August 8, 2025**

Minutes

1. Call to Order:

President David Bear called meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

2. Administrative Items:

a. Public Notice

Ms. Tabitha Lee confirmed public notice was made on May 23, 2025.

b. Roll Call

President David Bear	Present
Vice President Ryan Tilley	Present
Secretary Dr. Charletha Powell	Absent
Treasurer Olevia McNally	Present
Past President Rick Byars	Present

Staff and Support:

Chris Platé, Tabitha Lee, Patrick Rooney, Danita Andrews, Ryan Campbell and Jeff Rogers

Public Present: None

c. Public Comment

Mr. Bear requested public comment, and no comment given.

d. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed. No comments or corrections were made. Mr. Ryan Tilley made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Olevia McNally. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Report and Minutes:

a. Review of May 2025 Financial Statements

Ms. McNally presented the financial report for the period ending May 31, 2025. She noted that the organization remains in a strong financial position. Payroll expenses came in lower than budgeted, helping to offset other areas where revenues did not meet projections. Overall, expenses were well-managed and remained under budget.

b. Approval of Executive Committee Minutes – April 11, 2025

The minutes from the April 11, 2025 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. Ms. McNally made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Rick Byars. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Office Reports:

a. Product Development

Mr. Chris Platé provided an update on regional economic conditions, noting that Escambia County, Florida reported an unemployment rate of 3.8% as of April 2025. He also highlighted a steady upward trend in the civil labor force, which reached 149,540 between January 2023 and April 2025. The board acknowledged these trends as valuable context for evaluating workforce and business development strategies.

b. Business Development

Mr. Platé reported ongoing activity across several business parks and strong prospect engagement. Tech Park remains the highest priority, with cost estimates being sought for property appraisal. ECS has completed the geotechnical survey, with the report expected this week, and a project has requested a draft Letter of Intent (LOI). At Central Commerce Park, staff are preparing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the working master plan and intend to pursue Triumph funding for build-out. At The Bluffs, a meeting is scheduled with Ascend to finalize and sign project documentation. In terms of prospect activity, there are currently 25 active projects under consideration, representing 1,208 potential new jobs and \$518 million in investment. Additionally, three projects have been announced, bringing 165 new jobs and \$77.6 million in capital investment to the region.

c. CO:LAB

Mr. Platé provided an overview of financial performance, reporting FY2024 income of \$115,245. As of the current fiscal year (FY2025), year-to-date income totals \$87,360, which represents 73% of the previous year's revenue with 66% of the year elapsed. He also presented a map of the facility that outlined revenue-generating areas, non-usable space, potential revenue opportunities, and sections currently occupied by CO:LAB. He noted that certain updates to the layout may be necessary to optimize usage.

d. Marketing:

Mr. Platé provided an update on the upcoming Paris Airshow meetings, outlining the scheduled appointments and key objectives. He shared a flyer he created for the event, which offers an overview and highlights of Pensacola and Escambia County, emphasizing why the area is an attractive location for business and investment. Additionally, Mr. Platé reviewed the recent LinkedIn advertisement for CyberCoast. Although the initial post did not perform as well as he had hoped, it was still successful in gaining impressions and two additional followers for a mere \$100. He noted plans to run other boosts. Ultimately, we would like to see more organic engagement on the LinkedIn page rather than boosting the posts.

Other Business:

Mr. Platé proposed the establishment of potential ad hoc committees, specifically focusing on Triumph and Marketing initiatives. The committee expressed unanimous support for the idea. Mr. Bear appointed Mr. Bruce Vrendenburg to serve as Chair of the Triumph Committee.

Mr. Byars provided an update on the public hearings currently being conducted by the Florida Public Service Commission concerning the proposed rate increases by Florida Power & Light (FPL). He expressed appreciation for the support and extended thanks to Mr. Platé for his remarks in support of the utility company.

Mr. Platé also provided an update on Project LIFT, noting that the ongoing conversations have been highly productive and indicate strong forward momentum.

5. Adjournment:

Mr. Bear adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

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Respectfully Submitted By:

Dr. Charletha Powell, Secretary
FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance