

**Meeting Minutes  
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.  
City Council Chambers – City Hall Annex  
4100 Indian Bayou Trail  
Destin, FL 32541  
November 3, 2022  
9:30 a.m. CT**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

David Bear, Chair  
Bryan Corr, Sr.  
Reynolds Henderson, Treasurer  
David Humphreys  
Collier Merrill – Vice Chair  
Jay Trumbull, Sr.  
Leslie Weiss

Executive Director Susan Skelton called roll and announced the presence of a quorum.

Chair David Bear called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., CT and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Mr. Collier Merrill made a motion to approve the September 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes as circulated. Mrs. Leslie Weiss seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.**

**Staff Report**

Ms. Skelton gave a Legislative Update and said that the 2023 Legislative Organization Session would be held on November 23 and that the Governor had indicated that there would be a Special Session in December.

The Auditor General's Office Audit is ongoing, and staff continues to respond to inquiries from that office.

Ms. Skelton reminded members that the Performance Review Committee would meet following this meeting and that she had completed staff performance reviews. She reported that she and Chair Bear had completed their renewal discussions with legal counsel and that information would be part of her report to the Performance Review Committee.

Chair Bear then led a discussion of the Board Workshop Issues that came up for consideration at the previous day's meeting. He said that the meeting was a good one and that he appreciated the opportunity for the Board and staff to have an open dialogue. He said that because of that discussion, there are three items for consideration by the board at this meeting.

The first item for consideration would be to delete the Hurricane Michael restrictions set in place by the board for applications from Bay, Gulf, Franklin, and Wakulla Counties that required that the respective county commissions had to give permission for any applications to come from those counties. **Mr. Merrill made a motion to remove the restriction. The motion was**

**seconded by Mrs. Weiss.** Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the issue. No one came forward to speak. **The motion was approved on a roll call vote (6-0 with Mr. Henderson not present.)**

The second item was to consider putting together a committee to continue the discussion from the workshop and make recommendations for formal board action at a later meeting. Chair Bear said that it was apparent that every board member was interested in that discussion, and that he would now appoint a Committee of the Whole, including every board member, to have further meetings to discuss and make recommendations for formal action to amend the current list of Board Priorities. He appointed Mr. Merrill, as Triumph Vice Chair, to chair the committee.

Finally, he said that Mr. Trumbull had asked for staff to prepare a White Paper to outline how the current requirements and priorities affect the ability to consider different types of proposals. **Mr. Jay Trumbull, Sr., made a motion to direct staff to prepare the White Paper. The motion was seconded by Mr. Merrill.** Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the issue. No one came forward to speak. **The motion passed on a roll call vote (6-0 with Mr. Henderson not present.)**

Mr. Merrill recognized Dr. Pam Dana, former Vice Chair of Triumph Gulf Coast for her assistance at the workshop meeting and thanked her for her years of service in guiding the board in the development of the original discretionary priorities and development of the application and application process. He said that he may need to have her assistance as the Committee of the Whole works through issues at upcoming meetings.

## **Legal Report**

Mr. Scott Remington, legal counsel, gave a brief update on the status of securing the renewal of the Directors and Officers Insurance Policy. He said that the application for that renewal has been submitted and the policy is being shopped in the market. He said that staff has responded to one round of questions regarding Triumph's financial status and that he expects to have quotes back prior to the next meeting in December. His team is working with at least two brokers to try to find the most competitive price quote available.

Mr. Remington then moved to a review of Grant Award Negotiations for Proposal #271 – Okaloosa County School District – Health Academy of Northwest Florida for \$1,291,000. The project includes renovation of existing facilities at the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center to provide classroom and lab space for delivery of CAPE certificates for health care related subjects through the school district's Health Academy. The academy will guarantee 432 industry recognized CAPE certificates in health care support occupations to high school students before December 31, 2029. The district represents that it will continue the program for at least an additional four years after 2029. Match of \$2,373,923 will be provided by the district and its partners. He reported that the agreement is consistent with the term sheet previously approved by the board and all other similar agreements previously approved by the board with appropriate performance metrics and clawback provisions.

Chair Bear recognized Ms. April Branscome, on behalf of the Okaloosa County School District for remarks. Ms. Branscome thanked the Board for consideration of the proposal and noted the importance of working with the community to address ongoing staffing needs in the health care field. She said that an added positive coming from the program is that students who complete

the high school level certifications can go on to further their education through programs offered at Northwest Florida State College at no cost to themselves since the hospital has agreed to pay for that continuing education component. Mr. Bryan Corr, Sr., asked Ms. Branscome to further discuss the connection to the NWFSC training opportunities. She said that participation in the Health Academy program will provide additional strength to the students' applications to enter in to the NWFSC health care training programs. In addition, NWFSC will be housed on the Health Academy campus along with the School District so that high school seniors can dual enroll to receive college credits while still in high school. Mr. Trumbull asked about the progression of students. Ms. Branscome said that sophomore and junior year students can begin to earn CAPE certifications and then when they become seniors, they can continue to earn those certifications and begin their dual enrollment with NWFSC.

**Mr. Corr made a motion to approve the Grant Award Agreement for Proposal #271. Mr. Merrill seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to be heard on the motion. No one came forward. **The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote (7-0.)**

Mr. Remington then presented a review of Proposed Amendment to Proposal #233 – IHMC Center for Human Healthspan – Resilience and Performance for \$5,889,324 in additional funding and matching funds and an increase in Performance Metrics (from \$18,000,000 to \$35,000,000 in external matching research funding) with an extended completion date. All original terms not included in the amendment would remain in force and effect. Dr. Rick Harper, Economic Advisor, said that this is a very large project that has shown success to date and this amendment will build on that success. Most of the required original \$18,000,000 in external grant awards has already been secured and with this amendment, equipment will be provided to go into the new \$25 - \$30 million new building that IHMC, an entity of the State University System, is financing itself. In the view of staff, this is a very transformational project as it establishes the Human Performance Center at IHMC, which does a lot of contract work with the Department of Defense, and private research organizations, bringing top-notch scientists to the region to work. IHMC staff expenses are to be local personnel that will be housed in the region as opposed to being contracted out to researchers outside the region.

Mr. Reynolds Henderson said that he believes that project is transformational and absolutely amazing and recommended that everyone on the board should go and visit the center. He asked how the metrics work on this project. Dr. Harper said that this project was structured along the lines used in the Apalachicola Bay Systems Initiative project and uses competitively awarded external grant award funding as a metric for entities that are part of the State University System. He said that research projects that bring transformational industry clusters, such as this program are positive influences on local economies. He noted that the original IHMC Agreement with Triumph requires them to provide technical outreach to local businesses as part of their performance metrics. Dr. Harper noted that a partnership with University of West Florida has now created a joint Ph. D program, a first of its kind relationship and there continue to be growing linkages with the local economy and education partners. Mr. Remington pointed out that the original agreement requires IHMC to work collaboratively with and mentor at least 45 local businesses within the first three years of the agreement. Mr. Henderson said that such a partnership is wonderful and brings even more innovation into the community.

Mr. Ryan Tilley, representing IHMC, thanked the Board for considering the amendment to continue the great work that the original grant has allowed. He highlighted work being done with the Office of Naval Research studying impacts of use of oxytocin on human performance, both cognitively and physically. Another study, titled "Edge" is researching human – machine

interfaces using Artificial Intelligence machine learning and how the human machine conversation can be improved when you start using more machines, drones, and other applications side by side with humans. “Stack” which uses exogenous ketones to place humans into a ketogenic state and the effect of such a condition on servicemen and women who have traumatic brain injuries. “Apex” is a study to develop wearable technology that can assess physical and cognitive capabilities in real time before and during military missions. “Vista” applies some of the machine learning technologies to the human health prediction realm to be able to assess human performance in specific situations to learn more about human health. He said that each of these, and more research to come, will be supported by the additional Triumph funding requested in the amendment.

Mr. David Humphreys asked if there was a specific project that the new funding would address or is the request for general funding. Mr. Tilley responded that the additional funds would be used for equipment to support all research projects in the new lab facility. He said the new equipment would allow IHMC to pursue some high-end targeted research that it cannot currently perform due to space and equipment limitations. Mrs. Weiss asked if the 45 business metric is for all eight counties. Mr. Tilley indicated that was correct. Ms. Skelton noted that Dr. Julie Sheppard, Vice-President of IHMC, has offered an invitation for the Board to tour the facility next time our meeting is in Pensacola.

**Mr. Merrill made a motion to approve the amendment to Proposal #233. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.**

Mr. Trumbull asked why the funding request is in the form of an amendment, and not a new proposal. Dr. Harper said that staff is recommending it as an amendment because the funding is part of an extension of the original grant award and an indication of the success of that original award. Rather than going through a repeat of what is essentially the same request as the original award, it seemed to make more sense to extend the original award. This will also cut down on administrative compliance costs since the award is already being administered by staff.

Chair Bear asked if any member of the public wished to be heard on the motion. Mr. Scott Luth, representing the Florida West Economic Development Council, said that this project, and IHMC in general, has been a key partner in the economic development strategy for Escambia County and the region. He said that there is a developing cluster, including the Pegasus Industries project supported by Triumph Gulf Coast, of research and development that leads to manufacture and distribution and IHMC is very much a part of this growth. He said that one of the incubator tenants at an industrial park is a spin-off of work developed at IHMC. He said that the outreach of IHMC has allowed partnering with some of the incubator tenants to tap in and look at available resources for new businesses. Florida West strongly supports IHMC in this request and hopes to bring even more new proposals to Triumph soon tied to this developing industry cluster.

**The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote (7-0.)**

Next, Mr. Remington gave a review of Term Sheet Negotiations for Proposal #270 – Northwest Florida State College – Nursing Program Expansion for \$21,787,560. The proposal will provide partial funding for interior and exterior renovations to the college’s health services building and will be used to purchase equipment, supplies and furniture for the expanded classrooms and labs. Additionally, the funding will provide recruitment personnel and professional development for the grantee’s Enhanced Pathways for Nursing Education Program that will deliver 4000 industry recognized CAPE certificates in nursing and health care sciences. The applicant is providing \$21,855,260 in matching costs for a total project cost of \$43,642,820. The term sheet

is consistent with all prior Triumph term sheets approved for similar projects and provides for performance metrics and proportional clawbacks.

Mr. Henderson asked if, for the 4000 certifications over ten years, that contemplates 400 certifications per year or if that is a cumulative number. Dr. Frank Fuller, Education Advisor, replied that the number is cumulative. Mr. Henderson then asked if the funding for the proposal is "first in," or are we helping to complete the project with the college funds in first. Mr. Remington said that the college already has funds set aside and Triumph funds would follow those, but that since it is a construction project, there would probably be draws on the funding so our funds would probably be requested on a pro rata basis along with the college funds.

Chair Bear asked Dr. Christi Kedroski, Vice President of Northwest Florida State College, for her comments. Dr. Kedroski thanked the board for taking up this proposal and said this proposal will be a great asset in dealing with the shortage in nursing and health care jobs across the region. She thanked Ms. Branscome for her description of how this proposal will work in tandem with the Okaloosa Schools Health Academy to get students into the workforce in a thoughtful and timely manner. She said that NWFSC has a similar agreement with Walton County to bring their students into the program. The combined programs will almost double the number of nurses entering the regional workforce, going from 96 nurses to 180 nurses earning certification each year. The program creates a career pathway and includes the Bachelor of Science Nursing degrees offered by the college. Dr. Kedroski said that the largest portion of the funding comes in the first two years for construction and the college will be matching Triumph dollars for that construction.

Mr. Humphreys asked how many students are currently enrolled in the nursing program. Dr. Charlotte Kuss, Dean of Health Sciences, said that there are currently 150 students enrolled. The program accepts 96 new students over the course of two semesters each year. The other health sciences (radiography, physical therapist assistant, and medical laboratory technology) currently being offered are capped at 48 students per year. All these programs are growing towards those enrollment caps. She said that there are up to 100 students at a time in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, which is a two-year program. Mr. Humphreys asked how many students are graduating on an annual basis with certificates in nursing. Dr. Kuss replied that approximately 150 total per year are graduating and noted that the physical therapy and medical lab classes have just begun so there are not yet any graduates from those programs. She said that with the new facility, the number of nursing students will double, and the other programs will continue to grow. Dr. Kedroski clarified that the numbers in the request are net new completers and don't include student enrollments that are already established as a baseline.

Mr. Henderson asked about the nursing enrollments in Walton County. Dr. Kedroski explained that all the hospitals in Okaloosa and Walton are participating with NWFSC in the program. She said that while Sacred Heart may have paused expansion in Northwest Florida, the workforce need for nurses and health care workers has not subsided. The need is still very real for all the health care providers across the region. Mr. Henderson said that he would like to have regular updates on the growth of the program and how it correlates to the industry need over the course of the project. Mr. Remington reminded Mr. Henderson that the statute requires an annual review of the project that will include the information he is requesting. Chair Bear pointed out that all our projects require that type of information to be provided on an annual basis and the board has an opportunity to review that information in determining whether to continue to fund a project every year. Ms. Cori Henderson, Program Administrator, further explained for the information of our new members, that all construction projects require a quarterly review by Triumph staff while the construction is underway, and all education projects require a quarterly

review by staff in the first year of operation to assure that the project is implemented properly, and then the annual review for the remainder of the Triumph funding period.

Mr. Humphreys asked about the ramp up of enrollment over the life of the program. Dr. Kedroski said that in 2024 the number of net new completers would be 284 across all health sciences programs, by 2027 the number grows to 378, with 400 in 2028 and on to 490 per year in 2033. She reiterated that the program was developed with direct input from the health care providers in Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

In closing, Dr. Kedroski commended Triumph staff for “asking the tough questions” and guiding applicants through the process to get to being able to implement these innovative projects.

**Mr. Henderson made a motion to direct staff to begin Grant Award Agreement negotiations for Proposal #270. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Weiss.** Chair Bear asked if any member of the public wished to be heard on the proposal. No one came forward to speak. **The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote (7-0.)**

Ms. Skelton introduced the newest member of the Triumph team, Mrs. Therese Baker and said that she has already been a huge help with our workload. Chair Bear welcomed her to the team.

## **Treasurer’s Report**

Mr. Reynolds Henderson, Treasurer, and Mrs. Jennifer Davidson, CPA, presented the September 2022 Financial Report.

Mrs. Davidson pointed out that we currently have two bank accounts open as part of the transition to Centennial Bank. She said that the anticipation is that we will close out the First National Bank of Northwest Florida account by the end of the year once the new checks and the credit card have been received from Centennial Bank. She noted that September was a busy month for grant fund disbursements with \$10.6 million in distributions. Triumph continues to operate under budget by about \$10,000.

Mrs. Davidson reported that Warren Averett CPAs have completed the annual tax return and she has reviewed it. Mr. Henderson will be signing the tax return for submittal to the Internal Revenue Service. Mr. Henderson said that the transition to Centennial Bank has been very smooth, and he thanked everyone for their support in making that happen. He said that the wiring process has been smooth, and Mrs. Davidson agreed that the ability to move a lot of the required banking functions online has been a huge help. **Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the report. Mr. Merrill seconded the motion which passed without objection.**

Mr. Henderson pointed out to the new members that all the Triumph interest earned is paid back to the state and held in a separate trust fund that the Legislature controls. Triumph does not control that interest. He said it is better for Triumph to spend the money faster than to have that interest money just sitting in the state account.

## **Program Administration**

### **Program Administrator’s Report**

Program Administrator Cori Henderson explained that while her report was shorter at this meeting after the workshop meeting yesterday, the December Program Administrator Report will include the Annual Review of all 43 current Grant Awards and members will be able to see the yearly progress for all those projects. This report is included in the Semi-Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature that is due by the end of December. Staff is working on designing a standard system to verify all the various performance metrics including certifications and job creation, that will become a part of a twice-yearly reporting process to match the same data collection requirements for education used by the State of Florida for its reporting. She said that the first data collection under this new process will occur in February.

Ms. Henderson then gave her regular report (available on online under meeting materials). Mr. Henderson said that he wanted to know what the number of current applications is, and he wants to see only the current applications and pre-applications, not the cumulative number of incoming proposals. Ms. Henderson said that she will show the current pre-applications and applications in the report going forward. **Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the Program Administrator Report as presented. Mrs. Weiss seconded the motion which was approved without objection.**

### **Economic Advisor's Report**

Dr. Rick Harper, Economic Advisor, made a recommendation to move forward on Proposal #48 – Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners – First Response Communications System for up to \$11,038,669. He said that the county is requesting funding to update their current communications system through a competitive bid process. The contemplated award would represent up to 68% of the total cost of the project with the county providing some up-front expenditures and all ongoing maintenance costs associated with the upgrade. He noted that the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners has identified this project as their number one priority for use of Triumph funding. The project does not provide training or create new jobs, but the importance of a reliable community safety communications system is paramount to new businesses wanting to expand or locate in the county. The current emergency response personnel in the county are using systems and devices that are aging, incompatible and inoperable with communications systems used by other agencies in the region. The project is clearly eligible for funding under the statutory spending allowance for emergency equipment and personnel training. Since it is not possible to assign a direct number of jobs created under our normal scoring process, the project received an economic impact score of “B.”

Ms. Skelton said that this is one of the first proposals that was ever presented to Triumph for consideration in 2017. When Wakulla County first came to the Board and said that they needed assistance, staff asked how much such a system upgrade would cost and the county was unable to answer that question at that time. To their credit, the county went out and hired a third-party consultant to do a complete review of their system needs. After the original consultation came back higher than anticipated, the Wakulla County Board of Commissioners held a workshop and worked through ideas for possible cost savings with the consultant. She said this request is a result of an ongoing conversations with Wakulla County leaders, their response teams, and the consultant for almost five years and the problem is that the current County Commission is having to deal with the lack of action from its prior boards. Ms. Skelton pointed out that the Triumph Board now has a member who is a professional in this field and said that Mr. Bryan Corr has been kind enough to speak with the county several times in the formulation of this application and has assisted them with ideas for ways to cut costs in their bid award process. She said that the county has been responsive in listening to him on finding

additional ways to find cost efficiencies going forward. She said that this is truly an example of a small county that simply does not have any more to give and that needs assistance to move forward. The legislative delegation has repeatedly asked for appropriations assistance and Representative Jason Shoaf has been a supporter of this project since he served on the Triumph board prior to his legislative service. Ms. Skelton said that staff greatly appreciates the time and effort that Mr. Corr has given to helping bring this project forward.

Chair Bear recognized Wakulla County Commission Chair Quincee Messersmith and called Mr. David Edwards, County Administrator forward for comments. Mr. Edwards asked to have Commissioner Ralph Thomas, former Chair and original supporter of the proposal, recognized. Commissioner Thomas thanked Triumph Gulf Coast for its support and for recognizing that the eight counties are diverse and different. For a small rural county like Wakulla, this project will be a game changer. He reiterated that this proposal has been the number one project for the county for many years. The county has been seeking funding from the legislature since 2015. He said there was not another single project that will have a bigger public safety or economic impact to the county. He said that there are places in Wakulla County that don't have cell service. There are places in the county where the existing radio communications system will not work. Deputies and firefighters that have needed to call for backup have had to go into residents' homes to find a landline to call back to dispatch for help. Commissioner Thomas reiterated the importance of this upgrade and commended local emergency responders for patching together the current system to the best of their abilities. He said there have been times when they have had to buy parts from eBay because the parts are obsolete. There is no redundancy in the system. He thanked the Triumph Board for its consideration of the funding request and pledged that the county will spend those funds very judiciously.

Mr. Corr explained a little about his background in the field. He built one of the first rural cell phone systems in Alabama, from Birmingham north to the Tennessee line, so he is very familiar with the issues faced by these counties. He was the first Chair of the 911 Board for his county in Alabama and worked closely with the emergency response community to address their needs. He said that he has reviewed the needs assessment provided by Wakulla County's third-party consultant and concurs that this upgrade is seriously needed. The county is sitting on the precipice of a disaster with imminent failure of the entire system as a real possibility, so something needs to be done. He said he does have some concerns about some of the engineering proposals, but that the county is not yet able to address those issues until they award a bid. He said there may be a possibility of using some existing towers in lieu of some of the proposed new towers if capacity exists on those towers but that is still to be determined. He said he had recommended that the county negotiate the types of equipment to be provided to the responders, as some would need highly technical and hardened equipment while others might simply need a "push to talk" equipped cell phone or radio. He says he supports the project moving forward and volunteered to come to the county and work with them to assure the best use of the funding. Chair Bear thanked Mr. Corr for his assistance.

Ms. Skelton pointed out that Chair Bear had spoken with the county about the possibility of assigning some of its local option sales tax revenues to the project to increase the county's match funding and Chair Messersmith has recently signed a letter of commitment to increase the county's match by \$1 million. She said that while the Legislature can't move fast enough to get this funding moving, Representative Shoaf has indicated that he is going to continue to try to secure assistance through the appropriations process and that is why the award request is "up to" the amount shown. If and when the Legislature provides funds, the Triumph request could be reduced. Chair Bear said that he really appreciated the county's willingness to "sharpen the pencil" and work to find a solution to this dire situation.



Mrs. Weiss said that she has actually gone to the Wakulla dispatch center and talking with the Sheriff about the problems that grow out of this system failure. One of the key features of the upgrade would be to allow for interoperable communications with surrounding counties (including Franklin), the Florida Highway Patrol, Fish and Wildlife officers, and other state and federal response agencies in an emergency. It will allow direct communications with other agencies without having to go through a dispatch panel. The system will allow redundancy and allow for radios to be able to be used in structures which are currently impenetrable for communications. She said that one of the components that she found to be very important is that the new system will allow for encryption. Currently, the county response radio channels are "open to the public" and anyone, including the bad guys, can listen to all radio traffic and know who is responding, where they are responding, who the victims may be, and other pertinent information that could be critical both to family privacy and officer safety and response methods. She said that people assume that when they call 911 that it will work in their county. That is not always the case in Wakulla today and that is wrong. She said there is a dire need for this system upgrade, and she thanked the county for bringing it forward.

Mr. Merrill asked about how long it would take to get the new upgrades completed. Mr. Edwards responded that it would take approximately 15 to 18 months. Mr. Corr said that one of the suggestions that he has for the county, use of the already constructed towers, might be able to speed up the project timeline, but he doesn't yet know if that is feasible.

Mr. Corr said that he gets emotional about this subject for one of the reasons that Mrs. Weiss addressed. The "open channels" issue is personal to him. He said that shortly after the new 911 system was operational and in the testing phase in his home county in Alabama, one of his children was run over by a car. He called 911 on his analog cell phone and the dispatcher called the police to respond. He said that before he could get to the hospital to check on his child, half of the town already knew about the accident. He said that was distressing to him and his family and that is why he thinks that the encryption feature is so important.

Mr. Henderson asked if the county had a plan for broadband and if it could be used as part of the development of the response system. Commissioner Thomas said that part of the plan for the new towers would be to have broadband and possibly 5G capabilities available to the community. Mrs. Weiss said broadband provides another level of redundancy to the system and is important across the entire county.

Mr. Humphreys asked about the bid process. Commissioner Thomas said that the bid process has been completed, but that the bids have not yet been presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. Mr. Humphreys asked if there was leeway to negotiate for an expedited timeframe. Mr. Edwards said that staff has narrowed the list to two vendors and that part of the negotiation will include an expedited completion date. There is room to discuss "partial implementation" or a staggered timeframe to meet the immediate needs.

**Mrs. Weiss made a motion to direct staff to move to a Term Sheet negotiation, with the stipulation that consideration of the use of value engineering is a part of the negotiation process. Mr. Corr seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if any member of the public wished to be heard on the proposal. No one came forward to speak. **The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote (7-0.)**

Dr. Frank Fuller, Education Advisor, made a recommendation to move forward with Proposal #244 – Bay District Schools – Thunderbird Tech Program for \$147,900. He said that the proposal would allow for establishment of the program to provide third and fifth grade students

at Tyndall Academy with the opportunity to learn digital skills through after-school and summer school training courses. The program will provide 140 CAPE certifications in digital tools over five years. The proposal has received an economic impact score of “A” by Triumph staff.

Ms. Chandra Tyson, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education for the Bay County School District, and Ms. Kara Mulkusky, Principal of Tyndall Academy spoke on behalf of the program. Ms. Skelton clarified that the academy is currently a Pre-K-8 school located on Tyndall Air Force Base that was originally an elementary school. This program is an opportunity for Triumph Gulf Coast to show support to the Air Base as they begin the future rebuild process. Ms. Mulkusky explained that after Hurricane Michael the elementary school population decreased from 700+ to about 100 due to the surrounding area devastation. The current enrollment for Pre-K – 8 grade is now back up to 800.

