

**Meeting Minutes  
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.  
Wakulla County School Board Chamber  
69 Arran Road  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
June 20, 2019  
1:00 p.m. ET**

**Members Present:**

Lewis Bear, Jr.  
Pam Dana Ph. D  
Don Gaetz, Chair  
Ben Lee  
Stephen Riggs, IV, Treasurer

**Excused Absence:**

Allan Bense, Vice-Chair

Chair Don Gaetz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to Crawfordville. He thanked School Superintendent Bobby Pierce and staff for the use of the School Board Chamber and assisting in preparing for the meeting.

Chair Gaetz noted that one of the Board members, Jason Shoaf, has been elected to the Florida House of Representatives and will be leaving the Board as of today's meeting. He congratulated Representative Shoaf on his election and talked about the good work that he has done on the Triumph Gulf Coast Board. He said that as Representative Shoaf moves on to his new role, he leaves a legacy of being a champion for small counties and workforce education across Northwest Florida. He said that the members of the board look forward to his future successes in the legislature. He then called on Representative Shoaf for comment.

Representative Shoaf said that he will remain committed to pushing workforce education and that serving on the Triumph Gulf Coast Board has been one of the greatest experiences of his life. He announced that he has resigned from the Board effective on election day (June 18) because it is important to be sure that politicians are not a part of the Board. He said that Triumph Gulf Coast means so much to North Florida and provides an opportunity that has never been seen before. He said he is proud of the work that has been done so far and he knows that the great work will continue. He said he will be available to help in any way and will plan to be at all of the meetings in the future. He thanked the Board for its good work.

Chair Gaetz thanked Representative Shoaf and asked the members for permission to allow him to sit with the Board at the dais for this meeting in honor of his service. He noted that Representative Shoaf would not be voting but would stay for part of the meeting. Mr. Ben Lee congratulated Rep. Shoaf on his election. Mr. Lewis Bear said he looked forward to the good things Rep. Shoaf will do in Tallahassee. Dr. Pam Dana thanked Rep. Shoaf for his service and said that the legislature's gain was Triumph Gulf Coast's loss, but that she knew he would continue to serve the people of Northwest Florida well. Mr. Stephen Riggs wished Rep. Shoaf good luck and noted that it was good to be in the hometown of University of Florida starting quarterback, Felipe Franks, for today's meeting.

Chair Gaetz announced that Mr. Allan Bense had called in earlier in the day to say that he was ill and would not be able to attend the meeting. Chair Gaetz noted that his absence would be excused.

Executive Director Susan Skelton called the roll and announced the presence of a quorum with Mr. Bense excused.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Chair Gaetz called on Mr. Riggs to give the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Riggs reviewed the Financial Statements for April 2019 and May 2019 and noted the similarity of each to past statements. He said that the 2019 Settlement Revenue payment of \$80 million is reflected in the April statement. He said that as part of the April report, \$15.4 million was disbursed, primarily for payments related to the Hurricane Michael Disaster Relief Program payments to Bay and Gulf counties along with ongoing payments for previously approved projects such as the Port of Panama City infrastructure. He noted that for the May 2019 statement \$488,000 was disbursed for previously approved project work, primarily for the Port of Panama City, and projects in Wakulla and Walton counties. **Mr. Riggs made a motion to approve the April 2019 and May 2019 Financial Statements as presented. Mr. Bear seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without objection.**

Mr. Riggs presented changes to the Financial Policies and Procedures to require the Board to review and update bank authorization records at least once a year and as needed when changes to the officers are made. **Mr. Riggs made a motion to approve the changes to the Financial Policies and Procedures (Systems Documentation.) Mr. Lee seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without objection.**

