

**CAREERSOURCE CITRUS LEVY MARION  
BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MINUTES**

DATE: Nov. 7, 2017  
PLACE: Enterprise Center, Ocala, FL  
TIME: 9 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mike Melfi (Chair), Champs Software  
David Pieklik, Nature Coast Business  
Development Council  
Rachel Riley, Citrus Memorial Hospital  
Phil Geist, SBDC  
Peter Shepis, Vocational Rehabilitation

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Don Taylor, Citrus EDC  
Mark Vianello, Marion Schools  
Mark Paugh, College of Central Florida  
Pete Beasley, Rasmussen College  
Debra Stanley, Citrus School Board  
Kell Jemison, ZF Systems Inc.  
Amy Meek, United Way of Citrus Co.  
Kevin Shielley, Marion CEP

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Dean Blinkhorn, Marion CEP  
Rusty Skinner, CSCLM  
Laura Isaacs, CSCLM

Steven Litzinger, CSCLM  
Dale French, CSCLM  
Brenda Chrisman, CSCLM

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mike Melfi, Chair, at 9 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Laura Isaacs called roll and a quorum declared present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Phil Geist made a **motion** to approve the minutes from the Aug. 8, 2017, meeting. Rachel Riley **seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Sector Strategies Grant. David Pieklik made a **motion** to approve accept the grant and funding. Phil Geist **seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Rusty Skinner presented information from two recent articles for discussion. The articles are about HB 311, which would create alternative paths to graduating with a standard high school diploma if passed. The articles for discussion were:

- Lawmaker seeks alternate routes to graduation, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017, Citrus County Chronicle
- Bill could boost young people's opportunities, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017, Citrus County Chronicle

## **STATUS REPORTS**

David Pieklik spoke about economic development in Levy County, including keys sites such as the Williston Airport and a large agricultural site. Both sites are expected to bring many jobs to Levy County.

Dean Blinkhorn spoke about economic development in Ocala and Marion County. He mentioned CDL-related projects and grants underway at the Ocala/Marion CEP and efforts to bring the trucking industry to Marion County.

Rusty Skinner gave updates about the following items:

- Event Report: So far, CSCLM has held 58 events so far during Program Year 2017-18. Of these events, there have been 1332 attendees with 195 reported hires.
- TMPA Business Services Changes: Building upon what was discussed at the full board meeting on Sept. 13, 2017, Skinner told the committee that the key issue currently involves the geographic disbursement of staff and the definition of job ready. Geographically, all business services staff will be centrally located at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Center by Dec. 1, 2017.
- Citrus Youth Expo: Brenda Chrisman updated the committee on the recent Citrus Youth Expo, held on Nov. 1, 2017. This was the first Youth Expo in Citrus, modeled after February's event in Marion County. 250 high school students attended. United Way provided support. The event was well managed and participating businesses were pleased with the outcome.
- Akken Cloud Update: Skinner told the committee that everything is moving forward positively with the Akken Cloud implementation. Contracts have been signed and the intent is to have the new system in place by Thanksgiving in Talent Center and to the rest of the Business Services team by the second half of the year.

## **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

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