



FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance
Executive Committee Meeting

3 W. Garden Street, Suite 618 | Pensacola, Florida 32502
EDC Conference Room
September 10, 2026 | 8:30am

Minutes

1. Call to Order

President Ryan Tilley called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

2. Administrative Items:

a. Public Notice

Chris Platé confirmed public notice was made on September 3, 2026

b. 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

Staff and Support: Chris Platé, Stephanie Deppen

c. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

d. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed. No comments or corrections were made. Secretary Olevia McNally made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Treasurer Charlie Sherrill. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Report and Minutes:

a. Approval of Executive Committee Minutes – August 13, 2026

The minutes from the August 13, 2026 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. Treasurer Charlie Sherrill Olevia made a motion to approve the August 13, 2026 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Past President David Bear seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Financial Reporting (*month ending - August*)

Treasurer Charlie Sherrill presented the 2026 year-to-date financial report ending August 31, 2026. He reviewed the organization's financial position, including revenues, expenses, budget performance, accounts receivable and accounts payable. The Committee discussed the financial report, and no significant concerns were noted.

4. Office Reports:

a. Staffing Changes

Florida West

- Stephanie Deppen – Administrative Assistant (responsibilities at both FloridaWest & CO:LAB)
- Ashley Saba – Director, Industry and Investor Relations
- Shane Chadwich – Sr. Director, Recruitment and Real Estate Development (start date 9/29/2026)

CO:LAB

- Tabitha Lee – Manager, Administrative Operations (responsibilities at both FloridaWest & CO:LAB)

b. Econ Dev Activities

Community Demographics

CEO Chris Platé provided Escambia County labor force to unemployment rate data.

Product Development Updates

CEO Chris Platé provided updates on several active product development projects, including Central Commerce Park, The Bluffs, Tech Park and Midtown Commerce Park. Discussion included ongoing site development activities and job growth opportunities.

c. Marketing / Social Media Activities

CEO Platé provided an update on FloridaWest's marketing and social media activities. The Committee discussed continued efforts to expand FloridaWest's digital presence and communicate business development activities and economic development successes.

d. Recruitment & Retention Activities

CEO Chris Platé reported on current prospect activity, existing industry engagement efforts. Updates were also provided regarding the organization's active project pipeline, regional partnership efforts, lead generation activities, and continued business recruitment and retention initiatives.

5. Other Business

The Executive Committee discussed the upcoming Board elections and the recommendations expected from the Nominating Committee. No action or recommendation from the Executive Committee was needed, as the Nominating Committee will bring forward the official slate of candidates for Board consideration.

The Executive Committee discussed leveraging the knowledge, skills and resources of our members during the combined joint meetings. Having each committee chairman provide a brief update on their respective activities could help encourage communication and open dialogue amount the membership.

6. Adjourn

President Ryan Tilley adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m.