**Mr. Riggs made a motion to the Board to adjust the compensation of the Executive Director based on last year's performance review and the successful completion of the first year's Auditor General audit. He recommended that Ms. Skelton receive a 5% increase in pay and that the increase be made retroactive back to January 1, 2019 due to the fact that the Auditor General report took longer than expected. Dr. Dana seconded the motion.** Chair Gaetz asked Dr. Dana to refresh the Board on the findings of the Performance Review from August 2018. Dr. Dana said that she appreciated the Board getting back to the issue and fully supported the increased compensation. Chair Gaetz noted that in working with Ms. Skelton her experience continues to work in favor of Triumph Gulf Coast. He said he was glad that Mr. Bense hired her during his service as Chair and that she is our employee. He noted that Triumph Gulf Coast has an employed staff of one person and oversight of \$1.5 billion program. He said that Ms. Skelton has done a great job of overseeing all of our contract employees, working with our members and interfacing with the Auditor General's Office. **The motion was adopted without objection.**

### **Staff Report**

The Minutes of April 29, 2019 Board Meeting were reviewed. **Mr. Bear made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Dana seconded the motion. The motion was approved without objection.**

Ms. Skelton told the Board that a draft version of the June 2019 Semi-Annual Report to the Governor and Presiding Officers was included in the meeting packet for the Board's review and comments. She noted that the final version of the report would not be completed until after the meeting in order to reflect any action taken by the Board related to approval of Term Sheets and Award Agreements. **She asked for permission to move the report forward over the Chair's signature once the information is updated to reflect today's actions.** Chair Gaetz asked members to contact Ms. Skelton if they had any changes that they would like to have made to the document. **Chair Gaetz asked if there was any objection to allowing staff and the Chair to make needed changes to the draft report prior to its submission after the meeting. There was no objection to that request.**

Ms. Skelton explained that staff is working on draft Operational Policies and Procedures for the Board's review in the coming months. She said that one of the issues that needs clarification is the compliance review procedure for each of the grant awards. In several of the already approved agreements, there are provisions for staff review of documents which the awardees must provide. Some of those document reviews have very short time periods for action or response. Ms. Skelton asked the Board for specific permission, in advance of the written Policies and Procedures, to allow legal counsel or professional staff to review and approve third-party contracts, change orders and other similar documents as required to be submitted by the award agreements in a timely manner. **Mr. Lee made a motion to grant such permission as needed to staff and counsel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bear and approved without objection.**

## **Legal Report**

Chair Gaetz called on Mr. Scott Remington, Legal Counsel, to provide updates on various proposals.

Mr. Remington gave a review of the **Grant Award Recommendation for Proposal #5 – Escambia County School District – Workforce Training for \$2,329,302.74**. He noted that the agreement was almost complete with the exception of one small adjustment to the performance metrics that he would ask Dr. Frank Fuller, Education Specialist, to address. Dr. Fuller said that Triumph Gulf Coast has been working with the Escambia School District for over a year to work out the agreement and that it is designed to provide the workforce training needed in the county. He said that the agreement has clear metrics outlining the goals that Triumph Gulf Coast requires for student certifications, metrics that the Escambia School Board has agreed to, and a clarification of the requirement that the metrics must be met over the life of the agreement with Triumph Gulf Coast.

Dr. Fuller then deferred to Dr. Michelle Taylor, Director of Workforce Education for the Escambia County School District. Dr. Taylor indicated that while she was fully prepared to agree to the original language provided to the School Board for approval, she could not agree to the language that clarified the requirement that the metrics must be met over the life of the agreement. She said that she was not made aware of the language until the morning of the meeting and was not able to take a position without the review of her School Board. She expressed her displeasure with last-minute changes in finalizing contract language. She asked the Board to approve the contract without the clarification language. Chair Gaetz said he thought the language that was of concern was protective affirmation language to assure that funds are properly used during the life of the agreement, and that he recognized that Dr. Taylor does not have the authority to agree to any changes at this time. He asked legal counsel to assure that a telephonic Triumph Gulf Coast Board Meeting be called as soon as possible after the Escambia County School Board has a chance to review and approve the language, if they so choose.

Chair Gaetz said that it was not the intent of Triumph Gulf Coast to hold up the workforce training in any way, and that the Board would take any steps necessary to assure a timely convening of a special meeting to take up the agreement once the School Board has a chance to sign off on it. Mr. Remington said that such a meeting could be arranged with adequate public notice. Mr. Bear said that knowing the significance of education to the industries we are working to bring to the region it is important to work with the school district to resolve this concern and approve the contract. **Mr. Bear made a motion to lay the issue on the table with the understanding that a specially called telephonic meeting of the Triumph Gulf Coast Board would be held as soon as possible after the Escambia County School District takes action to review and approve the offered Grant Award Agreement. The motion was seconded by Dr. Dana.** Dr. Taylor indicated that she was disappointed with the failure to go ahead with the original agreement, but Chair Gaetz noted that the Board is completely committed to the project but needs to be assured in writing that performance metrics are maintained throughout the life of the agreement. He said that Triumph Gulf Coast looks

forward to continuing to work with the Escambia County School District if the district chooses to work with Triumph. **The motion was adopted without objection.**

Mr. Remington brought forward a review of the **Grant Award Recommendation for Proposal #185 – City of Panama City – Panama City Industrial Complex for \$20,000,000**. He noted that the proposal was originally approved for consideration in December 2018, but that the City of Panama City has become the primary applicant with Eastern Shipbuilding Group (ESG) now participating as a co-applicant. The project is a public-private partnership for improvements on an easement owned by the City at the Nelson Street Shipyard. He said that performance metrics and clawbacks previously approved in the term sheet are all included in the grant award agreement, and all other elements of the agreement are consistent with other grant award agreements made by the Board with the following caveats: He said that because this agreement is a public-private partnership, Triumph Gulf Coast maintains the right to review and approve any and all agreements between the City and ESG relative to the project. Additionally, Triumph Gulf Coast would be indemnified against damages incurred in the event that there were problems between the parties to the public-private partnership. Mr. Remington affirmed that the Grant Award Summary had been posted on the Triumph Gulf Coast website in compliance with the 14-day statutory notification requirement.

Mr. William Harrison, on behalf of ESG, noted that the City of Panama City was involved in a multi-day hurricane related meeting and apologized for the City not being present, but indicated he would speak for them if needed. Mr. Brian D'Isernia thanked Triumph Gulf Coast for working with his company and the City, especially in light of the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Michael. He said the 900 direct jobs to be created through this grant agreement will benefit the region for the next twenty years. The Chair thanked him for his company's service to the region and the nation in providing maritime security.

**Mr. Bear made a motion to approve the Grant Award Agreement with the City of Panama City and Eastern Shipbuilding Group. Dr. Dana seconded the motion.** Chair Gaetz asked if any member of the public wished to speak for, against, or about the grant award agreement. No one came forward to speak. **On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0 with Mr. Bense excused and not voting.)**

Mr. Remington then gave a review of **Term Sheet Negotiations for Proposal #187 – Northwest Florida State College – Walton Works Training Center of Excellence for \$2,763,716**. The proposal is to establish workforce training programs at the Chautauqua Center in Defuniak Springs and at a fire tower to be constructed at Walton County Sheriff's Office Training Facility. Several industrial trades training and certification programs would be provided as a performance metrics for the proposal. He explained that the new maintenance performance metric previously discussed with Escambia County to require that the level of training is maintained for the life of the agreement with Triumph Gulf Coast is included in this term sheet agreement. Chair Gaetz asked Sam Renfroe, Executive Director of Grant Development for Northwest Florida State College, thanked the Board for working with the school, Walton County and the Walton County Sheriff's Office to bring this workforce program to fruition. Mr. Lee asked Mr. Renfroe if NWFSC had any problems or concerns with the performance metrics as explained by Mr. Remington. Mr. Renfroe said he had spoken with the Dean of Career and Technology Education in the last few days and that he is confident that the performance metrics can be met.

**Mr. Lee made a motion to accept the Term Sheet and direct staff and counsel to move forward to the Grant Award Agreement negotiation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riggs.** Chair Gaetz asked if there was any public comment on the proposal. No one came forward to speak. **On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0 with Mr. Bense excused and not voting.)**

Mr. Remington moved to the review of **Term Sheet Negotiations for Proposal #148 – Gulf County School District – Agri-Science Training Program Expansion for \$125,000**. The proposal is to expand a workforce training program at Wewahitchka High School for agricultural sciences. Dr. Fuller noted that the performance metrics and clawbacks are the same as the earlier agreement with Gulf School District. Mr. Remington noted that the new maintenance metric is not yet included in the Term Sheet and asked for direction on whether to add the new language going forward. Mr. Bear said that the Board should be consistent, and that the new language should be added to the final Grant Award Agreement. Chair Gaetz said that there should be an opportunity for a telephonic special meeting, just as would be the case for Escambia County, if the Gulf County School District agrees to move ahead with the new maintenance metric.

Chair Gaetz asked if there was any public comment on the proposal. Representative Shoaf asked Dr. Fuller if both the welding proposal and the agri-science proposal have been supported by the Gulf County Commission. Staff confirmed that both proposals are supported. **Dr. Dana made a motion to accept the Term Sheet and direct staff and counsel to move forward to the Grant Award Agreement negotiation and provide for a telephonic Board meeting if needed. Mr. Lee seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0 with Mr. Bense excused and not voting.)**

The Board then took up a **request from the Port of Panama City to amend the Grant Award Agreement for Proposal #49** to allow for the use of Triumph Gulf Coast funds to include the dredging portion of the project. Mr. Remington explained that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) had allocated an additional \$2.5 million to the project, but that the DOT funds were restricted in allowable uses and would offset some of the costs originally scheduled to be funded by Triumph Gulf Coast. The Port is requesting permission to allocate a portion of the Triumph funding to expedite the dredging segment of the project. Mr. Remington noted that the change would not require an amendment to the Grant Award Agreement, rather, the Board could adopt a resolution allowing for the change if that were the will of the Board.

Mr. Wayne Stubbs, Director of the Port of Panama City, reported that the Port sustained major damage on the main port facility as a result of the hurricane, and that the new warehouse at the East Terminal sustained major damage. The original building has been repaired and the portion of the project being funded by Triumph Gulf Coast is moving forward. He said all major repairs should be done in the next month or so. He said that all customers except one that went out of business as a result of the storm have been retained. He gave all credit to the employees for keeping the port operational during the aftermath of the storm. Mr. Stubbs said that DOT has embraced this project and after the hurricane made an extra effort to assist with the expansion. The additional funding must be used for bulkhead construction. He said that the original plan was to use \$6 million of the \$10 million cost to construct the new bulkhead from Triumph dollars. When the DOT was able to allocate additional funds for that segment it reduced the Triumph funding. He said that originally there was not clarity on federal funding for the dredging segment of the project. That funding has now been confirmed and the Port has added an additional \$600,000 to the dredging budget to expedite the project. He said the addition of dredging as an allowable expenditure for Triumph funds will allow for maximization of the DOT funding and will help the Port Authority to maintain its level of funding. Mr. Lee asked for clarification that this change will expedite the project already approved by Triumph Gulf Coast. Mr. Stubbs indicated that was the case. Mr. Remington said that the allocation adjustment would not represent any material changes and recommended approval of the resolution which he then read. Mr. Stubbs recommended several scrivener's changes which were added to the resolution below:

*RESOLUTION RELATING TO GRANT FOR PANAMA CITY PORT AUTHORITY (Project #49)*

*WHEREAS, TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC., a Florida not-for-profit corporation (“Triumph”), and PANAMA CITY PORT AUTHORITY, a dependent special district of the City of Panama City (“Authority”) previously entered into that certain Grant Award Agreement dated June 12, 2018 (the “Agreement”) with respect certain projects at the Authority’s East Terminal property (the “Project”), pursuant to which Triumph approved a \$10,000,000 grant (the “Grant”); and*

*WHEREAS, at the time the Agreement was executed, the budget for the Project (the “Budget”) contemplated that none of the Grant funds were to be used for the dredging portion of the Project that would deepen the East Channel (the “Dredging Project”); and,*

*WHEREAS, the amount of actual grant funds from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Dredging Project was less than anticipated, but the actual amount of grant funds for the Project from the Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) was more than anticipated but may only be used for specific items; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Authority has requested that the Project Budget known as Exhibit B be adjusted to allow Triumph Grant funds to be used for the dredging portion of the Project in addition to other portions of the Project which will also be funded by the additional FDOT grant funds.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to its authority under Section 4.2 of the Agreement, Triumph hereby approves a change to the Budget that will allow Grant funds to be used for the dredging portion of the Project in addition to portions of the Project which will also be funded by additional FDOT grant funds; provided, however, that it is expressly understood and agreed that the total Grant shall not increase and shall remain at \$10,000,000.*

**Mr. Lee made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Bear seconded the motion.** Chair Gaetz asked if there was any public comment on the proposed change. No one came forward to speak. **On a roll call vote, the resolution was approved unanimously (5-0 with Mr. Bense absent and not voting.)**

The Board took up a **request by Florida State University to make technical amendments to the FSU ABSI agreement for Proposal #69** to conform the contract language to relevant statutes related to university contraction procedures. Mr. Remington confirmed that the requested changes are purely technical and not material to the previous agreement. He asked Dr. Ross Ellington, representing the FSU proposal, to comment on the request. Dr. Ellington said that the changes were simply to put the agreement in concordance with the Florida Statutes related to university spending. He noted that the changes would result in a benefit to Triumph Gulf Coast as all items that would have been “disbursable” under the original agreement will become “refundable” meaning that FSU will make expenditures and be reimbursed after the fact as those expenditures are deemed eligible by Triumph Gulf Coast, most likely on a quarterly basis. Dr. Ellington noted that the project is underway with interviews of community participants and hiring of scientific staff at the marine lab in Franklin County.

**Mr. Bear made a motion to adopt the requested changes to Proposal #69. Mr. Lee seconded the motion.** Chair Gaetz asked if anyone wished to speak on the matter. No one from the public came forward to speak. **On a roll call vote, the motion was approved unanimously (5-0 with Mr. Bense absent and not voting.)**

The Chair noted that from time to time there will be situations where original agreements may need to be adjusted. He said that this is not a static process, but a dynamic one, and as the Board learns more about the flow or operation of a project there may need to be ongoing adjustments. He made the point that the Board is open to collaborative interaction with all of its project partners and looks

forward to that good working relationship with all grant award recipients. Mr. Bear said that he would like to be sure that Triumph Gulf Coast does its due diligence to be sure that everything that can be done to work with Escambia County School District to get the workforce training back before the Board as soon as possible. Chair Gaetz reiterated that commitment as a part of the larger economic development promise of the region and directed staff to be prepared for a telephonic conference call with proper public notice for both the Escambia County and Gulf County School District proposals as soon as the partners are ready to move forward.

### **Program Administration Report**

Ms. Cori Henderson, Program Administrator, noted that Triumph Gulf Coast has now received 200 Pre-Applications for over \$1.59 billion, and 68 Applications totaling over \$583 million. She said that applications receiving scores of “C” or lower continue to receive letters of dispensation explaining that lower scoring proposals will not move forward in the review process. Those letters are posted on the website as part of the record of individual proposals.

Ms. Henderson reported that our Northwest Florida economic development partners are just returning today from the annual Air Show event in Paris and are reporting increased interest in the region from corporations as a result of the investment activities of Triumph Gulf Coast to date and the potential for future participation in new economic development in our area. She said that the combination of Triumph’s commitment to large projects such as the Pensacola Airport MRO, Whiting Field development, and the workforce education programs, are making a huge difference in the level of interest by major corporations worldwide. She said a delegation from Northwest Florida also attended Select USA in Washington. Select USA is designed to attract international corporations interested in doing business in the United States. The feedback from that event was that the Triumph Gulf Coast funding opportunities were very interesting to foreign companies, as well.

Ms. Henderson noted that **Proposal #65 – Bay Youth Summer Work Foundation / Gulf Coast State College – Bay Youth Summer Work Fund / Training has been placed on hold at the request of the applicant.** The program will go forward this year with other funding to test out the concept of workforce training and certification and will most likely come back to us with the results of those tests to verify the operational soundness of the concept for funding next year. Staff continues to work with the applicant to assure the success of the project.

Mr. Lee said that the Bay County EDA Chair, Becca Hardin, has confirmed the importance of the role of Triumph Gulf Coast on a global stage both before and after attendance at the Paris Air Show. Chair Gaetz noted the importance of seeking out and supporting high return on investment proposals in all of the eight counties with a renewed focus on Santa Rosa, Walton, Gulf, Franklin and Wakulla and asked staff to continue to pursue those opportunities in those currently less active counties. He reiterated that members of the Board are willing and able to assist in recruiting those types of economic development projects into the entire region. **Mr. Lee made a motion to approve the Program Administrator’s Report. Mr. Bear seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without objection.**

### **Economic Advisor’s Recommendations on Proposals Under Review**

Dr. Frank Fuller gave a report on **Proposal #180 – Gulf County School District – Wewahitchka High School Welding Program with a request for \$250,000 in Triumph Gulf Coast funding.** After a brief explanation of the proposal by Dr. Rick Harper, Economist, noting the cost per certificate for the program is \$5000 and within the normal expected costs for a rural education program with hurricane impacts and is recommended for approval, Dr. Fuller spoke to the economic impacts and anticipated higher paying jobs in the area as a result of the proposal. Dr. Fuller also recommended that the proposal move forward to a Term Sheet negotiation. **Mr. Lee said that this proposal is**

**right in line with the potential for filling positions in the region with workforce training and made a motion to move Proposal #180 to Term Sheet Negotiations. Dr. Dana seconded the motion.** Chair Gaetz asked if anyone from the public wished to comment on the proposal. No one came forward to speak. **On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0 with Mr. Bense absent and not voting.)**

Dr. Harper gave a brief overview of **Proposal #198 - Wakulla County School District – UAS/VSO (Drones) Certification Program request for \$1,780,000**. He noted that the program will award at least 350 certificates in visual sight operations and unmanned aerial systems over the 2019-2026 period with an average cost per certificate of \$5086. He said the cost is competitive in a rural county with hurricane impacts. He said that he, Dr. Fuller and staff recommend the proposal to move forward in the process. Dr. Fuller said that the proposal fits in with other training projects already under way in the county and the region. He then asked Ms. Sunny Chancy, on behalf of the Wakulla County School District, to give a brief update on the workforce training opportunities already funded by Triumph Gulf Coast in the county. Ms. Chancy reported that for the 2018-2019 School Year in Grades 3-5, Triumph funding resulted in the award of 331 more digital tools certifications than in prior years. The goal for the coming year is to build an after-school program to the primary school level to prepare even more students to move forward with additional training at the middle and high school levels. Chair Gaetz asked how the program was working compared to the performance metrics required by the initial grant award agreement with Triumph Gulf Coast. Ms. Chancy noted that the program is 300% above the goal in the first year.

Chair Gaetz asked for an explanation about the different types of drones and what the level of competency will be for the students receiving certifications. Ms. Chancy said that there were several levels of drones and that the plan is to begin with the simpler, less breakable drones and progress through the different levels over time. Additionally, she noted that while operation of the drone in flight is one level of competency, there is also a need to be able to understand and review analytics and data collected. That training will be incorporated into the program as well at a more advanced level of the curriculum. She and Dr. Fuller reiterated that the ability to fly drones and analyze data will be a component part of job requirements for all types of jobs in the future. While there may be “drone operator” jobs, the workforce opportunities will be enhanced for those trained to use the equipment to perform jobs formerly done manually at greater risk and cost. Dr. Fuller said that the average cost reduction in performing a job is 30-35% over the current standard for jobs where drones have been successfully deployed. He said the training will allow for those trained in these technologies to be on the cutting edge of a changing workforce. Dr. Harper noted that the demand for workforce trained in this technology is exploding, both on the local level and in the global marketplace. Mr. Bear asked about what salary range would be expected for those coming out of the training. Dr. Fuller said that jobs that might currently pay less are being redefined to include the drone operation skill set and realigned as higher paying with relevant skills. Dr. Harper said that at the entry level such jobs would be in the range of \$44,000 to \$50,000 but with higher skill levels such salaries could increase to six figure salaries depending on the region and job. Dr. Fuller noted that this training is exactly what is needed to prepare civilians and separating military personnel to take advantage of a developing aviation sector that is heavily focused on and can take advantage of the military bases across the region.

Chair Gaetz asked Ms. Chancy if the School District is committed to carrying the program forward for the duration of the term of the possible agreement with Triumph Gulf Coast. She responded that there was not any concern in that regard, and that the school district intends to carry the program forward and expand the program well into the future. **Dr. Dana made a motion to move Proposal #198 forward to Term Sheet negotiations. Mr. Bear seconded the motion.** Chair Gaetz asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to comment on the proposal. No one came forward to speak. **On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0 with Mr. Bense absent and not voting.)**



## Public Comment

**Mr. Chris Doolin**, representing the Small County Coalition and the Small School District Council Consortium, came to the meeting to thank Triumph Gulf Coast and to reiterate the importance of the organization to the small counties in the region. He said he looked forward to working with the Board and with Representative Shoaf in the legislature to continue the good work of the Board. He said that his groups recognize that while performance metrics make some people uncomfortable, economic development is a dynamic business and requires the type of accountability being negotiated by Triumph Gulf Coast. He said such accountability plays very well in Tallahassee and there must be workforce training to meet industry needs. He said rural school districts are well suited for career training and recognize both the need and opportunity for their communities and will be leaders in this arena in the future.

**Ms. Dana Peck**, a resident of Wakulla County and retired faculty member at Tallahassee Community College (TCC), addressed the Board on several issues. She spoke of the failure of the Wakulla Environmental Institute (WEI) to meet its mission goals from its inception and provided several examples. She said that she would like to have been able to acknowledge students who had received degrees in environmental science from the institute but noted that there have been no such degrees awarded to date. She said she had been encouraged by the Triumph Board's discussion at the meeting with an emphasis on the return on investment for workforce development proposals in the decision process. She asked that the Board be very vigilant in reviewing any requests from the WEI based on the track record of the applicant. She noted that in 2012, at its inception, the WEI committed to the legislature that it would provide at least eight environmental degrees at the institute. This has not happened. She said that in 2017 the TCC Board of Trustees discontinued the environmental science degree program and in 2018 the institute discontinued environmental classes. Ms. Peck noted that in 2019 the entire curriculum offering at the WEI was for three drone training classes. She said that of the three classes, only three students had signed up for one of the classes with no students in the other two classes. Ms. Peck said that the WEI oyster program was to assist the local fishing industry but has not done much in that regard. She told the Board that her comments were pre-emptive in nature because it is important for the members to understand that the track record of promises made not being kept by WEI needs to be part of the review process going forward.

**Dr. Jack Rudloe**, President of the Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Panacea thanked Representative Shoaf for the work that he has done to assist him with putting forward an application to Triumph Gulf Coast. Dr. Rudloe then expressed his displeasure with the Triumph Gulf Coast process. He noted that his original application had been turned down for funding and then read a prepared statement which can be found at [www.myfloridatriumph.com](http://www.myfloridatriumph.com) , Proposal #95 – Gulf Specimen Marine Lab Infrastructure Upgrades and Operations, "Applicant Comments." Dr. Rudloe is upset that the legislature has caused Triumph Gulf Coast to be unable to fund infrastructure projects that are not public. He has resubmitted his application but believes that the funding program is flawed by this limitation.

Chair Gaetz asked if any other members of the public wished to speak. No one came forward. Dr. Dana thanked the community for hosting the meeting in Wakulla County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.