



economic
development
alliance

Board Packet

July 2026



FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance
Board of Directors Meeting
418 W. Garden Street | Pensacola, Florida 32502
CO:Lab's 1st Floor Conference Room
July 16, 2026 | 8:30am

Agenda

1. Call to Order Tilley
2. Administrative Items:
 - a. Public Notice (July 10, 2026) Lee
 - b. Roll Call Lee
 - c. Public Comment Tilley
 - d. Approval of Agenda Tilley
 - e. PEDC Member Assignment * Tilley
3. **Financial Report and Minutes:**
 - a. Approval of Board Minutes – June 18, 2026 * Tilley
 - b. Financial Committee Update (*month ending - June*) Campbell
 - Grace Designs In-Kind Contribution * Platé
4. Office & Committee Reports:
 - a. Community Demographics Platé
 - b. Product Development Committee Update Vredenburg
 - c. Marketing Committee Update Gartman
 - “Co:Pilot” Platé
 - d. Recruitment and Retention Activities Platé
 - Farnborough Airshow
 - e. CO:Lab Update Platé
 - Modernized Entry Door System *
 - f. UWF-NCSU Cost-To-Serve Study * Platé
5. Other Business Tilley
6. Adjourn Tilley

*Action Needed **

Minutes

1. Call to Order:

Vice President Dr. Charletha Powell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Public Notice:

Staff confirmed that public notice was published on June 12, 2026.

3. Roll Call:

President Ryan Tilley:	Absent
Vice President Dr. Charletha Powell:	Present
Secretary Olevia McNally:	Present
Treasurer Charles Sherrill, III:	Absent
Past President David Bear:	Present
City of Pensacola Appointee Donnie McMahon:	Present
City of Pensacola Appointee Matthew Davis:	Absent
Don Palmer:	Absent
Jim Waite:	Absent
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:	Present
<u>Staff and support:</u>	
Chris Platé, Danita Andrews, Ashley Saba, Tabitha Lee, Ryan Campbell, Jessica Scholl	

4. Public Comment:

Vice President Powell requested public comment. Several members of the public offered public comment regarding data centers.

5. Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Byars moved to approve the agenda; Mr. Bear seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Financials:

Ryan Campbell of Frazier & Deeter presented the March financials, including CO:Lab, revenue, receivables, expenses, and payables.

Mr. Byars moved to accept the May 2026 financials as presented; Dr. McBride seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Approval of Minutes:

Secretary McNally moved to accept the May 12, 2026, minutes as presented; Mr. Bear seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Office and Committee Updates:

- a. **Community Demographics.** Mr. Platé provided an update on community labor force and employment data.
- b. **Product Development.** Mr. Platé provided an update on Opportunity Zones including census tracts submitted for the Governor's consideration, Central Commerce Park, Outlying Fields, the Bluffs, Tech Park, and Midtown Industrial Park.
- c. **Marketing Update.** Mr. Platé provided an update on marketing activities, social media, current advertisements, and recent events including Economic Development Week and NAIOP.

Secretary McNally moved to approve the Built-2-Grow Investor Prospectus as presented; Mr. Byars seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. **Recruitment and Retention Activates.** Staff is preparing for Farnborough in July 2026, and is preparing for site visits, as well as the Manufacturing Council Meeting next week.
- e. **CO:LAB Update.** Mr. Platé and Mr. Rooney provided an update on tenants and programs. ITEN Wired is scheduled for October 28, 2026.
- f. **UWF-NCSU Cost to Serve Study.** Mr. Platé provided an update on the cost to serve study.

9. Other Business: Mr. Vredenburg offered comment on the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) and its positive impacts on the local community, including critical infrastructure and public services. He encouraged everyone to visit the website www.PennyforEscambia.com which displays investments made into the community, as well as PennyforProgress on Facebook.

Mr. Vredenburg reported that the Business Alliance has continued to provide benefits to the business community and conduct regular meetings.

Mr. Bear noted that the potential loss of \$140 million in LOST funds as well as ad valorem is the impact for Escambia County alone and does not include the City of Pensacola or City of Milton. Mr. Bear reported that LOST funds are critical for maintaining infrastructure,

functionality, and quality of life, and encouraged board members and the public to visit the recommended websites and learn more.

10. Adjournment:

Vice President Powell adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Olevia McNally, Secretary
FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance