

Meeting Minutes
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., Board of Trustees
Holley Academic Center
Florida State University Panama City
4750 Collegiate Drive
Panama City, Florida 32405
August 16, 2017
10:30 a.m. CT

Members Present:

Allan G. Bense
Robert A. Bonezzi (by phone)
Stan W. Connally, Jr.
Pamela Dana, PhD
Don Gaetz
Stephen Riggs, IV
Jason Shoaf

Board Chair Allan Bense called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. CT.

Staff called the roll and announced that all members of the board were present.

Chair Bense reminded everyone that no major decisions on the awards process would be made at this meeting, rather that the meeting is a starting point for discussion among the board members about how to move forward in the process. He thanked everyone for their interest and reiterated that the board intends to be deliberate, thoughtful and methodical in developing the process so that nothing is done that could jeopardize future funding. He said that the goal was to create a fair process for all, and told the audience that today was not the day to make a project pitch, as the board is not yet prepared to take that information.

Mr. Stephen Riggs, IV moved the approval of the July 13 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Jason Shoaf seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).

Chair Bense stated that at the last meeting in Pensacola, the board decided to appoint two committees, one to make recommendations on the selection of CPAs for Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., and one to make recommendations on the selection of law firms for the organization. He noted the need to have good counsel as the board makes decisions on the awards process and continues to organize the corporation.

Chair Bense recognized Mr. Riggs and Mr. Shoaf to report on the work of the CPA Selection Committee. Mr. Riggs reported that the committee held a public meeting on Friday, August 11, 2017 to consider the professional services needs

of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. and to make recommendations for the board's consideration regarding those needs. He said that the committee is recommending the engagement of two firms, one to perform normal, daily accounting and bookkeeping services, and one to perform required audit functions.

The recommendation for the performance of regular accounting services is to engage Tipton, Marler, Garner, and Chastain of Panama City. Mr. Riggs made a motion to engage Tipton, Marler, Garner and Chastain to perform those services. Mr. Shoaf seconded the motion. Chair Bense noted that he would abstain from this vote due to the fact that the firm does some work for his businesses. He said that while it was not legally necessary to abstain, he felt it was the right thing to do. The motion passed, 6-0, with Chair Bense abstaining.

The recommendation for the performance of audit services is to engage Warren Averett of Pensacola. Mr. Riggs made a motion to engage Warren Averett, a large regional accounting firm to perform audit services. Mr. Shoaf seconded the motion. Chair Bense asked if Mr. Mort O'Sullivan would be the lead for this account. Mr. Riggs indicated that he would, but that he would assemble a team to perform the audit services within the firm. Chair Bense noted that he and Mr. Connally served on a board with Mr. O'Sullivan and asked counsel if they needed to abstain from voting. Dr. Dana indicated that Warren Averett was the CPA firm that she uses for personal business. Counsel, Ms. Lisa Walters, stated that Bense and Connally did not need to abstain because they did not have any direct financial interaction with the firm, but that Dr. Dana would need to abstain. Dr. Dana announced that she would abstain from the vote. The motion passed, 6-0, with Dr. Dana abstaining.

Next, the Chair called on the Legal Services Selection Committee, Senator Don Gaetz and Mr. Bob Bonezzi, to make their presentation. Senator Gaetz indicated that the legal services required by the board fall into two categories, general counsel services to advise the board and organization on routine activities, and special counsel services, such as advising the board on complicated transactions. We have provided a work paper that lists general counsel services and special counsel services that we might need. He noted that the committee queried a variety of law firms across northwest Florida and winnowed the choices down to three firms. One of the three firms conflicted out close to the end of the process, so ultimately there were two firms with which committee members conducted extensive interviews, and based on all information, the Selection Committee met, culminating individual members' work, yesterday (August 15, 2017) in Destin. Mr. Bonezzi and Chair Bense attended the meeting. Senator Gaetz noted that Chair Bense instructed the committee that if the recommendations were accepted at this board meeting today, he wanted details on negotiations for engagement of a law firm to be completed no later than Friday (August 18, 2017.) Based on that instruction, Senator Gaetz indicated that

he had already had preliminary discussions with the firm to be recommended, and was prepared to move ahead with letters of engagement.

Senator Gaetz then reported the committee's recommendation that the law firm of Clark Partington, with Scott Remington as lead counsel, be selected to provide both general counsel and special counsel legal services. Relative to general counsel services, the recommendation is for a 12-month engagement, with a fee not to exceed \$100,000 for the year, a significant decrease from what was originally proposed by the firm. With respect to special counsel services, such as highly complex transactions involving two or more parties and/or where the use of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. funds exceeds \$10 million, and when approved by the board, the firm would act as special counsel, with a different fee schedule. Terms of engagement for special counsel services would also be for 12 months, beginning today (August 16, 2017), charged on an hourly, discounted, basis. If approved, Scott Remington, as lead counsel, would have rates capped at \$400/hour. His normal rates are \$450 - \$500/hour. We have negotiated a review of services after six months to determine the scope of work, adequacy of services, and compensation arrangements to make sure that Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., is getting the best deal. With respect to conflict counsel, the committee's proposal is that in those rare circumstances when a proposer may be represented by Clark Partington, that the Chair and the Treasurer comprise a Committee on Legal Representation to recommend selection of conflict counsel, if needed.

Upon completion of the committee's report, Senator Gaetz noted that Clark Partington represents him personally in an unrelated legal matter dealing with construction defects, so he will recuse himself from voting on any recommendation in this regard.

Mr. Bonezzi indicated that he and Senator Gaetz had been through an exhaustive process to reach this conclusion and that he was in complete agreement with the report. Chair Bense said that he attended the committee meeting yesterday because the hiring of legal counsel is very important. He said he had also done a lot of research on the law firm and was very pleased with what he found. He said many of the attorneys in the firm are AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell, and the firm has a very good reputation across the region. Mr. Bonezzi then moved the committee's recommendation for selection of Clark Partington Law Firm as General Counsel and Special Counsel under the terms negotiated and described today. Dr. Pam Dana seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 6-0, with Senator Gaetz abstaining from the vote.

After brief discussion, Senator Gaetz moved the approval of the contract to hire Ms. Susan Skelton as Executive Director of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Mr. Stan Connally, Jr seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).

Senator Gaetz restated his motion, approved at the last meeting, that Ms. Skelton should be compensated for services that she has provided to the board prior to the formalization of her contract since the beginning of preliminary activities of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., which she has performed voluntarily. He asked that the Chair and Treasurer approve such a compensation package. Mr. Connally seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7-0.)

Senator Gaetz noted that the law firm of Burke and Blue had similarly provided extensive legal services to the board, and should receive compensation for the work that they have provided, as well. He noted that the firm did not choose to be considered for representation going forward. He moved that some appropriate compensation be made to the law firm, based on the judgment of the Chair and Treasurer. Dr. Dana seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7-0.)

Chair Bense noted that the next order of business was the approval of payments for expenses incurred for website development. He pointed out that Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. has not spent any money to date, and that there were expenses that needed to be paid. Ms. Skelton explained that several invoices for services already delivered by 2kWebgoup are pending and asked for the board's approval to pay those invoices. Senator Gaetz moved that the pending invoices be paid. Mr. Connally seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7-0). Ms. Skelton then asked the board for approval to negotiate with 2kWebgroup for provision of annual maintenance and service for the website. She explained that the agreement would be month to month, and provides several hours a month for services including adding content to the website and monitoring and maintaining operational security. Mr. Connally made a motion to authorize Ms. Skelton to negotiate with 2kWebgroup to provide monthly services for website maintenance. Mr. Shoaf seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7-0). Chair Bense told the audience that the company being discussed was from Franklin County and that Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. was already doing business in the eastern counties.

The next order of business was approval of authorization for the Treasurer to take action to acquire a credit card for administrative use in providing services for the organization. Chair Bense asked that the Treasurer review all charges on a monthly basis. Mr. Riggs agreed. Senator Gaetz made a motion to authorize Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. to apply for a credit card to be used to pay for necessary administrative expenses, to be reviewed and approved by the Treasurer each month. Mr. Riggs seconded the motion. Dr. Dana asked if there would be any type of expenditure limit placed on the card. Mr. Riggs indicated that he will be meeting with the accounting firms to prepare policies and procedures for all expenditures and that use of the credit card would be included in those documents. The Chair asked Ms. Skelton if there was an immediate need for the card and she explained that there are some business functions, such as GoToMeeting (conference call service) and G-Suite (Google business

services including the Google Vault product needed to capture e-mail accounts for public records requirements) that operate on the internet and accept monthly payments by credit card. She noted that the expenses are minimal, but that the business model required the capability to pay over the internet. The Chair then asked Mr. Riggs if establishing a \$3000 limit for the time being would be acceptable. He agreed that it would be fine until policies and procedures are finalized. Chair Bense then asked Senator Gaetz and Mr. Riggs if the motion could be amended to set a \$3000 limit on the credit card. They both agreed. The motion, as amended, was approved unanimously (7-0).

Chair Bense announced that the remainder of the meeting would be a workshop to discuss the funding application process. He explained that the lead person on the board for the discussion would be Dr. Pam Dana. He then reviewed Dr. Dana's extensive educational and professional background in the subject area, including her service to the State of Florida as the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED) from 1999-2007. He noted that in that role she oversaw more than 80 economic development programs and partnerships, including Enterprise Florida, the Florida Commission on Tourism, the Florida Sports Foundation and more. He said that Triumph Gulf is very fortunate to have Dr. Dana, a real expert in this area, as the board member heading up this application design process. He also pointed out that she is a business owner and understands the concerns of business owners in this process.

Dr. Dana thanked Chair Bense for his comments, and told the audience that it was very important for everyone to hear from the public as the application design process moves forward. She reported that since the last meeting, she and staff have looked at a variety of applications for already established programs, and talked with some entities with established processes in place such as Enterprise Florida, the Institute for Commercialization, and the Industry Recruitment, Retention and Expansion Fund at University of West Florida, Space Florida, Department of Transportation and previous OTTED programs. They have looked at Department of Economic Opportunity programs, and talked with Florida's Great Northwest about their strategic plan. She indicated that her goal is to listen to all of the input from the board and the public and to bring back a draft application and a vision statement for consideration by the board at the next meeting. Dr. Dana then introduced Ms. Lisa Walters, volunteer counsel, who has been working very closely with Dr. Dana and providing research and review for this project. She stated that Lisa would give a presentation to outline the parameters and restrictions determined by passage of the 2017 legislation so that the board and the public can understand what could be allowed, and what restrictions will apply, on how the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. funds can be expended.

Dr. Dana indicated that one consideration is whether the application process will be paper or electronic.

Ms. Walters thanked board members for their public service and commitment to this game changing undertaking for the benefit of the region. She noted that this would truly be a generational change. She then made her presentation, focusing on what the statutes allow, do not allow, and what they require in establishing criteria and priorities for funding awards. She reminded the board that Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. has a unique statute with unique requirements and parameters that differ from other programs such as RESTORE and IRREF. At the end of the presentation, she said that the goal was for each of the board members to have had an opportunity to express his or her vision and priorities for the process so that staff can take those ideas back to be considered in the application drafting process.

Several issues highlighted by Ms. Walters included the importance of supplementing current funding, not supplanting that funding; annual monitoring and review of funded projects; transparency in the process; allocation of funds within the eight counties and the role of local governments in the process; the semiannual reporting process; the possible need for a pre-application screening process; whether to establish application periods, or keep application process open; creation of a scoring process and who will be responsible for that scoring; statutory limitations on project funding; how Triumph Gulf Coast funding interacts with other available funding sources; how will funds be awarded (reimbursement versus front end); veracity and viability of applications; metrics for performance measurements; reporting and accounting requirements for awarded projects; clawback provisions for projects that are not successful; timelines and format for all required reporting; long and short term benefits in the counties; and how will programs collaborate with local businesses, organizations and governments within the scope of a project. She addressed the need for the board to consider multi-phase or multi-year projects and how they would operate; multi-county or regional projects, their impacts and if the requirements would be different for those projects; whether a project is supported or opposed by local governments; what costs would be incurred for sustaining a project and who would be responsible for those costs; what local impacts would be for counties and the region; and whether projects have received necessary permits, approvals and licenses.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Walters reiterated that the work done by the board is truly meant to be generational and transitional for the future of the entire region. She noted that while working on her presentation, she needed some technical assistance from her 12-year-old niece. Her niece, Eden Elizabeth Walters, made her own contribution to today's presentation by designing the TGC logo on the front page.

Mr. Connally asked, relative to the requirement to provide 5% of funds over the life of the program, how to account, in time, for provision of those funds to assure that they are properly awarded even if the reporting periods don't line up with the

awards timeline. He noted that it could be that the funds are committed, but not actually expended, within the timeframe allowed. Ms. Walters reminded the board that the percentage changes, per the statutes, for the subsequent funding periods, as well. Mr. Connally clarified that he was asking about the first \$300 million, and whether the funds had to be expended at an annual rate of 5% or if that was to be over the entire period of the funding availability. Ms. Walters responded that the question should be posed to Mr. Remington, as new counsel, and Mr. Connally concurred. He said that it was very important for everyone to understand how the funds might ebb and flow based on the progress of a project and he wanted to be sure that Triumph Gulf Coast was fair to the counties in that ebb and flow, but that there may be times during the period that the percentage was not exactly 5%. Ms. Walters noted that at any given time, one county might have a project going forward while another county has a project that is taking several months to evolve to the point of funding.

Chair Bense stated that the next settlement payment was due in July 2019 and the current funding should be committed or expended within the next two years. He reminded the board that failure to use the funds could result in the legislature redirecting the future funds. Mr. Connally agreed and said that funds from the first appropriation should be at least committed, even if it could not be completely expended in the timeframe. Chair Bense agreed, but said money should not be spent just to be spent, but should be spent on good, sound projects. Mr. Connally said that the money should be put to work as quickly and effectively as possible. Chair Bense noted that collaboration with federal programs may take time, and the question will be when the funds are counted as being committed. Ms. Walters clarified that the term used in the statute is "allocated," so that funds must be allocated within the period, not necessarily disbursed or expended.

Senator Gaetz said there should be no misperception that Triumph Gulf Coast would be writing checks for 5% of the funds to local county commissions for discretionary spending. The legislative language indicates that Triumph Gulf Coast should look for worthy projects in those counties, and look to the local governments for assisting in finding those good projects, but at the end of the day, the business decisions about funding are to be made by the Triumph Gulf Coast Board based on a sound review process.

Chair Bense said that he thought it would be appropriate to establish a committee to work on the application drafting process. He said that Dr. Dana should serve as chair of that committee and asked for volunteers to serve with her. Mr. Shoaf, and Mr. Connally volunteered. He also asked Mr. Bonezzi to serve on the committee. He told the committee that it would be very important to work closely with the legal team to assure compliance with the statutes. He said there was much work to be done in the next 30 days, and that he would like to have the process completed in the next two months.

Dr. Dana then asked the board if there was any preference between a paper or electronic application process, and if we do want an electronic application, is 2kWebgroup able to create such a process. Ms. Skelton replied that she had had a preliminary discussion with 2kWebgroup and that they could do the work. She said that there might be a need to collaborate with other technology companies dependent on the level of security required for such a platform, but that the application could be developed within our current framework. She said that in initial conversations with the company, they did ask if the application would need to be interactive, as that would require setting up an entire protocol for passwords, and separate access portals. Ms. Skelton said that her response and strong recommendation would be not to go in that direction as it would increase site vulnerability, cost and staff workload. She said a better solution would be to allow for an electronic application that would be reviewed by staff for completeness, deficiencies, etc., and if such problems were identified, staff could then contact the applicant and ask them to respond to the concerns by email, which could be attached to the application. Dr. Dana said that the committee should look at the pros and cons of electronic applications as part of its work assignment.

Dr. Dana asked if there might be consideration of minimums and maximums for funding size of projects. Chair Bense asked if Enterprise Florida has those types of limits. Dr. Dana responded that to her knowledge they did not, but things have been changing due to new legislation. She said that Enterprise Florida was always looking for game changing types of projects with big impacts for an area. She noted that such impacts are scalable across the different sized counties. For example, five jobs in a small county might have the same effect as 2000 jobs in a large county. Mr. Connally said that early in the process, there should be no minimums or maximums. As it becomes more clear the scope and size of project applications, adjustments can be made, but for now, better not to restrict the process.

Dr. Dana asked the other board members for any of their priorities that they want the committee to consider in drafting the application. Chair Bense reiterated that economic recovery, diversification and enhancement should be foremost in the process. Dr. Dana noted that the legislation does not speak to job creation, but Chair Bense said that would be important for him. Dr. Dana asked if that would be something that should be included for consideration is setting scoring priorities. Mr. Shoaf said that he would hate for the board to get backed into a box in the application process, and that the process should be able to take scoring for smaller municipalities and counties into account and provide some flexibility in dealing with projects in those smaller municipalities and counties with limited resources to participate in the application process. He said that match requirements could become problematic for some of those entities if the requirements were too stringent or did not take into account limited available resources. Scalability and/or flexibility should be considered so as not to penalize the smaller municipalities and counties, as long as it is legal to do so.

Mr. Connally said that match is important, and that the ability to leverage the available funds to bring in more funds should be a long-term goal and priority. He said that Triumph Gulf Coast should be producing value for northwest Florida in a matter of months. Speed in the process is important. He said his personal priority would be how quickly a project could be put in place to produce value to our local communities. He said there is a need to build some prioritization for speed of results into the process where possible. Funds should not be spent frivolously, but our communities need the value as soon as possible.

Mr. Riggs spoke about the concept of a pre-approval, pre-score process. He asked if the board planned to score all of the applications, or would it make sense to have some sort of committee to pre-score for completeness and viability. Dr. Dana said that the scoring could be done either way. She noted that if there was a pre-scoring committee and some projects did not score well, would other board members have issues with the process, or would it be wise to have a third party take a first look at the applications. These are all good questions and should be considered by the drafting committee, and the full board as we move through the drafting process. How that process happens will be important.

Senator Gaetz said that it is his understanding that Dr. Dana's committee is charged with drafting the application process, but would not be responsible for pre-scoring projects. Chair Bense confirmed that the committee is to come up with recommendations for the process, which could include any one of the options for screening applications.

Senator Gaetz agrees that all three major areas of priority in the legislation should be considered, but said that Triumph Gulf Coast "doesn't need to swing at every pitch." He said of the three, he thought economic diversification should be the focus because we have learned that if something bad happens in the Gulf of Mexico, the economy goes to its knees, and if someone in the Pentagon gets the sniffles, the region gets pneumonia as far as the military related economy is concerned. The whole purpose in creating Triumph Gulf Coast was to ensure economic diversity. The region needs to be protected against natural or manmade disasters on the Gulf, or if the region becomes a BRAC (Base Realignment Commission) victim as opposed to a BRAC winner, so that the economy can withstand such impacts so that our children and grandchildren can expand their quality of life. The drafting committee needs to be sure that metrics are in place to be able to evaluate and validate claims made by applicants, and how those projects will help to stand up the economy. We should not just rely on the applicant to assure outcomes. Those claims, and the methodology to support those claims, must be fully vetted. Senator Gaetz said that he supports having a third party analysis, by an objective entity that does not have an interest in the process, of applications and projected outcomes. Also, he said projects should have the support of local governments in the affected area, and applicants should be able to show that support in the application process. Senator Gaetz

indicated that he believes in performance based funding, and that project applicants should commit to specific objectives, with funding awarded contingent on meeting those objectives. He said he does not believe that Triumph Gulf Coast money should be the first money in to a project, by statute it can't be the only money, and projects should be able to demonstrate their sustainability without continued funding from Triumph Gulf Coast. He said he strongly believes in leveraging these funds to create more opportunities for funding from other sources, and that there should be a place for scalability based on the size and location of the project. Objective validation of proof of results is critical. He said that while he doesn't believe the door should ever be shut on small projects, the purpose of this money is to be transformational so that Triumph Gulf Coast will have made a difference in prospects for our children and grandchildren to have a chance for better jobs and a better future.

After a brief discussion, staff was instructed to coordinate meeting times for the committee, hopefully two times before the next board meeting.

Chair Bense told the board that the application for Directors and Officers Insurance has been received and that the new law firm will be asked to work on getting that form completed and executed. He mentioned that the search for the office location might be premature until the decision is made about what job functions need to be housed in an office. He noted that Chair Bense and Stan Connally have signature authority, but the Treasurer should be added as an authorized signer on the accounts.

Senator Gaetz moved that bank cards be signed, and bank resolutions executed so that either the Chair or Treasurer may sign checks of up to \$5000, and that checks exceeding that amount require the signature of both the Chair and Treasurer and that these actions be undertaken as soon as possible. Mr. Shoaf seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (7-0.)

Ms. Skelton asked if members would like to have individual emails which would need to be set up to capture all traffic for public records retention. Chair Bense said that people need to be able to contact the members.

Dr. Dana indicated that the work of Ms. Walters has been instrumental to the application drafting process so far, and if appropriate, she would like for her to continue to work with the drafting committee. Mr. Connally said that in the interest of time and knowledge base, he thought that was a good idea. Other members agreed and Dr. Dana thanked the group for that consideration.

Senator Gaetz asked if there was any direction on how to interact with the public in the interim before the application process is complete. Chair Bense said he thought it was important to interact, but that at some point you have to draw the line. Mr. Connally said he has no problem telling someone no if he can't make it. Mr. Riggs said he wanted to do anything he could do to facilitate the process and

would be willing to meet with cities and counties, but caution the interested groups to be doing preliminary work to get prepared for when the application process does become active. Mr. Connally agreed, but said it is important not to look like any one group or project is being favored. Chair Bense said he is letting people know that we are still in the application process, and be honest that we are working on it. Senator Gaetz said he is letting the Executive Director know whenever he is meeting with anyone so that she has knowledge of whom he is talking with. Other members said that sounded like a good idea.

Chair Bense announced that the board would now take public testimony. He recognized Mr. Ken Lawson, Director of Visit Florida.

Mr. Lawson said that Visit Florida is fully supportive of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. and at the appropriate time it is available to be helpful. He said he thought it would be a good idea to task a regional coalition of tourism professionals to assist the group. He stressed the importance of transparency and accountability in the process and said he looked forward to working with the board in the future.

Mr. Ashley Hayward, Mayor of Pensacola, thanked the board for their service and said that his city wanted to be nimble, organized and ready, and not do anything to slow the process down going forward.

Mr. Joseph “Smokey” Parrish, Chair of the Franklin County Commission, spoke about the importance of remembering that all counties do not have the same resources to move forward in the application process. Project preparation may take longer for the smaller counties due to limitations on resources. He asked that the small counties not be penalized for having these challenges. The fact that it takes longer for the small counties does not mean that they don’t have needs, but sometimes it will take longer because of lack of staff and other resources. Franklin County has not yet spent one dollar of RESTORE funds because it is just as important to do it right as it is to do it fast. He asked for patience.

Mr. Mike Langton of Langton Consulting made a presentation on ideas for the application process, including not to go too farther than what the statute requires, keeping an open submission process, allow for some subjective analysis in the process, don’t tie grant dollars to specific number of jobs created, allow grant writers to be used for administrative purposes, use both electronic and paper applications, and see what works in the first pass, then make adjustments as needed.

Mr. Art Kimbrough, Chair of the Central Panhandle CEO Roundtable, said that he represented an organization of CEOs with 10 – 2000 employees. As employers, he said that his members could help to enable getting large projects off the ground in the region. He said that his group wants to be connected with the

Triumph Gulf Coast process and he thanked the board for the work that is being done to benefit the region.

Mr. Craig Barker, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Northwest Florida State College, said that he believes that the college will present some good projects at the appropriate time. He raised the question about how multi-year, multi-phase projects might be handled, and how regional projects should go about securing local support in each county impacted by a project. He noted that his questions about matching funds had been answered by the earlier discussion.

Mr. Warren Yaeger, representing Gulf County, said he appreciated the earlier discussion about how small versus large counties could be treated in the process. He said scalability and flexibility in the criteria is important and noted that the easier the process is to complete, the better.

Darryl Boudreau, representing TNC, supports the creation of more ready sites across the region to prepare for bringing in large projects. He said that it is important to invest in infrastructure so sites are ready to go when businesses come in. He said he supported projects that had a strong environmental protection component.

Lee Goodson, representing design professionals through the Association of Architects and Green Building Associations, want to help in getting projects through the process in a timely manner. These groups support high performance design. He indicated that each county in the designated area has certified professionals that stand ready to help in the Triumph Gulf Coast efforts.

Jim Muller, on behalf of the Bay County RESTORE Council, noted that he has a lot experience with the application process. He said he is not a fan of a scoring system that allows people to game the system, racking up points on paper without a sound project proposal. He urged the board to use the expertise of the business community in the application and awards process, and not to discount single focus projects that can be of benefit.

Representative Mel Ponder thanked the board for all that it is doing to bring transitional economic projects to northwest Florida. He told the board that they are the change agents for the region.

Ms. Kim Wilmes, representing Florida's Great Northwest, said that the Florida Forward strategic planning process that FGNW has undertaken can be very helpful in decisions related to projects. She said she hoped that Triumph Gulf Coast would support projects that are aligned with that strategy. Staff noted that FGNW would be making a presentation on the Florida Forward Strategic Plan at the September board meeting.

Mr. Ben Janke, the Economic Development Director for the City of Lynn Haven, suggested that the board should revisit the application process after six months to see if it is working, or if there is some recalibration needed.

Ms. Skelton announced that the next meeting of the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., board is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m. CT at the Northwest Florida State College in Niceville.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m. CT.