



**Strategic Policy & Planning Committee Meeting**  
**November 30, 2021**  
**1:30pm – 3pm**

**Present:** Cristina Paredes, Beth Cicchetti, Scott Watson, Antonio Jefferson, Shelly Bell, Erin Gillespie, Amber Tynan, and Amy Geiger

**Absent:** Renisha Gibbs, Missy Rudd, and Kevin Vaughn

**Guest:** Larry Fairman and Darin Finley, Fairman Consulting

**Staff:** Jim McShane and Dee Robinson

**Recording:** Patricia McCray

**I. Welcome, and Call to Order:**

Chair Paredes welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting. She then proceeded to call the meeting to order.

**II. ACTION ITEM I – Meeting Minutes Approval August 11, 2021**

Chair Paredes brought everyone's attention to the August 11, 2021 meeting minutes. She asked if anyone had any questions or comments concerning the minutes. There were none.

**Motion:** Chair Paredes entertained a motion to approve the August 11, 2021 minutes. Amber made the motion, and Erin seconded. **Action Item I Approved.**

**III. ACTION ITEM II – Board Retreat Agenda**

Jim provide the committee a review of the Board Retreat Agenda. The Board Retreat will be held at the Smith William Community Center on Pasco Street. The agenda starts with an overview of the day by Fairman Consulting and then a presentation on the Demographic Draft – Key Points by Chris Laney, EdD Senior Workforce Strategist EMSI/Burning Glass. And then, after feedback and comments, and there will be a short break. Next on the agenda is a aeviw of the Florida 2030 Plan: Pillars & Goals that align with CSCR. There's one section in one of the pillars that's about workforce development. And there's only four items that will be discussed on how CSCR can align with those goals. After that discussion, there will be a working lunch to discuss in depth the strategic plan. The Fairman consultants, Larry and and Darrin will both lead that.

The goal at the end is going to be that all CSCR committees and, Board committees will have at least one or two strategies that they're going to carry out over the next year that they're going to work on. There will be actual assignments to each board committee and which provides greater opportunities to really get more engaged in how CSCR can get better at doing the work. The goal is to have everybody walk away with at least a couple of goals and whatever committee they set sit on and to make sure that over the next year we work on those goals. Are there any questions? Does that sound good? That's the first thing we want to know is this. Does this look reasonable to all board members that what we've outlined here is something that you think is going to do a good job for what you're sitting on this board to do.

**IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEM I – Performance Improvement Plan Update**

Dee Robinson gave an update on the current PIP. She stated that there has been a review meeting scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup> with the service provider senior leadership as well as CSCR's senior leadership. In this meeting it will be discussed the service provider's progress

towards completing tasks outlined in the PIP. Additionally, after the discussion it will be decided if the PIP will be ended, amended or continued. Other updates will be provided in future meetings.

## **V. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – EDO Quarterly Reports (All Counties)**

### **Wakulla County EDO Report**

Amy stated that their EDC coordinators, Beth and Julie have promoted a couple of different events, just got back with Florida's Great Northwest Site Selection event that was in Destin. Also the Duke Energy's Next Level Summit in Orlando that just took place. And then in December, they will continue to promote Wakulla County at the Florida Roll Summit in St. Augustine, December 8. So, again, we're so pleased with Beth and Julie and the work that they're doing, they give us a report each month newsletter and highlight their activities. So they just had another site selection visit so we're anxious to hear how that went.

Wakulla County has 361 employment opportunities which is down from a little over 400 according to their CSCR local office. Wakulla County has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the region which is 3.1%. From a real estate as far as commercial and residential in Wakulla County will remain strong and it's been estimated the values will continue to increase. They are getting more calls for commercial rentals which is believed because of the new Publix coming to Wakulla County. Also, there's a need for more residential rental properties.

### **Gadsden County EDO Report**

Antonio stated Gadsden County received a Rural Infrastructure Grant over a year ago to help the community to develop a five year strategic plan. They are almost 70% of the completion of that plan. The Beth and Ronnie Bryan who's an economic development professional out of Charlotte, North Carolina, is assisting Beth with with that process. They're currently doing CEO interviews and have targeted 60 CEOs of companies here against the county to assess what they what they thought were barriers, good and bad things, why they want to classify Gadsden county that that either prevent them from growing or opportunities that they see the future for growth, certainly measures and put in place. Again, very good positive feed back from all that's participating.

The other part of that project that rural infrastructure project was for the city of Quincy to identify the developable portion of land belonging to a large business or what was intended to be a large business on Joanna's row. Dewberry engineering is principal on that on that project that's advancing very well. Gadsden County will have a strategic plan for the community that could take its course the next five year time horizon, but more importantly, they are refining all of their assets that are available for development.

Gadsden County is also winding down their freight logistics evaluation of 500 acres of land that we have in Gretna this adjacent to Interstate 10 and highway 12. They are about 90% close to completion with that process. This is one piece of the property this is the total freight logistics zone that extends from Franklin County all the way back up to Gadsden County and taking advantage of rail in Port Port St. Joe. And they are hoping at some point to make the connection during this process as part of their plan with Tallahassee International Airport. So we're hoping that that study which is included in phase one environmental on this property will result in something that the region can take to bring into into the fold. The total asset print that allows Gadsden County to take advantage of both real existing railway infrastructure obviously the court and then the airport in

Apalachicola to get those assets mobilized into something more productive than how it currently sits.

### **Leon County EDO Report**

Christina, asked if everyone has seen the Amazon project moving forward on Interstate 10 and 90. Leon County is in discussion with Amazon about AWS training and tech. Stay tuned for more information as the new year approaches on how we can take advantage of new service with the monies by DEO and DOE on the new partnership with Amazon.

Leon County and the other counties is undertaking efforts for broadband, working with the DEO and Cristina is working to create a committee and staffing for that project. Cristina asked if anyone has an interest in serving on the Leon County portion of that, please do let her know. A big thank you to Antonio and Amber for representing on that committee as well.

The Leon County numbers for November, there's a 5% increase in employment for both the city proper and the county. The total taxable sales for MSA are up 16% over last year. The taxable sales for the MSA were about 480 million. And Leon County is the MSA average weekly wages creep up to those are up 12% over last year. And if you were to take out inflation, that's a 6% growth in year over year for the average weekly wages and that's for the total MSA. This is good news for Leon County.

The Leon County vacancy rates for space and warehouse it's hovering around 1.9% vacancy rates for industrial and 6.5% for office and that's just some interesting stats that are in the Leon County area. Cristina stated that she's working on a couple of projects, hopefully that come to fruition within our MSA to coming into the next year year. Leon County will host a little round table to talk about the fulfillment and center and the jobs to fill that area.

### **CareerSource Captial Region EDO Report**

Jim stated the Workforce Alliance which is nine workforce boards are going to go for the EDA Jobs Ggrant. Working with the nine workforce boards build the continuity between all of us across the state line and and makes it so that we're all focused on manufacturing, IT, healthcare andTDM transportation distribution logistics. And the fact is we all are doing something that areas so what we'll be able to do is start to show the story of what each area is doing and then start to look for where can we work together? Where can we put our resources together in order to attract more business and get more jobs into our region. Jim is looking forward to that and will keep the board informed.

## **IX. Adjourn**

**Motion:** Co-chair Kevin asked if anyone had any more updates for the Committee. No one responded, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 pm.

**Next meeting**  
**February 9, 2022**