



**Pensacola-Escambia County Promotion and Development Commission &
FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance**

Joint Meeting of the Boards

August 26 2025 • 12:00 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn Pensacola Downtown

• 8 S. 9th Ave, Pensacola, Florida 32502 •

AGENDA

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|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order – PEDC Board | David Peaden |
| Call to Order – FWEDA Board | David Bear |
| 2. Public Notice (<i>July 29, 2025</i>) | Tabitha Lee |
| 3. Roll Call – PEDC | Tabitha Lee |
| Roll Call – FWEDA | Tabitha Lee |
| 4. Public Comment | Chris Platé |
| 5. Approval of Agenda – PEDC * | David Peaden |
| Approval of Agenda – FWEDA * | David Bear |
| 6. Approval of July 22, 2025 Board Minutes PEDC * | David Peaden |
| 7. Organizational Update | Chris Platé |
| 8. Open Forum | David Peaden / David Bear |
| 9. Adjourn – PEDC * | David Peaden |
| Adjourn – FWEDA * | David Bear |

** Action Required*



PEDC Board of Directors Meeting
April 22, 2025 Time: 10:00 a.m.
CO:LAB 418 W Garden St. Pensacola
First Floor Conference Room

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Peaden called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Public Notice

Staff confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed on July 22, 2025.

3. Attendance

Chairman David Peaden	Present
Commissioner Steven Barry	Present
City Councilwoman Allison Patton	Present
Commissioner Steve Stroberger	Present
Mayor Benjamin Boutwell (Town of Century appointee)	Absent
City Councilman Casey Jones	Absent
Dr. LuSharon Wiley	Present
Dave Hoxeng	Present
Donnie McMahon (FloridaWest appointee)	Absent

Staff and support:

Chris Platé, Patrick Rooney, Tabitha Lee, Danita Andrews, Troupe Brewer, Jessica Scholl

4. Public Comment

Chairman Peaden recognized the public and requested any public comment.

Brian Wyer, CEO of the Gulf Coast Minority Chamber, announced the upcoming Pensacola Supplier Development Exchange on August 28, at Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones Resource Center.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Stroberger moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Barry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes – April 22, 2025

Councilwoman Patton moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Barry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. March Financial Statements

Certified Public Accountant, Anglin, presented the current financial statements.

Commissioner Barry moved to approve the current financials; Councilwoman Patton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FloridaWest Financials

CEO Platé provided an overview of FloridaWest financials, including fundraising efforts. Discussion was held regarding CO:Lab revenue streams and expenses.

Commissioner Barry moved to approve the FloridaWest Budget as presented; Dr. Wiley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Project & Staff Updates:

a. Community Data

Platé presented current unemployment data for the Escambia County Economic Development Region, including regional Alabama counties. Pensacola is at a 3.9% unemployment rate. Current Escambia County civilian labor force figures reflect approximately 149,889 available persons.

b. Product Development

Tech Park – ECS has completed a Geotechnical Survey, and staff is reviewing parking options. An appraisal is underway.

Central Commerce Park – Platé presented a proposed RFQ for the Working Master Plan. Staff intends to seek grant funding for the build-out and is in discussions with a developer regarding construction.

Commissioner Barry moved to approve issuing the Request for Qualifications; Councilwoman Patton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Bluffs – Staff met with Ascend in June. Ascend’s legal team is continuing to review the right-of-way agreement. Discussion was held regarding project viability.

c. BR&E / New Opportunity Development

Platé proposed considering new signage and branding for the Technology Park and other county-owned industrial properties and displayed potential signage for consideration. Councilwoman Patton proposed broadening the Tech Park concept to an innovation district.

Platé also discussed using CoStar and LoopNet to market the County-owned properties to a much broader audience.

Platé presented current project activity data and reported that approximately five new projects were generated from the Paris Airshow. Staff is currently engaged in 29 active prospective projects. This year, four projects have been announced, creating 180 jobs and a \$78m investment.

Danita Andrews invited the group to the Jupiter Bach grand opening on July 31. She provided an update on Project Pegasus grant funding.

d. CO:LAB

Platé provided an update on CO:Lab revenue and occupancy. He provided information on plans to increase revenue, including rate models, space allocations, and flex space.

e. Marketing

Platé presented a proposed aerospace cluster listing brochure.

FloridaWest Podcast newsletter is launching at the end of July. “5 Minutes with FloridaWest.” FloridaWest will also produce a long-form edition: “Business from a Beach Chair.”

CNBC ranked Florida as the number one U.S. economy, and number two workforce. U.S. News ranked Pensacola as the 8th best place to live in Florida. LinkedIn listed Pensacola as the 25th city on the rise. FloridaWest produced a social media video promoting the recent rankings.

f. Community Partners. No partner updates were reported. Dave Murzin noted that First Place Partners is touring Blue Wind on August 1 and invited the board to attend.

9. Other Business:

EIN Update

Councilwoman Patton provided an update on discussions with the Clerk’s office regarding PEDC’s EIN. PEDC has confirmed the funds were at all times transferred and held under the correct EIN number. This has also been confirmed with the IRS. The bank accounts will be re-titled to the correct entity name. Councilwoman Patton presented the following action items for consideration:

- i. Change the names on the bank accounts from Pensacola-Escambia County Promotion and Development Community Development Entity, LLC to Pensacola-Escambia Promotion and Development Commission;
- ii. Staff will coordinate with Sunbiz to ensure the correct name and EIN are reflected on all entities;
- iii. Transfer County funds (\$150,000 recently deposited into appropriate account (59-xxx);
- iv. Transfer all funds associated with Grants to the new Grant Account;
- v. Add FWEDA CEO as Executive Officer for PEDC and as signatory on Bank Accounts in accordance with the PEDC By-laws.

Commissioner Barry moved to approve the five proposed action items; Commissioner Stroberger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris Plate expressed gratitude to Councilwoman Patton and staff member Tabitha Lee for their efforts.

SCIF at Corry Station

The feasibility study has been completed and the submitted to the State for approval. We will be receiving a bill from Baskerville-Donavan, Inc. and then we will seek reimbursement from the State grant.

10. Adjournment:

Chairman Peaden adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.