



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

MINUTES

DATE: May 6, 2026
PLACE: CareerSource CLM
2703 NE 14th Street, Ocala, FL 34470
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Whitehouse
Deb Stanley
Edward Suor
Jeff Chang
Mark Paugh
MJ Toscano
Kent Guinn
Landon Harrar
Pete Beasley, Chair
Steven Baham

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Smallridge
Kevin Cunningham
Matt McCormick
Phillip Geist

OTHER ATTENDEES

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

Chris Wilkinson, CSCLM
Sandra Crawford, CSCLM
Cira Schnettler, CSCLM

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 4, 2026, meeting. Deb Stanley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

State Update

Rusty Skinner updated the committee on the following items:

- The Department of Labor has released the budget allocations, and we have received our preliminary budget from the State. We have requested voluntary layoffs from staff. Organizational restructuring will be explored for efficiencies.

- In the 2026-2027 program year we will be focusing on apprenticeships and workforce grants for short-term training opportunities.

Workforce Issues that are Important to Our Community

Edward Suor requested an updated on the clamming program. The program ended and staff remained engaged for a month afterward to assist any individuals that may need additional services. Many of the clam farmer program participants returned to clam farming. There are three participants that enrolled into the broadband grant program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

PROJECT UPDATES

Economic Development Partner Reports

Citrus:

Steven Baham shared:

- Citrus County continues to partner with WTC and the Inverness Airport on career pathways in aerodynamics.
- Master plans are in development for the Inverness and Crystal River airports.
- FDOT has awarded a grant to the University of S. Florida to conduct a feasibility study on Port Citrus.
- Citrus County BOCC will be hearing public comment on a potential data center project.

Levy:

- There is a large-scale project in development.
- The grocer project vote has been delayed.
- The current EDC advisory board is looking to expand its membership.
- There has been increased interest from businesses looking to utilize trash and manure to create fuel pellets. Those opportunities are being explored.

Marion

- Matt McCormick was not in attendance.

MRMA

MJ Toscano reviewed the MRMA report.

Williston Airport

Rusty Skinner reported that the labor market study representatives recently had a kick-off meeting and are now in a data gathering phase. The new drone program held by CF currently has nine Levy County School District students. The anticipated video series highlighting the A&P programs have been placed on hold due to the FAA delaying certification of the program at MTC.

Talent Center

Metrix Users

Chris Wilkinson reviewed the reports provided in the packet.

Event Report

Experiential Learning Contracts

Melissa Saco reviewed the reports provided in the packet. She noted all available funding for experiential learning opportunities have been exhausted. CBT and apprenticeship support will be the focus for the 2026-2027 program year.

Grant Update

YouthBuild

Contract Reports

Sandra Crawford reviewed the reports and highlighted the following items:

- Contract Reports: Citrus County has met three of their four goals, but they do have time before the end of the program year to make adjustments. Eckerd Youth is also working on meeting their annual goal.
- Broadband Grant: The Broadband grant program continues to have multiple participant success stories. The program manager has been doing a wonderful job with enrolling new participants and keeping current participants engaged.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

APPROVED:
