

**Meeting Minutes  
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.  
Santa Rosa County Commission Chambers  
County Administration Building  
6495 Caroline Street  
Milton, Florida 32570  
May 29, 2024  
10:30 a.m. CT**

**Members Present:**

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

**Call to Order & Welcome, Roll Call**

Chair David Bear called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM 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 April 10, 2024 Board meeting minutes. Chair Bear asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes. **On a motion by Collier Merrill and seconded by Reynolds Henderson, the March 1, 2024, Meeting Minutes were approved without objection.**

Chair Bear welcomed Miss Georgia Henderson, daughter of Program Administrator Cori Henderson, to her first “in-person” Triumph Board meeting and noted that Georgia has participated in many conference calls and Zoom meetings over the years as her mother’s helper throughout the pandemic years.

Mr. Shannon Ogletree, Santa Rosa County Economic Development Director, gave an overview of Triumph funded Santa Rosa Economic Development projects. He made a PowerPoint presentation highlighting four Santa Rosa County Economic Development (SREDO) projects currently being funded by Triumph, one additional project for which they are currently seeking funds, and three additional projects for which they might seek Triumph funds. The four actively funded projects discussed included Whiting Aviation Park (Project #72), Santa Rosa I-10 Industrial Park (Project #209), Santa Rosa I-10 Industrial Park (Project #240), and Milton Interchange Park (Project #251). Mr. Ogletree briefly mentioned a project for which SREDO is currently seeking approval of its proposed term sheet, Bagdad Distribution Building (Project #331). In closing, he mentioned a few projects that are in the planning phase for which SREDO may seek Triumph funding including: Navy Land Swap/New Industrial Park, Project Clean Sky, and Whiting Aviation Park Phase II.

All project data including performance metrics and lists of companies involved may be reviewed in full detail on the May 29, 2024 meeting details page located at <https://www.myfloridatriumph.com/meeting-documents/4484/>.

Chair Bear asked the Board if there were any questions, and seeing none he thanked Mr. Ogletree, and thanked Santa Rosa County Commissioners Smith and Wright for attending the meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mrs. Jennifer Davidson, CPA, reviewed the April 30, 2024 financial statements. She noted that Triumph Gulf Coast has received the 2024 \$80 million allotment from the state. The Statement of Activity shows Triumph has collected \$2.7 million in interest income, \$80 million in Settlement Revenue and had \$6.6 million in Funds Distributed in April. The budget to actual for the month ended April 30th shows Triumph is under budget in administrative costs by about \$8,763. For the four months ended April 30, 2024, Triumph's interest income year to date was \$10.8 million, and the organization remained under budget in administrative costs.

Mr. Bryan Corr, Sr., asked whether Triumph Gulf Coast will be able to keep the interest income in the coming years.

Chair Bear thanked Mr. Corr for the question and stated that it was very timely, as Governor DeSantis signed CS/HB 141 Economic Development into law yesterday which will allow Triumph to keep the interest income going into the future. Mr. Collier Merrill thanked the Chair for his efforts in working with the legislature to keep this interest in the Triumph budget.

Mrs. Leslie Weiss inquired about whether the Board decided how they would plan to use the interest money. Ms. Skelton said that the interest can be used for additional projects or for administrative costs, and it would be up to the Board to determine how they want to allocate the funds. Chair Bear explained that there is nothing in the bill that restricted it to the .75%.

Mr. David Humphreys asked whether money could be pulled out of a general account like this for either administrative or for grant awards, or if the funds could be placed into sort of a secondary pot to give that flexibility. Ms. Skelton replied that the interest is simply shown as an asset.

**Mr. Reynolds Henderson made a motion to approve the April Financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Leslie Weiss and approved without objection.**

Mrs. Davidson then reviewed the draft Independent Auditors' Report of the financial statements ending December 31st, 2023. Mrs. Davidson started by translating into non-accounting terms the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of the report which reads: "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the General Fund of the Organization as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." Mrs. Davidson stated that in non-accounting terms, this means that the audit was found to be "clean."

Mrs. Davidson explained that the only thing not included on the financial statements previously approved for December is noted as a Correction of Error on page 14 under Prior Period Adjustment. She reminded the Board that they had discussed this in several meetings previously, and that it was necessary to go back and approve grantees' expenses that had occurred before the end of the year that Triumph had not yet reimbursed. Originally, when the issue was discussed with the auditors last year, they wanted Triumph to implement the change

in 2023, and they did; however, when it went to the supervisor at the accounting firm for review, the concurring partner came back and said that it was also necessary for Triumph to do that for 2022, so they restated Triumph's beginning balance in 2023 as if those amounts had been approved when they presented the 2022 audit. Anything paid out in January, February, and half of March in 2023 was reconsidered as a 2022 expense. In total, it made a difference of about \$6.3 million to shift 23 disbursements into calendar year 2022. Mrs. Davidson explained that the Board won't have to go back and change anything else. They will just need to continue with the current process for approval every year, and everything else is consistent with the normal financial statements. Mrs. Davidson concluded by referencing the Report of Compliance on pg. 16, which stated, "The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards."

**Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the Draft Financial Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Weiss. The motion passed unanimously on roll call vote (6-0.)**

### **Staff Report**

Ms. Skelton restated what Chair Bear mentioned earlier in the meeting - that Governor DeSantis has signed CS/HB 141 - Economic Development into law. The bill was sponsored by Representative Shane Abbott in the House and Senator Corey Simon in the Senate; and an amendment was filed by Senator Jay Trumbull, Jr., in the Senate. Ms. Skelton took a moment to especially thank those members, along with Senator Doug Broxson and the support of delegation for their work to make sure that Triumph can continue its legacy of administering the distribution of funds to be used for the recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the eight Northwest Florida counties disproportionately affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The bill will go into effect July 1, 2024.

Ms. Skelton again welcomed Miss Georgia Henderson, to her first Triumph Board Meeting. Georgia is almost 9 years old and has been a part of Triumph's work family since she was a toddler, so this was a very special occasion for all.

Ms. Skelton requested the Board's permission for staff to start preparation and completion of the Semi-Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature, due on June 30.

**Mr. Merrill made a motion to direct the staff and Chair to complete the report and Mr. Henderson seconded the motion which was approved without objection.**

### **Legal Report**

Mr. Alan Manning, Legal Counsel, introduced the **Proposed Grant Award Agreement for Proposal #282 - Gulf Coast State College — Nursing and Healthcare Expansion – up to \$24,302,669**. Mr. Manning stated that this is a grant request in the amount of \$24,302,669 for the establishment of an interprofessional education simulation training center at Gulf Coast State College Panama City campus. The grant award agreement is consistent with the term sheet that the board approved at the last meeting and staff recommends approval.

Chair Bear welcomed Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) Executive Vice President Cheryl Flax-Hyman. Dr. Flax-Hyman said that President McDonald very much wanted to be there, but unfortunately, he was required to attend a State Board of Education meeting that day. She expressed gratitude on behalf of GCSC to the Triumph Board and staff and stated that this

important project will allow the college to expand their health science and public safety programs and allow the collegiate high school to double their nursing program and provide continuing education to the workforce. Dr. Flax-Hyman concluded by stating they are eager to get started and she introduced her colleagues in attendance with her including Dr. Holly Kuehner, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dr. Keri Matheus, Division Chair – Nursing Health Sciences.

**Mr. Humphreys made a motion to approve the Proposed Grant Award Agreement and Mr. Henderson seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the proposal. **The motion passed unanimously on roll call vote (6-0.)**

Next, Mr. Manning introduced the **Proposed First Amendment to Grant Award Agreement #211 – Pensacola State College – Truck Driver Training Program and Facility – No Additional Funds.** He explained that this proposed amendment does not involve any new grant funds – it simply reallocates some items among different budget line items and staff recommends approval.

**Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the Proposed First Amendment to Grant Award Agreement and Mrs. Weiss seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the proposal. **The motion passed unanimously on roll call vote (6-0.)**

Mr. Manning introduced the **Proposed First Amendment to Grant Award Agreement #251 – Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners – Milton Interchange Park – Additional \$5,400,000 with equal match, additional jobs, and time extension.** Mr. Manning explained that this proposed amendment involves a request for an additional \$5,400,000 in grant funds, and an additional \$5,400,000 in matching funds. The amendment extends the original completion deadline by one year to December 31, 2026. Additionally, it will increase the job performance measure requirement by an additional 159 jobs and staff recommends its approval.

Mr. Shannon Ogletree, Santa Rosa County Economic Development Director, spoke in support of the amendment.

**Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the Proposed First Amendment to the Grant Award Agreement and Mr. Corr seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the proposal. No one came forward to speak. **The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote (6-0.)**

Mr. Manning then introduced the **Proposed Term Sheet for Proposal #317 - Pensacola State College – Airframe and Powerplant Training Program – up to \$12,372,935.** This term sheet is consistent with the project that was approved by the Board at the last meeting to go to term negotiations and staff has recommended its approval.

