

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.**  
Conference Call Meeting  
Phone: 866-899-4679 ID: 815-705-357  
March 1, 2024 9:00 a.m. CT

**Members Present:**

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

**Call to Order & Welcome Roll Call**

Chair David Bear called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. CT. Ms. Susan Skelton, Executive Director, called roll and announced the presence of a quorum.

The first item on the agenda was review and approval of the February 5 Board meeting minutes. Chair Bear asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes.

Chair Bear noted that there was a scrivener's error in the Treasurer's Report.

**On a motion by Mrs. Leslie Weiss and seconded by Mr. Reynolds Henderson, the Amended February 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes were approved without objection.**

**Legal Report**

Mr. Alan Manning, Legal Counsel, introduced the first item for review - **Grant Award Negotiations for Proposal #296 – Bay Economic Development Alliance – Project Maple - \$11,250,000.** The proposed grantee, Panama City Bay County Airport, and Industrial District, has requested funds to support the expansion of an MRO facility with Premier Aviation Quebec, Inc. at the airport. Mr. Manning reminded everyone that this grant award agreement differs somewhat from the original term sheet that resulted in lengthy discussions and negotiations with the parties, but it is in a form now that staff recommends for approval.

Chair Bear invited Mr. Parker McClellan, Airport Director at Northwest Beaches International Airport, to speak. Mr. McClellan thanked the Triumph team on behalf of the airport. He noted that while this has been quite an in-depth negotiation process, his team is excited that they were able to push this project over the finish line. Mr. McClellan concluded by thanking the Triumph Board and staff for their efforts and assistance with funding.

Next Chair Bear introduced Ms. Becca Hardin, President/CEO of Bay Economic Development Alliance. Ms. Hardin thanked Chair Bear and stated that she wanted to publicly acknowledge that this project could not happen without the support of Triumph Gulf Coast. This will be Premier Aviation Quebec, Inc.'s U.S. headquarters operations, creating at least 250 new jobs and with a \$32 million capital investment. Through the partnership with Triumph Gulf Coast, Bay EDA has been able to successfully push this forward and they are looking forward to working with Space Florida, the Airport Authority and Triumph to make this project come to fruition.

Finally, Chair Bear introduced Scott Luth, Vice President of Economic Development and Capital Programs at Space Florida. Mr. Luth stated that Space Florida is happy to be a partner and be involved in this project, working through the process with Triumph. He thanked the Triumph staff for working with them to get to this point. They are happy to be involved and happy to answer any questions.

Chair Bear thanked Mr. McClellan, Ms. Hardin, and Mr. Luth for working together and with Triumph staff to get through this process and figure out the structure. He also commented that this project will be beneficial to all counties across the region, and he is hopeful Triumph will see more great projects come out of this structure and this relationship.

**Mr. Jay Trumbull, Sr. made a motion to approve the Proposed Grant Award Agreement and Mr. David Humphreys seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if there was any debate, discussion, or questions for the speakers; or if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the proposal. Seeing none, Ms. Skelton called roll. **The motion passed on roll call vote (6-0.)**

Chair Bear then explained that discussion of the next item originally on the agenda, **Review of Grant Award Negotiations for Proposal #291 – Pensacola-Escambia PEDC – Project LASER - \$6,000,000**, had been temporarily postponed by the applicant.

Mr. Manning introduced the next item on the agenda - **Review of Proposed Third Amendment to Proposal # 98 – Walton County Sheriff's Office – Vocational/Technical Training Program - No Additional Funds.** Mr. Manning stated that this a request for approval of an amendment to decrease the total project cost amount by \$534,531; to correspondingly decrease the matching funds by \$244,516; and to decrease the grant amount by \$290,007, while extending the proposed completion date of the project to June 30th, 2025. Staff recommends approval of this amendment.

Chair Bear introduced speaker Ms. Minette Bruce, CFO of the Walton County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Bruce noted that the extension of the proposed completion date was approved during COVID, but it did not make it into the Second Amendment, and that is the reason it must be added to this Third Amendment.

**Mr. Reynolds Henderson made a motion to approve the Proposed Third Amendment to the Grant Award Agreement and Mrs. Leslie Weiss seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if there was any debate, discussion, or questions for the speakers; or if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the proposal. Seeing none, Ms. Skelton called roll. **The motion passed on roll call vote (6-0.)**

Mr. Manning then introduced **Review of Proposed Fourth Amendment to Proposal # 198 – Wakulla County School Board – UAS/VSO Certification Program – No Additional Funds.** Mr. Manning noted that this amendment does not involve any new or additional grant funds. It

includes a revision of the performance metrics to combine the categories of certificates that would be required to satisfy the metrics. Instead of requiring a certain number of certificates for a certain type of program, there is more simply a collective number for all the programs, and the amendment would update the budget line items to reflect that. Staff recommends approval.

Chair Bear invited Ms. Priscilla Colvin, Executive Director of Academics for Wakulla County School District, to speak. Ms. Colvin expressed her appreciation for all the hard work that the Triumph Board and staff are doing to help them implement and maintain this program. She stated that it has been an excellent opportunity for their students, and they appreciate the merging of those certifications into one group.

**Mrs. Leslie Weiss made a motion to approve the Proposed Fourth Amendment to Grant Award Agreement and Mr. David Humphreys seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if there was any debate, discussion, or questions for the speakers; or if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the proposal. Seeing none, Ms. Skelton called roll. **The motion passed on roll call vote (6-0.)**

Mr. Manning then introduced **Review of Proposed Second Amendment to Proposal # 257 – Pensacola State College – Cyber Security and IT Expansion – No Additional Funds.** Mr. Manning stated that this amendment simply moves \$500,000 from one budget line item for construction, to a different budget line item for furniture, equipment, and fixtures. It does not involve any new or additional grant funds, and staff recommends approval.

Chair Bear introduced Dr. Debbie Douma, Dean of Grants and Federal Programs at Pensacola State College, and Susan Peaden, Assistant Comptroller at Pensacola State College, to speak. Dr. Douma gave the floor to Ms. Peaden, who noted that when PSC had submitted their original application, part of the equipment, \$500,000 was presented as such, but when they received their project detail from the Triumph Board, this \$500,000 had been included in construction category rather than the equipment category, so they are simply requesting that this be moved from construction into equipment for project reporting purposes.

**Mr. Reynolds Henderson made a motion to approve the Proposed Second Amendment to Grant Award Agreement and Mr. Jay Trumbull, Sr. seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if there was any debate, discussion, or questions for the speakers; or if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the proposal. Seeing none, Ms. Skelton called roll. **The motion passed on roll call vote (6-0.)**

### **Public Comment**

Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public would like to speak about any items related to Triumph.

Ms. Becca Hardin, President/CEO of Bay Economic Development Alliance, said she wanted to publicly acknowledge and share with the Triumph Board that Ms. Susan Skelton, Triumph Gulf Coast Executive Director, was nominated and has been awarded one of the prestigious regional professional awards in the Panhandle area called the Pinnacle Award. This recognition is annually awarded by 850 Magazine, and Ms. Hardin nominated Ms. Skelton because of her work in the region, and the success that she has had leading the Triumph Gulf Coast Board and staff to make some transformational projects happen in the area. Ms. Hardin noted that the Panhandle communities would not see the kind of positive activity they have if not for Triumph

Gulf Coast and Ms. Skelton's leadership. Ms. Hardin again acknowledged Ms. Skelton's well-deserved recognition and thanked her for her tremendous service. She also mentioned that 850 Magazine will be hosting a luncheon in honor of all Pinnacle Award recipients on Tuesday, March 5.

Ms. Skelton expressed her sincere thanks and appreciation for the honor and noted that it was nice to receive recognition for the difference Triumph Gulf Coast is making.

Chair Bear thanked Ms. Hardin for recognizing Ms. Skelton, and he also thanked Ms. Skelton and stated that the recognition was definitely well-deserved.

### **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Henderson thanked the Board for a good meeting and wished everyone a nice weekend.

Mr. Corr seconded Mr. Henderson's comments.

Mr. Trumbull expressed the same sentiments and said he believes Project Maple will be great, especially given the partnership with Space Florida. He commended everyone on a job well done negotiating the project.

Mrs. Weiss congratulated Ms. Skelton on her well-deserved Pinnacle Award recognition and thanked her for putting together the meeting.

Mr. Humphries echoed the sentiments of Mrs. Weiss. He thanked Ms. Skelton for her hard work. He stated that while he has only served on the Triumph Gulf Coast Board for a year, he can clearly see that Ms. Skelton is one of the most knowledgeable, thorough people that he has had the opportunity to work with, and he appreciates her. He also stated that he looks forward to seeing Project Maple come to fruition, and he is excited that that Staff was able to solidify the agreement template to be able to pursue new opportunities with Space Florida.

Ms. Skelton reminded the Triumph Gulf Coast Board to reserve April 10th on their calendars for the next Triumph meeting in Apalachicola.

Chair Bear then concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for taking the conference call. He thanked the representatives from each of the agencies who provided some comments about their proposals and the Triumph Board for being on this quick call. Chair Bear thanked Susan for organizing the call, and thanked Mr. Manning and staff for all their hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m. CT.