**Mr. Trumbull made a motion to direct staff to move to Term Sheet negotiations for Proposal #244. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.** Chair Bear asked if any member of the public wished to speak about the proposal. No one came forward. **The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote (7-0.)**

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Brian Liesveld, CEO of DefenseWerx, and Devan Lamonica and Sarah Ambriz representing the Doolittle Institute, thanked the Board for deeming its application eligible to continue in the application process and said such an application should be forthcoming soon. He said that DefenseWerx is a small non-profit company of about 100 employees located in Okaloosa County with ten innovation hubs located across the country from Tampa to Washington D.C., to Monterrey and points in between to provide innovation workforce development for the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Central Intelligence Agency. The company provides a workforce training capability matching service for the military community to interface with small businesses that may provide the specific needed capability for a particular mission. The company has very unique authority from the military to go out and find those small businesses that would otherwise never be known to the military to problem solve for very specific circumstances. He said that his company’s goal is to keep the incoming military project budgets in the local communities and not exported to other places that have a bigger presence with large corporations.

Mr. Liesveld said that Digital Engineering is the wave of the future at the Department of Defense. There is not currently much of such a capability for this technology in Northwest Florida, so his company is focused on creating a workforce pipeline for the emerging technology with available separating service members, their spouses, and students in our school systems, colleges, and universities in the region. Ms. Ambriz, Doolittle Institute Deputy Director, said that digital engineering is taking a product’s life cycle from design through development, testing and delivery and creating digital threads for solutions through models, simulated scenarios, testing and production so that anyone in the industry could come in and pick up the “threads” to continue with completion of a product life cycle to get it into production for the customer. The goal is to create a workforce that is all digital. They would understand the modeling, have simulation skills, and know the required digital project management skills. She said that the Doolittle Institute knows that development of that workforce will take time and that they want to create a long-term program that will attract business to the area. Their proposal would be to

take a twelve-year period and begin working with the current workforce and transitioning military workforce to get them certified to work in the emerging digital engineering field. The original focus will be on assisting separating military members with filling the “gap” between their current training and the level of training needed to reach full certification so that they will have a reason to stay in the area. Ultimately, the program would filter into our local educational institutions from university and college level down to the K-12 schools.

DefenseWerx industry partner Mr. Robert Ogden, representing STC, works directly with the Department of Defense and said that while the initial function of digital engineering is applicable to military uses, it will be useful across many of the sectors that Triumph addresses including aviation and aerospace, life sciences, and construction.

### **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Trumbull said that this meeting, and the workshop, have been very productive. He thanked staff for finding a way to get the Wakulla project through. That is a real success story that began back in 2017. The Okaloosa County Health Academy will have a great impact on the region, and he was glad to see that project move forward since nursing is a much needed job section.

Mr. Corr said that it amazing to learn about all the interesting business and education projects that are ongoing in the region. Not everyone is here just sitting on the beach!

Mr. Merrill thanked staff for the workshop and said he thinks the Committee of the Whole will allow for everyone to continue to participate in the conversation.

Mr. Henderson said while things are moving in the right direction, he encourages the counties that are still not finding good economic development projects to reach out, and for staff to continue try to help those counties.

Mrs. Weiss thanked staff for the workshop and said that it was very helpful to her in figuring out what types of projects to pursue for the small counties. She thanked the Board for supporting the Wakulla County Communications proposal. She said it is a really big deal for the small county and everyone involved is very grateful for the consideration.

Mr. Humphreys said that it is exciting that we are building workforce education pipelines like the ones approved today for nursing, starting in high school, and going all the way through college and university level education. He said that based on what he has witnessed after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and Hurricane Michael in Bay County he would encourage Wakulla County to investigate any hurricane hardening that they can include in their upgraded communications system.

Ms. Skelton let members know that the next Triumph Board Meeting is scheduled for December 15 at the Bay County Government Center. She said that she has received a lot of feedback from members about the workshop and that the most important thing that she has heard was how important members thought it was to be able to interact with former board members, Dr. Pam Dana, and Mr. Ben Lee. She thanked them for their participation. Members asked to have that interaction with former members on a regular and continuing basis. Members said that the workshop format was very helpful in allowing for open communications with each other in a public setting that allowed for conversation while conforming to the Sunshine Law.

Chair Bear thanked the former members and said that it is very important for the board to understand the history of the board. He thanked members and staff for bringing forward some great proposals and again welcomed Mrs. Baker to the team. He thanked the applicants for continuing to work with staff to get their proposals to "yes," and he thanked the City of Destin for providing this great meeting venue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m. CT.