



economic
development
alliance

Committee Packet

April 2026

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** **Ryan Tilley**
2. **Public Notice** (*April 2, 2026*) **Tabitha Lee**
3. **Roll Call** **Tabitha Lee**
4. **Public Comment** **Ryan Tilley**
5. **Approval of Agenda*** **Ryan Tilley**
6. **Update on Legal RFQ** **Chris Platé**
7. **Financial Report and Minutes**
 - a. Approval of March 2026 Financials * **Charlie Sherrill / Ryan Campbell**
 - b. Approval of January 15, 2026, FWEDA Board Minutes * **Ryan Tilley**
 - c. Approval of February 24, 2026, FWEDA Board Minutes * **Ryan Tilley**
8. **Office and Committee Updates:** **Chris Platé**
 - a. Community Demographics
 - b. Project Activity
 - c. Existing Industry Activities
 - d. Product Development
 - e. Marketing Update
 - f. CO:LAB Update
9. **Other Business** **Ryan Tilley**
10. **Adjourn** **Ryan Tilley**

* *Action Items*



economic
development
alliance

Minutes

Minutes

1. Call to Order:

President Ryan Tilley called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

2. Public Notice:

Staff confirmed that public notice was published on January 9, 2026.

3. Roll Call:

President Ryan Tilley:	Present
Vice President Dr. Charletha Powell:	Absent
Secretary Olevia McNally:	Present
Treasurer Charlie Sherrill:	Present
Past President David Bear:	Present
City of Pensacola Appointee Donnie McMahon:	Absent
City of Pensacola Appointee Matt Davis:	Absent
Don Palmer:	Present
Jim Waite:	Present
Rick Byars	Present
Chris Plaeger:	Absent
KC Gartman	Absent
Kelvin Enfinger	Absent
Justin Beck	Present
Mike Morette	Absent
Bruce Vredenburg:	Present
Dr. Ed Meadows:	Absent
Dr. Marcus McBride:	Absent
<u>Staff and support:</u>	
Chris Platé, Tabitha Lee, Danita Andrews, Patrick Rooney, Annie Rose, Ashley Saba, Jessica Scholl	

4. Public Comment:

President Tilley requested public comment.

Ryan Campbell, representing the Northwest Florida Defense Coalition, addressed the Board regarding the Coalition’s website domain. Mr. Campbell explained that Coalition’s website had been inactive due to administrative access issues following a leadership transition, which has negatively affected fundraising and external communications. He noted that FloridaWest currently owns a related domain that redirects to FloridaWest and requested Board consideration of transferring the domain to the Coalition.

Ed Cronley addressed the Board regarding economic development efforts within Escambia County. Mr. Cronley emphasized the importance of continued collaboration among local partners to support business growth and job creation and encouraged a proactive approach to advancing economic development initiatives within the community.

Brian Wyer addressed the Board regarding economic development and legislative engagement. Mr. Wyer discussed recent and upcoming efforts in Tallahassee, including participation in statewide conferences and meetings, and noted the importance of advocating for policies and initiatives that support economic development and local business interests.

5. Approval of Agenda:

David Bear made a motion to approve the agenda as amended to include the NWFL Defense Coalition domain matter, consideration of recommended policies, and approval of the annual audit. The motion was seconded by Charlie Sherrill and passed unanimously.

6. Consideration and Approval of Recommended Policies:

The Board considered recommended governance policies suggested as auditor checklist items during the annual audit, including the Confidentiality Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Document Retention and Destruction Policy, and Whistleblower Protection Policy. During discussion, it was clarified that Board members already execute an annual Confidentiality Agreement, and the Confidentiality Policy was approved with the inclusion and acknowledgment of the annually signed Confidentiality Agreement.

Rick Byars made a motion to approve the recommended policies as discussed. The motion was seconded by David Bear and passed unanimously.

7. Financials:

Treasurer Charlie Sherrill presented the December 2025 financial report and reviewed the Statement of Financial Position, Budget versus Actual reports, and the accounts receivable and payable summaries. He discussed overall financial performance, year-to-date results compared to budget, operating expenses, and ongoing efforts to improve collections.

Olevia McNally made a motion to approve the December 2025 financials as presented, with clarification regarding the FloridaWest payable reflected in the accounts payable schedule. The motion was seconded by Don Palmer and passed unanimously.

8. Approval of Annual Audit:

The Board discussed the annual audit, including the revised management letter, which reflected updates discussed since the prior meeting. The Board noted that the audit was otherwise unchanged.

Rick Byars made a motion to approve the annual audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Justin Beck and passed unanimously.

9. Approval of Minutes:

Rick Byars made a motion to approve the December 9, 2025 Board of Directors meeting minutes, with the correction of the adjournment time from p.m. to a.m. The motion was seconded by Charlie Sherrill and passed unanimously.

10. Economic Development Updates:

a. Product and Business Development:

Chris Platé provided an update on product and business development activities, including progress on priority sites and projects. Updates included ongoing work related to Tech Park, and Project Keystone, The Bluffs, Midtown Industrial Park and its two interested parties, and Central Commerce Park and the three projects looking at the park, as well as continued coordination with local governments, utility partners, and stakeholders to advance site readiness, infrastructure planning, and development approvals.

Mr. Platé also reviewed community demographic trends, including recent laborforce and unemployment data, and discussed how these indicators factor into site readiness, workforce availability, and business recruitment efforts within Escambia County.

b. Existing Industry Update

Chris Platé provided an update on existing industry activity within Escambia County. He reported on ongoing outreach and engagement with local companies, noting continued communication with existing industries regarding expansion opportunities, workforce needs, and infrastructure considerations. The update emphasized the importance of maintaining strong relationships with existing employers as a core component of FloridaWest's economic development strategy.

c. Marketing Update:

Chris Platé provided a marketing update, including plans for the upcoming Groundhog Day Economic Outlook Event and discussion of a planned radio advertising campaign to increase awareness of FloridaWest's economic development efforts. The update highlighted the role of these initiatives in promoting priority projects, engaging stakeholders, and supporting broader economic development and outreach objectives.

d. CO:LAB Update:

Patrick Rooney provided an update on CO:LAB operations, including current occupancy levels, recent and upcoming tenant activity, and space utilization. He discussed recent tenant move-ins and transitions, as well as ongoing efforts to increase occupancy and support the growth of companies located at CO:LAB.

11. Other Business:

The Board considered the NWFL Defense Coalition domain matter. David Bear made a motion to transfer ownership of the NWFL Defense domain currently held by FloridaWest to the Northwest Florida Defense Coalition. The motion was seconded by Justin Beck and passed unanimously.

David Bear also provided an informational update regarding ongoing Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) renewal planning, including coordination efforts related to future outreach and fundraising activities. No action was taken on this item.

12. Adjournment:

President Tilley adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Olevia McNally, Secretary
FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance



**Pensacola-Escambia County Promotion and Development Commission &
FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance
Joint Meeting of the Boards**

February 24, 2026 • 10:00 a.m.

*The Hilton Garden Inn Pensacola Downtown
8 S. 9th Ave, Pensacola, Florida 32503 • Aviation Room*

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order – PEDC Board:** Chairman David Peaden called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
Call to Order – FWEDA Board: President Ryan Tilley called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. **Public Notice** (*February 10, 2026*)

3. **Roll Call – PEDC**

Attendance:

Chairman David Peaden:	Present
Commissioner Steven Barry:	Present
City Councilwoman Allison Patton:	Present
Commissioner Steve Stroberger:	Absent
Century Town Council member Appointee: Benjamin Boutwell	Present
City Councilman Casey Jones:	Absent
Dr. LuSharon Wiley:	Present
Dave Hoxeng:	Present
FloridaWest Appointee: Donnie McMahon	Absent

Roll Call – FWEDA

Attendance:

President Ryan Tilley:	Present
Vice President Dr. Charletha Powell:	Present
Secretary Olevia McNally:	Present
Treasurer Charlie Sherrill:	Present
City of Pensacola Appointee Donnie McMahon:	Absent
City of Pensacola Appointee Matt Davis:	Present
Don Palmer:	Present
Jim Waite:	Present
Rick Byars	Present
Chris Plaeger:	Present
KC Gartman	Present
Kelvin Enfinger	Absent

Justin Beck	Absent
Bruce Vredenburg	Absent
Mike Morette	Absent
Dr. Meadows	Absent
Dr. Marcus McBride	Present

4. Public Comment

Chris Platé recognized the public and requested public comment. Bryan Wyer noted several upcoming events and upcoming workshops, including:

- February 25: How to Do Business with Local Government, at Hagler-Mason Conference Room in City Hall;
- March 16: How to Do Business with Escambia County with Commissioner Kohler, at Lexington Terrace Community Center;
- March 24: Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting, at Brownsville Community Center.

5. Approval of Agendas

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

David Bear moved to approve; KC Gartman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. PEDC / FWEDA Board Administration

a. PEDC Board – Award of Legal Services

Responses to the PEDC RFQ for Legal Services were reviewed. Commissioner Barry moved to approve the legal services agreement with Moore, Hill & Westmoreland, P.A.; Allison Patton seconded. Passed unanimously.

b. PEDC Board – Bid for New Signage as Tech Park

Councilwoman Patton and President Tilley discussed the Tech Park branding and innovation district. Councilwoman Patton moved to approve advertising RFP for the sign replacement; David Hoxeng seconded. Passed unanimously.

c. FWEDA Board – Approval of PSC Lease Agreement

Chris Platé presented the proposed Lease Agreement. Mike Morette moved to adopt the lease agreement; David Bear seconded. Passed unanimously.

7. PEDC / FWEDA Updates

Chris Platé presented a year-in-review summary, including organizational structure, staff responsibilities, increased visibility, rebuilding Salesforce, product preparation and availability, and economic areas of focus, and fiscal year to date project pipeline by area of focus and stage.

Chris Platé presented FY2026 goals, including recruitment program, modernizing EDATE criteria, annual wage survey, hosting industry seminaries and industry appreciation events.

8. Partner Updates

- FGNW – Jennifer Conoley provided an update on the Grant for the “United Forward Plan” and presented the 2025 Florida’s Great Northwest Annual Report.
- Triumph Gulf Coast – Dr. Rick Harper provided an update on the administration of Triumph grants and alignment with State of Florida economic incentive programs and grant policies. As of the December Annual Report, Triumph has approved 89 projects involving infrastructure, technical education, and research funding, with 19 projects completed.
- City of Pensacola – City Administrator David Stafford provided an update regarding ongoing and prospective job creation projects and grants, including at the Port of Pensacola, Pensacola International Airport, and support for the military and local businesses.

9. Open Forum for Ally Updates

- Mayor Boutwell provided an update on Century operations, including gas station construction and job creation, as well as infrastructure projects.
- Commissioner Barry provided an update on County development projects, including OLF8 and Central Commerce Park.
- Dave Hoxeng provided an update regarding LOST funds.

10. **Adjourn – PEDC** Chairman Peaden adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Adjourn – FWEDA President Tilley adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Ms. Allison Patton, Secretary/Treasurer
Pensacola-Escambia Promotion and Development Commission

Ms. Olevia McNally, Secretary
FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance