

**Meeting Minutes
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
Gulf-Franklin Campus, Building A
Gulf Coast State College
3800 Garrison Avenue
Port St. Joe, Florida
January 14, 2019
1:00 p.m. ET**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allan Bense, Vice-Chair
Pam Dana, Ph.D.
Don Gaetz, Chair
Ben Lee
Stephen Riggs, IV, Treasurer
Jason Shoaf

Chair Don Gaetz called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm ET. He thanked Dr. John Holdnak, President of Gulf Coast State College, Dean Loretta Costin, and Gulf/Franklin Campus Director Roderick Robinson for hosting the meeting in Port St. Joe.

Chair Gaetz noted the appointment of Mr. Ashton Hayward to the Triumph Gulf Coast Board and said that Mr. Hayward had not yet received all of the necessary paperwork from the Secretary of State's Office to finalize his appointment, but that the Board looked forward to working with Mr. Hayward in the future.

Executive Director Susan Skelton called the roll and announced that all members were present.

Minutes of December 7, 2018 Board Meeting were reviewed. **Mr. Allan Bense made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pam Dana.**

Gulf County Property Appraiser Mitch Burke made a presentation on reduced property values and projected local revenue impacts to the county as a result of Hurricane Michael. He noted that much work remains in finishing assessments of the many properties and structures damaged by the storm, but that preliminary numbers indicate a potential loss in property value in a range of 10% to 15% or \$91 million to \$137.8 million. He estimated a loss of 30% to 40% in the value of primary structures, equal to \$180 million to \$240 million. With only 32% of the county's 19,000 parcels having been assessed thus far, the overall estimate of the drop in property values for Gulf County is in the range of \$347 to \$521 million for all categories. Mr. Burke noted that the final taxable value assessments are due to be completed by July 2019. Mr. Bense asked what the current millage rates are for the county. Mr. Burke said that the county rate is 7.6 and the school board is 6.646. Mr. Jason Shoaf thanked Mr. Burke and his staff for the work being done to determine the extent of the damage.

Mr. Stephen Riggs, IV presented the December Financial Statement for review. He noted that there were no inconsistencies from prior months. **Mr. Shoaf made a motion to accept the December 2018 Financial Statement. Mr. Lee seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without objection.**

Mr. Riggs gave a brief update on the compliance monitoring process. He said that there would be two different types of compliance review necessary. One would be to oversee various aspects of construction projects being funded with Triumph Gulf Coast dollars. The other would be to account for the creation of new jobs as required by grant award agreements. He said that the most pressing need at this time is for the timely review of construction projects. He recommended that the Board engage Mr. Randy Lewis, AIA, who has substantial experience in review of various types of construction projects across several states. Mr. Lewis is semi-retired and now serves as an expert witness in construction management. He has over 40 years of experience as an architect and general contractor. Ms. Skelton told the Board that Mr. Lewis was recommended to her for this type of work by a construction project manager who works for a state agency and whom she has known and trusted for many years. Mr. Riggs said that monitoring of job creation will be very similar to compliance monitoring being done by the Department of Economic Opportunity and that he is looking into the outside companies being used by the state agency to see if they would be able to work with Triumph Gulf Coast to perform similar services. He said that those requirements would be longer term since none of the current grant awards will require such overview until several years in the future.

Mr. Riggs asked to be able to enter into a letter of engagement with Mr. Randy Lewis for construction management compliance review. He said that the engagement would be contingent on assuring that his fee schedule was in compliance with state travel regulations. Mr. Riggs said that his hourly rates seem reasonable. Mr. Lee asked that Mr. Lewis come to make presentations to the Board, at least at the inception of the process, to assure that the work being done is satisfactory. Mr. Riggs agreed that such presence would be appropriate. **Mr. Riggs made a motion to enter into a letter of engagement with Mr. Randy Lewis subject to his fee schedule and adjusted to comply with Florida Statutes relative to travel expenses. Mr. Bense seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without objection.**

Ms. Skelton reported that the Semi-Annual December 2018 Report to the Governor and Legislative Leadership was delivered in a timely manner to the Governor, the Governor-elect, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the members of the Northwest Florida Legislative Delegation. She said the report was delivered both electronically, and in person at the Capitol by Ms. Cori Henderson and her daughter, Miss Georgia Henderson.

Chair Gaetz then gave an in-depth review of the important highlights of the report. He noted that in just over seventeen months, the organization has given initial approval to fourteen applications from all eight of the disproportionately affected counties. Triumph has agreed to fund \$118,470,871 for these projects to date. The agreed to funding has already attracted \$405,000,000 in matching investments from the private sector, local, state and federal governments, or a 3.4 to 1 match. Of note, approximately a third of the projects already slated for funding are in counties designated as Rural Areas of Opportunity. In those counties, the Board has taken a more relaxed approach to the match requirements, and even with those reduced requirements, the 3.4 to 1 match rate has been achieved. Of the seven already approved infrastructure related proposals, our economist has validated the projected creation of more than 3,380 new direct jobs and 5,056 new indirect and induced jobs in the region. Of the workforce development proposals already awarded, over 9300 certifications in highly sought after skill categories will be given with an average cost of just over \$1400 per certificate. This training will result in job readiness to thousands of students across the region at a very low cost. All of the jobs created through these proposals will pay higher than the average prevailing wage and are contractually guaranteed through clawback provisions in the grant award agreements. Chair Gaetz noted that if these initial numbers are extrapolated over the life of the Triumph Gulf

Coast program, one could expect an outcome of attracting an additional \$5,100,000,000 in new investments, the creation of over 42,000 new direct jobs and 69,000 indirect or induced jobs. He said that if the past is prologue, the Board seems to be on a path to exceed its legislative mandates.

Mr. Shoaf thanked Chair Gaetz and Mr. Bense for their leadership in getting Triumph Gulf Coast to this point and noted that the new jobs are critical to the future of the region. Chair Gaetz said that while the work to recover from Hurricane Michael continues, the future will be secured by the creation of these new jobs.

Ms. Skelton gave a brief update on the Auditor General's Office Audit and said that it was her understanding that the testing phase has been completed and now the audit is in the checking and verification phase. While no completion date has been given, it is thought that the review should be complete soon.

Ms. Skelton read the response to the Triumph Gulf Coast Post-Hurricane Letter from Bay County.

Ms. Skelton noted that in December the Board approved a motion to adjust the monthly allowable expenditure to Digital Boardwalk to up to \$850 per month beginning in January 2019. In actuality, we needed to make that adjustment to take effect with the payment of the December 2018 invoice. **Ms. Skelton asked for approval to make that adjustment retroactive to include December 2018. There was no objection to making the adjustment.**

Mr. Scott Remington, Legal Counsel, provided an overview of the Grant Award Negotiations for Proposal #153 - Gulf County School District – Unmanned Systems for \$750,000. He said that all standard conditions are met, including the requirement for the Gulf County School District to provide \$652,000 in matching funds for salaries, equipment, construction and ongoing maintenance and sustainment of the program, and appropriate clawback provisions are made for repayment of funds if the School District fails to meet the terms of the agreement as described in specific performance metrics related to the number of students that must receive certification through the program. **Mr. Shoaf noted a typographical error on page 12, 8.3(b) that should read "Gulf" and not "Bay" county. The correction was made in the document to be presented for approval.**

Chair Gaetz asked staff if , in light of hurricane impacts, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners wanted to proceed with this proposal. Ms. Skelton indicated that the Board wanted to proceed. Dr. Fuller concurred. Mr. Shoaf said he had had an opportunity to speak with the owner of the newly relocated drone operations business in the county and that the business owner indicated that he looked forward to hiring students directly from the program to work at his company. He noted that this was an excellent example of how the work of Triumph Gulf Coast will specifically help this county. He said that programs like this one are some of the first steps that can be taken to rebuild the economies broken by Hurricane Michael. He said workforce training gives the students in the area career paths to a brighter future. Chair Gaetz asked if there was any public comment on the proposal. Mr. Warren Yaeger, representing the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, came forward and echoed the comments of Mr. Shoaf, noting the importance of Skyborne Technologies, the new business locating in Gulf County, and the positive effects that these education proposals will have. Mr. Yaeger confirmed that, notwithstanding hurricane impacts, the County Commission requests that this project be funded as a county priority. **Mr. Shoaf made a motion to enter into a Grant Award**

Agreement with the Gulf County School District for Proposal #153 – Unmanned Systems for \$750,000, with the correction of the scrivener’s error on page 12. Mr. Bense seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion was passed unanimously (6-0).

Next, Mr. Remington presented an overview of the proposed Grant Award Agreement for Proposal #157 - Franklin County School District – Franklin Environmental Career and Technical Training for \$2,327,327. He said that standard contract provisions, including compliance provisions, clawbacks, and performance metrics are included in the proposed agreement. Dr. Frank Fuller, Triumph Gulf Coast’s Education Expert, spoke about the importance of the certifications to the rural county and noted that many students will graduate with both a high school and Associates degree as a result of the programs ongoing in the Franklin County School District. Chair Gaetz asked staff if the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners had indicated any change in its support of the proposal as a result of the hurricane. Ms. Skelton said that there was no such indication. Ms. Traci Moses, Superintendent of the Franklin County School District thanked the Board for the opportunity to assist Franklin County with the creation of a more qualified workforce. She said that this year 17 of 64 graduating Seniors (27%) will receive AA or AS degrees along with their high school diplomas. She said that there were not vocational opportunities in the county and this project will help to meet those needs. She said there is already a partnership in place with Lively Technical Center in Tallahassee to provide welding classes and this project will allow for the expansion of that program for both high school and adult education students who have been impacted by the downturn in the seafood industry through such causes as the BP oil spill and storms. Chair Gaetz asked if the bonus funding from the CAPE certifications will help to sustain the workforce training programs. Ms. Moses said that such funding is vital to the future of the training. He asked if the project should be postponed as a result of the hurricane. Ms. Moses said that the sooner the students can get the training and get jobs to help rebuild the economy after both the hurricane and the wildfire that devastated Eastpoint earlier last year, the better for the whole area. She said that this is a vital project for Franklin County.

Chair Gaetz asked for public comment on the proposal. Ms. Rhonda Griffin, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction for Franklin County Schools, reported that the graduation rate for the district has risen substantially to over 80% since she first provided information to Triumph Gulf Coast. She said programs such as this one provide hope to the community. She said that results have already been seen, as earlier this year there were several young men who had indicated that they would be dropping out of school but when they became aware of the new welding program and the opportunities for becoming more employable were known, they changed their minds and remain in school today. She said just the hope of better training has already made a difference. She said that 98 students at the elementary level have already earned their first computer training certifications in anticipation of this project becoming a reality. Mr. Bense said that it was notable to hear a reminder of the fire in Eastpoint. He said since the hurricane, no one speaks of the wildfire and that he is afraid that the same thing will happen over time relative to the hurricane. Mr. Shoaf said that having been raised in a rural county, he can see the effect that this work will have over time. He said that such programs are two or three times more meaningful in the rural counties, and that the work that the Board is doing today will leave a mark in these counties long after Triumph Gulf Coast is no longer in existence. **Mr. Shoaf made a motion to enter into a Grant Award Agreement with the Franklin County School District for Proposal #157 – Franklin Environmental Career and Technical Training for \$2,327,327. Mr. Lee seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion was passed unanimously (6-0).**

Mr. Remington and Dr. Rick Harper, Triumph Gulf Coast Economist, provided a review of the Term Sheet Negotiations for Proposal #69 – FSU Marine Lab – Apalachicola Bay System Initiative for \$7,998,678. Dr. Harper presented a description of the proposed Florida State University Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI). He referenced the formerly vibrant oyster fishery that had thrived for more than a century and was at one point responsible for production of a substantial fraction of all oysters sold in the nation. The sector needs good science to help the oyster fishery cope with changed environmental conditions that are affecting the health of the fishery and its economic productivity.

The FSU project will incorporate three major elements, each of which will rely on unique FSU assets for success. The University has committed to the involvement of the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium (FCRC) in the community outreach process. The FCRC has experience in bringing forth the interests of a variety of stakeholders and facilitating discussion about objectives and interests of concerned parties. Dr. Harper said that just as the Triumph Oyster Working Group had heard that a successful oyster fishery must include a variety of approaches in order to gain the benefits of diversifying risk, the FCRC will provide a forum for a variety of parties to be heard when considering restoring estuary health. This will include formation of the Community Advisory Board and development and approval of the broad research plan.

Good science is the second major element. The FSU plan will complete an assessment of the changes across geographies and through time of oyster communities in the Bay within 24 months. FSU will operate an experimental hatchery that will allow availability of oyster larvae for evaluation of oyster health in varying environmental conditions. This hatchery will not compete with private hatchery establishment but will instead help set the stage for private sector success through use of appropriate strains of oysters. This work will enable FSU to complete and disseminate a predictive bio-physical model of oyster population growth. Performance of the oyster populations will be monitored and evaluated. These activities will lead to an ABSI management and restoration plan within 48 months of initial funding.

The third major element is dissemination of best practices for economic success for fishery-related small businesses. FSU has recognized expertise in the area of entrepreneurship through their College of Business, their Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship, and their Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship. Dr. Harper noted that VP Ostrander has communicated the commitment of FSU at the highest level for engaging these areas of expertise for the benefit of the ABSI project and the economic activities that depend on the restoration and maintenance of the health of the estuary system that supports oystering and other marine-based activities.

Dr. Harper said that this proposal is to provide solid, broad research to assist the local and regional private sector in restoring a viable fishery and environment conducive to sustainable fisheries through the use of scientific findings. He said that the project will draw from successes of Chesapeake Bay restoration and test against the known failures of the New York state restoration project noting that not all models are successful. Under the proposed term sheet, FSU will agree to achieve all performance metrics (as opposed to more job focused proposals whereby only one of several metrics have been required.) They must provide the equivalent of two net new Full Time Equivalent faculty positions with primary research qualifications supporting the objectives of the initiative within three years, submission of at least \$6 million in grant applications for competitively awarded research projects within five years, and providing substantive collaborative assistance in entrepreneurial outreach and support to at least 45 businesses in the Apalachicola Bay area to consist of at least 30 hours of assistance per entity. In addition, FSU has agreed to ensure that appropriate credential training is available to the employees of the 45 businesses to be assisted by the FSU School of Entrepreneurship.

Dr. Dana asked how many jobs would be created through this proposal. Dr. Harper responded that there is not a specific number for job creation because of the unique nature of the proposal and the need for the science to be determined in order to establish the number of jobs that may ultimately be created or restored. He said that measurement would be difficult because there would be no one firm that would be responsible for the new jobs, but rather that the new jobs would be entrepreneurial in nature with independent business ventures redeveloping based on the provided scientific findings. He said that given the previous vitality of the regional industry, the most reasonable assumption would be that the jobs that were there in the past would be reestablished once the problems are identified and solved. He said that the metrics are focused around the science based nature of the proposal such as hiring the correct number and type of faculty and making the commitment of the use of resources to arrive at the necessary scientific conclusions.

Dr. Dana said she was trying to understand how the funds would be spent if not for jobs. She asked about the number of certifications being proposed. Dr. Harper said that FSU has committed to meeting the needs of the market, not to impinge on any ongoing projects. He said that FSU may not be issuing the actual certifications, but would be committed to working with local education providers to create and support delivery of educational opportunities through its School of Entrepreneurship. He said the actual training would most likely come from technical schools and business programs in high schools or adult education programs but that FSU would assist in focusing such training in coordination with the Jim Moran Institute.

Dr. Dana said that she understands the importance of the oyster industry to the state and the nation, but wondered if there were other funding sources that would be appropriate such as the Department of Agriculture or the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Dr. Harper asked Dr. Gary Ostrander, Vice-President of Research for the Florida State University, to address the question. Dr. Ostrander said that in the past the university has focused on bringing in an array of scientists with research interests related to the Gulf of Mexico. He said that this proposal would shift the focus of the lab to dedicated research on solutions for restoration and the sustainability of the oyster ecosystem with a commitment to maintain such research for the next decade or two. He said there is some current expertise, but the proposal will allow for the solicitation of faculty with a narrow focus on oyster restoration in the near future that will be sustained by the university. Dr. Dana asked if the hurricane has caused any change to the proposal. Dr. Ostrander said that while effects of the hurricane will be part of the study, it would not change the focus of the efforts. He said that one focus will be on sustaining the businesses that have been impacted by the failure of the industry. Dr. Dana asked what would happen if the experimental restoration fails. Dr. Ostrander said that a similar problem occurred in the Chesapeake Bay and he believes that some of the expertise and experience from that successful approach will be part of the modeling for the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative. He said that he believes that there will be a positive restoration, but that there were no guarantees for things that science cannot control, such as the water flow from Georgia.

Mr. Shoaf noted that oysters are the heritage and culture of Franklin County. He said when trying to figure out how to create jobs, the oyster industry is the first to come to mind. He said in order to bring back the oyster industry, drastic measures are needed. He said that FSU is committed to do the scientific research that is needed to fix the problem and to rebuild the economy of Franklin County. He said this is the first step and will build the foundation for bringing back 500 to 600 jobs that have been lost there.

Mr. Lee said that he was glad that FSU has stepped up to try to fix the long running problem. He said he understood the value of the brand of Apalachicola Oysters that needs to be protected and marketed. He wondered why there wasn't participation by our land grant universities and extension services in the research process. Dr. Ostrander said that FSU is committed to working with any entity that is interested in working with the problem. He said there had been interest from the University of Florida, the Nature Conservancy, and others that want to be of assistance. He said FSU is committed to hearing from any interested parties on ways to solve the problem. Mr. Lee said he wants to be sure that this continues to be a focus in the future so that the jobs can be restored and sustained. Dr. Ostrander said that the school would expect that the faculty brought in would be there for at least the next twenty years and that partnering with businesses through the Jim Moran Institute will be a major part of the process going forward. The institute is focusing on graduate programs both in entrepreneurship and marketing that will be positioned to participate on the solution. He said that the university community, from the President and the Board of Trustees to the relevant faculty and support staff, is committed to this program for the foreseeable future. Mr. Lee thanked Dr. Ostrander for the leadership that FSU is taking on this important issue.

Mr. Bense said that "how many jobs" is a very good question, and normally a project of this size could be funded by the legislature, but such a proposal is a big ask for a small county. He said for years and years everyone has asked what the problem is, but no one has provided the tools to answer the question. He said that in the past, 10% of the nation's oysters came from the Apalachicola Bay. Many families were supported through the harvesting and sale of the Apalachicola Oyster. He said restoration of even a percentage of what has been lost would be beneficial. He said it was time for answers and that he was supporting of this proposal.

Chair Gaetz asked for clarification on expenditure of the funds. Dr. Ostrander said that technical staff would be brought onboard very quickly and could have faculty on staff by the beginning of next year. He said that resources would be used to construct and operate the new experimental hatchery for the first five years (after which time the university will sustain ongoing costs of the operation), and to fund the community outreach initiatives included in the proposal. Chair Gaetz asked if the university would plan to take a percentage of funding for indirect costs. Dr. Ostrander said that FSU would not take any indirect costs, and would, in fact, put forward \$1.5 million for the start-up of the project. Chair Gaetz asked if the university would agree to share its findings with the legislature and to the pertinent government agencies. Dr. Ostrander said that the university would commit to that and would seek out other grant sources for additional funding as a result of any findings to expand the size and rapidity of the program. Chair Gaetz said that performance monitoring will come from the entire Franklin County community since the entire county, its small businesses and families all have a stake in the success of the research. He asked how the university would work with the community. Dr. Ostrander said that there are different views, even within the scientific community, on what the solution might be. He said that there is probably more than one solution. He said that the Conflict Resolution component will be helpful in hearing the community and coming to a convergence of acceptance across generations of knowledge. The entrepreneurship component committed to working with the local businesses will serve to assure that the research is best used by the industry. Chair Gaetz asked to have that commitment specifically added to the final grant award agreement.

Mr. Riggs noted that this is an extremely complicated issue but finding a solution has been identified by the leaders in the area as critically important to the economy. He said that while investing in research is a leap of faith, it is one worth taking.

Mr. Billy Buzzett, member of the FSU Board of Trustees, thanked the Board for its support for this area of critical state concern. He noted the nexus of the failure of the oyster industry to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Dr. Dana asked how FSU would deal with any royalties that could come as a result of research from this project. Dr. Ostrander said that the model used by FSU would be to put the money back in to the research at the lab. He said that his intent would be to re-invest any funds generated.

Chair Gaetz asked if anyone from the public wished to comment on the proposal. Mr. Chris Dosev of Pensacola told the Board that he was concerned that this proposal is different than the primary focus of Triumph Gulf Coast and that the amount of funding for two faculty members seemed high. He referenced a letter from the Florida Shellfish Association to the Board indicating opposition to any proposal that would take away opportunities for private sector operations of hatcheries and other components of the shellfish industry. He suggested that UF-IFAS could be a partner, and that the Governor could include restoration of the Apalachicola Bay as part of his water initiative. He said that he thought Franklin County was due a solution, but that the Governor and legislature should provide that solution.

Dr. Victor Ibeanusi, Dean of the FAMU School of Environment, said that he just wanted to let the Board know that there is another land grant university, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, interested in working on the solution along with FSU. He said that FAMU is partnering with the Panacea Oyster Co-op on a separate proposal, and is supportive of this proposal.

Mr. Chip Kirschenfeld of Pensacola, a marine biologist, said that he was supportive of finding a solution to the Apalachicola Bay problem. He said that there may be ways to beef up the performance metrics to include how many of the grant requests are actually successfully funded, or other ways that could measure success. Perhaps there could be a number of larvae that have to be produced. Chair Gaetz asked if Dr. Harper or Dr. Ostrander would consider consideration of other types of performance metrics. Dr. Harper said that such things could be considered, but that research solutions are the needed outcome and this proposal leans toward entrepreneurship rather than corporate job creation. He said he believed that the metrics proposed were appropriate. Dr. Ostrander clarified that the FSU hatchery is not intended to be commercial in nature and said that he had reached out to the author of the letter referenced by the earlier speaker, and upon hearing about the parameters of the research project, the letter writer seemed satisfied with the scope of the project. He said he agreed with Dr. Harper but would entertain any suggested adjustments to the metrics. In closing, he noted that FSU has a very strong record of success in securing research grants and would be applying all of its normal high standards to achieving success with this proposal.

Mr. Shoaf made a motion to approve, consistent with the staff's recommendation, the Term Sheet for Proposal #69 – FSU Marine Lab – Apalachicola Bay System Initiative for \$7,998,678 and for staff and counsel to proceed with finalizing a Grant Award Agreement with the Florida State University. Mr. Bense seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0.)

For the record, Chair Gaetz asked staff if there was any objection from the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners to going forward with the proposal after Hurricane Michael. Ms. Skelton indicated that in fact, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners' letter was prospective and that the Board was still supportive of all previously supported proposals. Mr. Alan Pierce, representing Franklin County spoke in confirmation of Ms. Skelton's comments.

Mr. Remington provided an overview of Term Sheet Negotiations for Proposal #98 – Walton County Sheriff – Vocational/Technical Training Program for \$2,217,965. He noted that the term sheet is very similar to the proposals approved earlier in the meeting. The proposal will provide for the construction of a driving pad at the Walton County Sheriff's Office to be used for Commercial Driver License training, and a pole barn at the Emerald Coast Technical Center to provide classroom training space for a welding certification program, along with salaries for instructors for those classes, equipment for the classes, and computers for certification training and testing. The Walton County Sheriff's Office will be responsible for funds for completion and sustainment of the project. Performance metrics and clawback provisions are provided in the Term Sheet. Dr. Fuller noted that this proposal is unique because it allows for a path back to employment for inmates in the system.

Sheriff Mike Atkinson, Walton County, spoke in favor the proposal and thanked the Board for its consideration. He said that there is a moral argument and a fiscal argument in favor of this proposal to get people who have made mistakes back to work in their communities. Chair Gaetz asked if the construction and acquisition of equipment would be bid out. Sheriff Atkinson said that would be the case, and if there were inmates skilled in providing the services, those services would be employed as well. He said that in order to assure the efficacy of the program, the Sheriff's Office would be commissioning a study by Florida State University to follow the long term effects of the training and employability of inmates re-entering the local workforce. He said that the driving pad would be made available for use by the Walton County School District for Driver Education courses, the County Commission for heavy truck training, and for any entity that can benefit from the use of the facility to maximize the investment. Dr. Harper said that the certifications are for skills in high demand fields such as commercial driver licenses, welding and computer services. Chair Gaetz asked if the FSU Study could be shared as a part of the Grant Award Agreement. The Sheriff indicated that it would be acceptable. Dr. Dana asked if the Walton County Board of County Commissioners supported the proposal. The Sheriff said that the BOCC supported the proposal. Chair Gaetz asked if anyone from the public wanted to be heard on the proposal. No one came forward to speak.

Dr. Dana made a motion to approve, consistent with the staff's recommendation, the Term Sheet for Proposal #98 – Walton County Sheriff – Vocational/Technical Training Program for \$2,217,965 and for staff and counsel to proceed with finalizing a Grant Award Agreement with the Walton County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Riggs seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0.)

Mr. Remington provided a status update on Proposal #55 – Eastern Shipbuilding Group, Inc. – Manufacturing and Haul Out Facilities for \$20,025,000. He said that counsel had met with Eastern Shipbuilding Group on two occasions since the last Board meeting to review the status of the application, clarify outstanding issues of concern and make suggestions on ways to move forward. He said that their counsel had acknowledged their need to make some modifications for presentation to the Board at a later date and that they are looking into partnering with local government to bring the proposal into compliance with current statutory requirements.

In his status update on Proposal #120 – City of Pensacola Airport MRO Aviation Campus for \$56,000,000, Mr. Remington said that the City is working diligently to secure required funds to allow us to move forward with the terms agreed to by the Board. City Counsel indicates that they are continuing to work towards meeting its obligations within the time frame established by Triumph Gulf Coast.

Ms. Henderson reported that there continues to be interest in expansion of current corporate projects and recruitment of new opportunities by our local Economic Development partners throughout the region and that she hoped to be able to bring several of those proposals forward to the Board this Spring. She noted that Triumph Gulf Coast has received 176 Pre-Applications, totaling over \$1.4 billion in requests. 58 Applications have been submitted. Over 2/3 of those applications have been scored by staff and the remainder is in the process of review by staff. **Mr. Riggs made a motion to accept the Program Administrator's Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shoaf. The motion was adopted without objection.**

Dr. Harper noted that staff continues to work with applicants and that some applicants, even those outside of the hurricane affected counties, have experienced delays in moving ahead due to corporate adjustments as a result of either Hurricane Michael or other operations affected in other areas of the country. He said that he looked forward to some promising proposals on the horizon that staff hoped to bring forward in the near future.

Chair Gaetz asked if any member of the public would like to make any comments to the Board on any subject on this agenda. Several speakers came forward to be heard.

Ms. Patricia Hartman thanked the Board for being in Gulf County and holding the meeting here. She said that the Board's presence and support is greatly appreciated by the people of the county. She said that the deliberation at the meeting had been impressive and she appreciates all that the Board does. She reiterated the point made earlier by Mr. Bense that it is important to keep the hurricane efforts in the forefront of conversations so that the rural counties are not lost in the shuffle.

Mr. Robert Seidler, representing Panacea Oyster Co-op, thanked the Board for their efforts to get the economy started again. He said that with new times come new ways, and oyster aquaculture is a new concept in Florida, but that the results so far have been very good. He said that the off-bottom oyster aquaculture can have an effect in bringing back the economy. He said that while the economic recovery is important, the ecosystem is important too. Mr. Seidler pointed to the success so far with aquaculture and noted that it could be successful along with the research and work expected from the FSU proposal.

Ms. Katherine Waldren, representing Panacea Oyster Co-op, thanked the Board for the opportunity to participate in the grant award process. She noted that the co-op is partnering with FAMU to provide an educational component to their proposal. She said that the co-op's focus is on product processing. Within two and a half weeks after the storm, the operation was back up and functioning, and her organization is committed to the success of the industry across the region.

Mr. Chris Dosev spoke again and asked for the release of funds to the four counties most affected by the storm. He related his personal experience as a volunteer after the hurricane. He recommended that the Triumph Gulf Coast funding be spent to provide assistance to local governments to clean up debris in a timely manner.

Mr. David Warriner was called to speak, but was not present.

Dr. Satyanranayan Dev, a faculty member from the FAMU Biological Systems Engineering section spoke on behalf of the Panacea Oyster Co-op proposal which FAMU is partnering on. He offered examples of innovations which have been patented and commercialized through the work his school has done at the university. He said that the possible expansion of the success

of the research to be done in the region can have not just regional, but global impacts on water systems in the future.

Dr. Victor Ibeanuci, Dean of the Environmental School at FAMU, noted the decade of experience that his department has in working on the Gulf Coast. He said that his school is working with Dupont and the Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka High Schools on a Pathways to Community College program, and FAMU is working on the Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Research already and doing algae research that will complement the work to be done as a part of the FSU research project. He said that FAMU already has two Ph.D. candidates working on this research. He said that FAMU has had an international summit that has visited the Panacea Oyster farm and has had interest from countries as far-reaching as South Africa and Hungary.

Ms. Cindy Clark of the City of Apalachicola was called to speak, but was not present.

Chair Gaetz thanked Mr. Shoaf, Dr. Holdnak and the staff of Gulf Coast State College for hosting the Board and sharing both stories of devastation and the community's resilience in recovery efforts.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m. ET.