Chair Bear invited Dr. Debbie Douma, Dean of Grants and Federal Programs at Pensacola State College to speak. Dr. Douma thanked Triumph staff and said her team appreciates their assistance and patience in getting everyone on the same page.

**Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the Proposed Term Sheet and Mr. Corr seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the

term sheet. No one came forward to speak. **The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote (6-0.)**

Mr. Manning introduced the **Proposed Term Sheet for Proposal #331 - Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners – Bagdad Distribution Building – up to \$7,191,000.** Mr. Manning stated that this proposed term sheet is for a grant request in the amount of \$7,191,000 and staff recommends its approval.

Mr. Shannon Ogletree, Santa Rosa County Economic Development Director, spoke in support of the amendment.

**Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the Proposed Term Sheet and Mrs. Weiss seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the term sheet. No one came forward to speak. **The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote (6-0.)**

Finally, Mr. Manning introduced the **Proposed Term Sheet for Proposal #320 – Visit Florida – NWFL Beaches – Adventure Within Reach – up to \$10,500,000, along with the attendant proposed Grant Award Agreement for the same amount.** The grantee is Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation, Inc. aka Visit Florida; and Mr. Manning explained that, today, with the Board’s approval, both the term sheet and the proposed grant award agreement would be up for review. Triumph’s typical process is for the Board to approve the term sheet and direct staff to negotiate the grant award agreement at one meeting, and then to vote on the grant award agreement at the subsequent meeting. In this case, the grantees showed some urgency to get this project started, and since they developed both the term sheet and the grant award agreement simultaneously, and if the Board agrees, they will both be up for approval at the same meeting. The Board will need to take separate votes on each today.

First, Mr. Manning reported on the term sheet up for approval. The proposed grant amount is for up to \$10,500,000 to create and execute a regional tourism promotional project in the eight disproportionately affected counties under Section 288.8012(3), Florida Statutes, and staff recommends approval of the term sheet.

Mr. Darien Schaefer, President and CEO of Visit Pensacola, spoke in support of the proposed grant. Mr. Schaefer also introduced himself as chair of The Northwest Florida Tourism Council. Representatives from Visit Florida are unable to attend today’s meeting due to their own previously scheduled Board Meeting. They have authorized Mr. Schaefer to speak on their behalf. Mr. Schaefer thanked the Triumph Board for its consideration of their *Adventure Within Reach* regional marketing campaign term sheet. He noted that he is extremely proud of the collaboration that has gone into this application, and that the project is supported by all eight Triumph counties and their respective county commissioners as well as Visit Florida and the Department of Commerce. Mr. Schaefer concluded his remarks by thanking the Triumph Board and staff for all their assistance.

Mrs. Weiss inquired about why the term sheet and grant award agreement were up for consideration at the same time, and Ms. Skelton noted that the grantee wishes to expedite the process so that it may take the new marketing campaign to the approaching Fall market.

**Mr. Merrill made a motion to approve the Proposed Term Sheet and Mr. Henderson seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the term sheet. **The motion passed unanimously on roll call vote 6-0.)**

**Mr. Merrill made a motion to approve the Proposed Grant Award Agreement and Mr. Henderson seconded the motion.** Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the proposal. **The motion passed unanimously on roll call vote (6-0.)**

### **Program Administrator's Report**

Ms. Cori Henderson stated that her comments today are best characterized as a continuation of the update she shared at the last meeting in Apalachicola. As a team, in addition to working with future grantees on their proposals, staff has continued their work visiting Triumph's education workforce grantees. Since mid-April, education workforce grantee site visits have included Bay District Schools, Okaloosa Schools, Santa Rosa Schools, AMIkids Panama City, and a return visit to Northwest Florida State College. Staff has been supporting the region's economic developers as the region's marketing momentum increases and Triumph's communities are being shortlisted for competitive high wage job creation projects at an exciting rate. Over the next few days, Ms. Henderson and Dr. Harper will participate on some of these site visits, including company visits to Gulf and Wakulla. Ms. Henderson noted that the region's economic developers won't be slowing down this summer, and staff expects to be able to share some great announcements this fall and winter. Additionally, over the past few weeks, she and Chair Bear participated in a Florida Commerce tour of Northwest Florida with Secretary of Commerce, Alex Kelly, led by Florida's Great Northwest. She and Dr. Frank Fuller joined Leslie Weiss at Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla facility to meet with their new staff team, and Dr. Harper traveled to Eastern Shipbuilding to review the job creation metrics associated with Panama City's Industrial Complex grant 185. Dr. Harper was able to confirm that ESG has created and maintained more than 1,000 jobs, far exceeding the 900 job requirements.

Next, Ms. Henderson delivered her formal report. As of Monday, May 20th, Triumph Gulf Coast had received 334 pre-applications totaling over \$2.78 billion. Triumph staff recommends that projects 334 and 335 are not eligible at this time and that project 336 is eligible. As of Monday, May 20th, Triumph Gulf Coast had received 135 applications totaling over \$1.28 billion, including for project 323, on which Dr. Harper will report today. This month, staff reviewed the quarterly reports from Q1 2024 and Q4 2023. Dr. Fuller and Triumph staff reviewed all the education reports and recommended that they were on track, and Randy Lewis and Triumph staff reviewed all the quarterly construction reports that are listed and report they are also on track.

**Mr. Humphreys made a motion to receive the Program Administrator's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Weiss and was adopted without objection.**

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

Dr. Rick Harper, Economic Advisor, began his report by introducing a **Recommendation on Proposal #323 – University of West Florida – Institute for Industry Advancement and Analytics (IA)2 – up to \$9,360,221.** The UWF IIAA proposal describes an Institute which is intended to establish a robust research presence in data analysis, forecasting, and industry analysis at UWF. The Triumph funding request of \$9,360,221 represents 25 percent of the total project cost of \$37,469,813. UWF guarantees that it will continue to support the Institute at the 26-person FTE levels identified in the application for at least three years following the expiration of the Triumph performance period.

The envisioned new Institute will have concentrations in Predictive and Cognitive Analytics, Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Automation, and Computing. These areas of focus will advance the research and scientific contribution of UWF, enabling it to move beyond simply teaching college classes, and enable research faculty and staff to provide partnerships with businesses across key industry sectors. These are very much needed to establish new research and development capacity in Northwest Florida – thus having a transformational regional impact.

The Center will sustain itself primarily through federal, state, industry, and foundation grant and contract funding, data analytics services, and through the commercialization of analytics and software creation.

Taking these metrics together, the total impact on the region measured is expected to be \$12.8 dollars of increased personal income (in constant dollars) per dollar of Triumph expenditure. Additional income and development flows are likely to flow from the new research capacity that will be established. For these reasons, Triumph staff rate the project as an “A.”

Provost / Vice President Jaromy Kuhl spoke on behalf of UWF. Provost Kuhl began his remarks by thanking Chair Bear and the Triumph Board as well as Dr. Harper and Ms. Henderson for all their wonderful help. He then introduced Dr. Karen Molecki, Chair of the UWF Chemistry Department, who has managed several highly successful grant programs and was partly responsible for the proposal submitted to Triumph.

Provost Kuhl stated that the Triumph funds being sought by (IA)2 will be used to hire data analysts, software engineers, research scientists, and associated staff; buy-out current UWF computational research scientists; build-out computational lab space; and purchase computational research equipment. These funds will allow UWF and (IA)2 to enhance and expand commercialization and research capabilities, bringing millions of dollars to the northwest Florida areas. UWF has invested significant time and resources to begin and enhance the activities of (IA)2. In 2019, UWF funded the PAM Lab, which specializes in developing easy-to-understand analytics for decision-making and data prediction purposes. The PAM Lab is currently working in the education sector, transitioning university data to easy-to-use dashboards to improve enrollment, retention, graduation rates, and overall student success. The PAM Lab is the primary commercialization arm of (IA)2, with a goal to sustain itself on a software-for-commercial service model. The self-sustaining model includes developing customized in-demand analytics tools.

Provost Kuhl also stated that this is a perfect time for their grant. Through anticipated appropriations from the Florida Legislature, UWF will receive up to \$47M for a new research wing added to building 4 on its main campus (\$21M was appropriated in 2023 and the remainder will be appropriated in 2024). Building 4 is one of the primary locations for the College of Science and Engineering. The new research wing will consist of approximately 40,000 square feet of research space. The Center will be in this new space, receiving at least 15,000 square feet of space. The Center will also occupy space in building 58C, the Sciences Annex. This building was completed in 2019 and includes state-of-the-art teaching labs for Biology and Chemistry. The building has approximately 7500 square feet of cold shell space. Triumph funds would be used to build out this space for research laboratories in areas of computational biology and chemistry.

Mr. Merrill made a motion to direct staff to move to term sheet negotiations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson. Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the proposal. **The motion passed unanimously on roll call vote (6-0.)**

Dr. Harper then introduced **Recommendation on Proposal #332 – Escambia County Public Schools – J.M. Tate High School CTE – up to \$617,227.** Escambia County Public Schools (ECPS) requests a Triumph award of up to \$617,227 to renovate and equip the former Auto Body building at Tate High School that will provide classrooms, hands-on labs, and training locations for the Automotive Service Academy. Tate will use its ECPS funds of \$435,120 to match, so that the Triumph share of the project cost is 58.7 percent of the total project cost of \$1,052,347. ECPS will seek accreditation from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence and will meet Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) and legislative requirements for instruction in automotive service standards.

This program will have a classroom academic component, but the primary learning environment will be the academy's automotive service shop. Students will learn through hands-on application of skills as they troubleshoot, diagnose and repair problems, as well as provide routine maintenance on a variety of modern automobiles. ECPS commits to 225 certification completers by the end of the 2029-2030 academic year. At a cost of up to \$617,227 to Triumph, and 225 certifications, the cost per completer is \$2,743. At this cost per certification, the discounted total increase in household incomes expected from the program is expected to be \$30.5 per dollar of Triumph cost, which is attractive relative to other Triumph awards made to date. For these reasons, staff rate this program "A" in terms of economic impact.

Mr. Dan Busse, and Ms. Lori Anderson, Workforce Education Specialists, spoke on behalf of Escambia Schools in support of the proposal. Mr. Busse explained that this program is specifically designed to provide high school students with the necessary skills for entry level positions in the automotive technology industry, including ASE certifications, which are considered the gold standard for auto service technicians. This program would be specifically designed to provide individuals with the skills necessary to go into entry level positions or to continue their training for additional certifications.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to direct staff to move to term sheet negotiations. The motion was seconded by Mr. David Humphreys. Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the proposal. No one came forward to speak. **The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote (6-0.)**

Chair Bear thanked the Escambia County School District for coming back to the table.

Dr. Harper then made a **Recommendation on Proposal #333 – Franklin County Board of County Commissioners – First Response Communications System (Phase 1) – up to \$750,000**

Franklin County is seeking up to \$750,000 in Triumph Gulf Coast funding to contract with a consultant to advise the county on the purchase of a new First Responder Communication System (the "system") for use by the Franklin County EMS and Fire, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Franklin County Road Department, Franklin County School District, Weems Hospital, Carrabelle Police Department, and the City of Apalachicola Police Department. The requested funds will be used for the first phase of a two-phase project. Phase 1 is the procurement and hiring of a communications consultant for up to \$775,000. It is likely that a Phase II will follow, for purchase and installation of the system and staff training, with \$1,500,000 in legislative



funding, and county funded system maintenance expenditures as match. However, the current request is limited to Phase I. Franklin County is a State of Florida designated fiscally constrained county. The proposed award represents 96.8 percent of total projected costs of up to \$775,000. The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners has approved \$25,000 as their suggested project match for Phase I.

While this project does not propose a new business or create jobs, a reliable public safety communications system is paramount to businesses wanting to expand or locate in Franklin County. Taken together, the enhanced emergency preparedness projects could be responsible for badly needed emergency communications capability in Franklin County. The project is clearly eligible for funding under the provisions enacted by the Legislature. However, it is not possible to assign a direct job count to the project. For this reason, staff score this project as a "B."

Ms. Skelton explained that staff worked this project into two phases to assure that the county is requesting funds in a manner that will actually meet the new system needs. Franklin County is now working with its sister county and fellow Triumph grantee, Wakulla County, to follow its model for a new emergency communication system. Also, going forward, the Department of Management Services, Division of Communications will be reviewing all documentation provided for emergency communications systems to assure that state criteria are being met.

Ms. Erin Griffith, Fiscal Manager and Grants Coordinator for Franklin County BOCC, thanked Chair Bear and the Triumph Board for their efforts, service, and the assistance from Triumph staff in reviewing their project funding requests today and all the past support we all have provided to our region. Franklin County is requesting a \$750,000 from Triumph to complete Phase 1 of the First Responder Communication Upgrade. There are changes on the horizon with the state's emergency response system, and at some point, the county will be mandated to transition to the state's P-25 system. Franklin county currently operates on two separate networks: the Sheriff's Office and EMS sustains the 800 system and the remaining first response entities - volunteer fire departments, county departments, departments of the two city governments and others operate on the county's VHF system, which has been in place since 2010. For any emergencies or disaster events, Franklin County first responders work closely with state law enforcement agencies and other response entities, including the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the State Forestry Service.

In past events, state agencies and local law enforcement have relied upon handheld VHF radio from local first responders to ensure interoperability with communications, with dispatch serving as the bridge between the two systems. The existing system is vulnerable as there are no redundancies. Should one part of the existing system become disruptive or damaged, there is a lack of connectivity in the remote and heavily forested areas. 85% of Franklin County is publicly owned property. It is a long, linear county with most of its population density concentrated along the coastline. The communications are not secured and encrypted, and the first responders are not able to directly communicate from all agencies and delaying information or having no access to direct information during the emergency jeopardizes the safety of personnel, visitors, and residents.

Franklin County does not have the expertise nor the resources to evaluate the First Responder Communication System and is requesting funding assistance to procure professional consultants to evaluate the current system, identify options for the upgrade and assistance process. The same consultant may oversee the installation of the equipment and the training of

the first responders during the later construction and implementation phase. Whereas this funding request does not directly result in job creation, the ability for law enforcement and first responders to ensure safe communities for existing businesses, new businesses, residents, and tourists is critical to fostering an environment for economic development. She expressed her appreciation for Triumph Gulf Coast's consideration of the request today and stated she would answer any questions that the Board may have regarding the funding application. Ms. Griffith concluded her comments by thanking Wakulla County for their help.

Mrs. Weiss asked how the \$775,000 ask compares with Wakulla County's ask for their project and Ms. Henderson confirmed that Wakulla asked for a similar amount and that they use it as their match.

Mr. Humphreys asked whether the \$775,000 amount will only cover the cost of the consultant or if it would include equipment as well. Ms. Griffith replied that this will only cover the cost of the consultant, and that the projected cost falls in line with what Wakulla spent for the same services, and that Franklin County will plan to model their RFP after Wakulla County's RFP to collect bids from different consultants.

Mrs. Weiss made a motion to direct staff to move to term sheet negotiations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson. Chair Bear asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard on the report. No one came forward to speak. **The motion passed unanimously on a 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 process, policies, and practices.

Santa Rosa County Commissioner Colten Wright extended a special thank you to Escambia County Schools for offering young boys and girls an alternate education route outside of the standard academic track. He noted that Santa Rosa County strongly supports the efforts of Escambia County on this project. He thanked the Triumph Board for a smooth and efficient process to request grant funds and the Board and staff for their hard work and support.

Santa Rosa County Commissioner Kerry Smith also expressed his thanks to the Triumph Board.

### **Closing Remarks**

Mrs. Weiss noted that it was a great meeting today, and she looks forward to seeing the Franklin County First Responder Communication System project come to fruition. She also gave another warm welcome to Miss Georgia Henderson for attending her first Triumph Board meeting.

Mr. Humphreys also stated that it was a great meeting. He is excited about the Gulf Coast State College nursing program. He was able to tour the facility and said the program is going to be excellent. He also followed up on the comments about the Escambia County Public Schools, J. M. Tate High School program. He thinks it is great and would like to see it duplicated in other schools as it is such an important program and way for students to better themselves. He also commented that Santa Rosa County's projects are very ambitious in a good way.

Mr. Henderson enjoyed seeing some smaller counties producing exciting projects, and thanked Santa Rosa County for hosting the Board meeting. He expressed to Mr. Shannon Ogletree that he is doing a great job with his projects, and that he would like to see those kinds of projects replicated in other counties.

Mr. Corr expressed excitement about the nursing program. He said it is awesome when you can see firsthand positive changes in people's lives through those projects.

Mr. Merrill echoed what Mr. Humphreys said and he also thanked grantees and attendees for all their kind, positive comments about Triumph staff – they are much appreciated. He also briefly commented on the Visit Florida project stating that it is very impressive to see eight counties coming together so beautifully to make it happen.

Chair Bear thanked the staff for all the work they do. He noted that there are so many moving parts in all these projects and that they do not get as much credit as they should for their support and hard work. He stated that Triumph's great applicants really appreciate all the great work staff invests to help them, and he thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He expressed his excitement about all the projects in the works and noted that Triumph Gulf Coast is truly a transformative force in the region.

With no further comments, Miss Georgia Henderson made the final motion to adjourn the meeting and her motion was met with a hearty round of applause and cheers heard throughout the commission chambers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.