



**CAREERSOURCE CITRUS LEVY MARION
Business and Economic Development Committee**

MINUTES

DATE: May 7, 2025
PLACE: CareerSource CLM
2703 NE 14th Street, Ocala, FL 34470
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Whitehouse
Edward Suor
John Hemken
Mark Paugh
MJ Toscano
Pete Beasley, Chair
Phillip Geist
Steven Baham

MEMBERS ABSENT

Deb Stanley
Gary Smallridge
Jeff Chang
Kevin Cunningham
Scott Osteen

OTHER ATTENDEES

Rusty Skinner, CSCLM
Dale French, CSCLM
Cory Weaver, CSCLM
Melissa Saco, CSCLM

Chris Wilkinson, CSCLM
Sandra Crawford, CSCLM
Cira Schnettler, CSCLM
Heather Squires, Ocala CEP

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Pete Beasley, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Cira Schnettler called roll and a quorum was declared present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mark Paugh made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2025, meeting. Ben Whitehouse seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

State Update

Rusty Skinner updated the committee on the following items:

- The Executive Director of Region 6 has resigned. We have a contractual partnership with Region 6 for financial services and act as the employer of record for their staff. The Board currently has an internal candidate as the interim director. We will be assisting the Region 6 board in their search for a replacement by collecting resumes.

- As part of the regional realignment Region 26 is working to navigate a successful merger of the combined regions.
- The State has not provided any further guidance on regional planning.

Workforce Issues that are Important to Our Community

No issues were presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

PROJECT UPDATES

Economic Development Partner Reports

Citrus:

- The new economic development website is in progress.
- The CORE business center will be launching their Makerspace in 2025.
- Tampa General has broke ground on a new four hundred bed hospital.
- Citrus County is in the process of identifying industrial resources for financing projects.

Levy:

- Scott Osteen has resigned as the executive director of the Nature Coast Business Development Council. Levy County BOCC would like to bring the director's position under their authority through their tourism department. We will be working with the county manager in the interim.

Marion

- Heather Shubirg shared that there are several projects in development.
 - There has been increased interest in Marion county from food and beverage industries.
 - The local manufacturing industry continues to expand.
 - The NSF Engines grant was awarded to Central Florida, and potential funding could be received to support a semiconductor program in Marion County. Future updates will be provided as the program develops.
 - A mobility taskforce is in development for commercial airline services.
 - Local sites have been identified as support sites for semi-conductor manufacturing.
 - Beth McCall will be rejoining their team.

MRMA

MJ Toscano stated the fundraising Bowling Tournament will kick-off this Thursday. All lanes are sold out. She recently took a tour of the E-One facility. She attended the successful Heart of HR conference.

Talent Center

Chris Wilkinson reviewed the report provided in the packet. He also shared the below:

- Rasmussen University has been receptive to new engagement from the Talent Center team. The team has held several workshops with the University.
- The next Talent Connection, a virtual talent draft, will take place on May 14. The

team has partnered with WTC in Citrus County. Seven soon to be IT graduates will be presented to a variety of employers. There has been local and national advertising for this event. An Iowa workforce board will be attending as well, as they would like to pilot a similar program in their area.

Event Report

Melissa Saco highlighted items from the Event Report. She was happy to share that the recent Marion County Youth Job Fair had over 466 attendees, one of the most attended event in recent years. There is a job fair scheduled for June in Citrus County and a summer job fair scheduled for July.

Experiential Learning Contracts

Dale French summarized each section of the report. Noting the successful completions that lead to employment. The experiential learning coordinator is doing an excellent job with enrollments in the various programs.

Metrix Users

Dale French shared details from the report, noting the most popular pathways and courses. Program usage continues to grow. The link to the Metrix program can be found on the CLM website.

Contract Reports

Sandra Crawford reviewed the performance report for Citrus and Marion counties and the youth report. Overall, the partners did well.

Grant Update

Sandra Crawford provided an overview of the grants. The Dislocated Worker Grant that was funding recovery efforts from Hurricane Idalia was not renewed and ended in late March. This grant was highly successful with a community investment beyond thirteen million dollars.

The Broadband grant is also having successful outcomes with forty-three enrollments. There will be upcoming classes in June and October. There will continue to be recruitment for the upcoming classes.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

APPROVED:
