



Board of Directors meeting * August 4, 2021 – 9:00 am.

Call to Order: Bill Dillman called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

Attending were:

Alan Baggett	Dr. Melinda Bowers	April Branscome
Sam Burkett	Wyndy Crozier	Bill Dillman
Jean Anne Encardes	Ron Garriga	Bill Imfeld
Dave Jefferson	Bernard Johnson Jr.	Rebecca Pazik
Scarlett Phaneuf	Pam Tedesco	
Commissioner Mel Ponder	Danny Glidewell	Gaby Leysath
Holly Newton		

CSOW staff members present:

Michele Burns	Kelly Jordan	Will Miles
Sue Berntsen	Brad Balfanz	Melissa Rust
Cheryl Hall	Brandon Elkins	

Bill Dillman welcomed new Board member Bernard Johnson, Jr. of Gulf Power.

Approval of Minutes: The June 2, 2021 minutes were presented – there were no questions or comments.

A motion by Dave Jefferson, seconded by Ron Garriga, to approve the June 2, 2021 minutes as presented. All Ayes.

Finance Committee: Bill Dillman said the Committee did not meet; budget updates will be when additional information is received.

Executive Committee: There will be a date change for the September meeting due to a conflict. An announcement will be sent.

Business Competitiveness Committee: Kelly Jordan reported the Committee met July 29 with new Chair Michelle Crocker presiding. The Committee recommends approval of the following:

Fortis Institute continuing Eligibility Application and Programs for PY 2021-2022 as listed.

A motion by April Branscome, seconded by Alan Baggett to approve Fortis Institute ETPL as presented. All Ayes.

Career & Youth Committee: There were no updates for the Committee. New members are needed; please contact Michele Burns.

Mission Moment Kelly Jordan reviewed the Summer Youth Employment Program and introduced team members Brad Balfanz, Melissa Rust, Cheryl Hall, Brandon Elkins and Haven Rodriguez. Kelly played a video highlighting the three-week program. Youth were engaged and 45 of 46 participants completed, receiving SafeStaff Food Handler and CPR/AED Basic First Aid certifications, training and one week of work experience. They left with a resume, a ChromeBook, CSOW laptop backpack and weekly participation incentives.

Partner Updates

Okaloosa Schools - April Branscome commented they had a short, crazy summer. A partnership with FWB Medical Center will allow students to take classes on their campus; new carpentry programs are expected to have off-the-charts enrollment. Superintendent Chambers is supporting and promoting CTC. They are writing an Entrepreneurship grant for the Florida Dept. of Education focusing on drones and digital video programs for agriculture and tourism. This is the first day for teachers this year. They had seven summer camps and hope for more next year.

Emerald Coast Technical College – Wyndy Crozier reported their teachers returned yesterday with school-based celebrations instead of one large meeting. Their accreditation application is ready for submission to the Council on Occupational Education for their Watersound branch.

University of West Florida –Melinda Bowers said they are gearing up for the Fall semester, which begins August 23. There is a waiting list for dorm rooms. Football is returning and there will be an on-campus game Sept. 11. Others are played at Wahoo Stadium, but it was already booked that date. All students and employees are coming back on-campus and they are looking forward to the Fall semester and normalcy.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Ron Garriga remarked on Kelly's enthusiasm and passion, and his support for the SYEP. We are in desperate need for young people to get to work. ERAU is busy, starting their Fall semester on Aug. 2, running at full capacity. He will be traveling again, attending various graduations across the country. ERAU has a partnership with NWFSC College of Aviation for a 2+2 program for A&P licensing.

Walton EDA - Bill Imfeld reported they broke ground for infrastructure improvements at the Woodlawn Industrial Park. They have a company from South Dakota interested in rehabbing the old Perdue site after a decade; it could bring 35 jobs. The truss manufacturer they are already working with has indicated they expect to double their initial jobs from 35 to 70.

Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners – Commissioner Mel Ponder explained the pending bed tax expansion and upcoming referendum Oct. 5. There was a meeting in Destin regarding the helicopter tours. The Leave No Trace campaign for the beaches, communities and neighborhoods is spreading. They are undertaking a communications survey to clarify what is going well and what needs improvement; links are on the County website. They are looking at ways to improve recycling and getting out information on proper recycling. Hurricane season is upon us; the emergency plan is online. Crosswalk lights on Santa Rosa Blvd. on Okaloosa Island were approved yesterday. There is information on the Brooks Bridge replacement on the website.

Military – Gaby Leysath announced a Military Spouse workshop Oct. 7. The goal is to educate spouses with basic job skills and make them aware of available resources. They continue to refer transitioning military to CSOW.

Executive Director’s Report: Michele Burns reported the team has been very busy. The expectation from DEO is that offices should be open to the public. We continue to clean and sanitize to keep everyone safe and healthy. We follow CDC guidelines; all staff are back in the offices. CSOW won the Mark Sanders award for the State of Florida and was in the top six nationally. We hope that will help us get the Veterans’ Incentive award this year. The Summer Showcase Career Fair & Open House was July 16 with 50 employers and 90 jobseekers. There were food trucks, education partners & employers present. We are looking for a facility to have a Fair in Walton County. Representative Patt Maney did a walk-through of the center during the event. We still have a few openings for staff and are interviewing. The Workforce Summit was canceled last year but will be in September this year. It is excellent training and networking for staff. There will be Vet training in October.

Roundtable Board Members Updates/Public Comments:

- Alan Baggett announced the BIA 42nd Annual Home Show at the conference center Aug 7-8. Bring school supplies for admission. The Charity Golf Tournament is Friday, Sept. 10.
- Bernard Johnson, Jr. said he’s glad to be a member of the team working for both Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2021 at 9:00 am.