

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
APRIL 2, 2019
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Noah Lockley – Chairman, William Massey-Vice-Chairman, Joseph Parrish, Ricky Jones, Bert B. Boldt, II

Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Erin Griffith-Assistant Finance Director, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution – Honoring Mr. Bevin Putnal

The Board of County Commissioners will adopt a Resolution honoring former Commissioner Bevin Putnal

Mr. Moron said the Board can consider a motion to adopt the Resolution, authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution, approve 30 seconds of silence in honor of Mr. Putnal and also authorize Commissioner Massey to attend the funeral services this morning on behalf of the County Commission because this meeting will still be in session. He read the Resolution for the Board. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Resolution, as follows:**

**RESOLUTION
OF
RECOGNITION
FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners recognizes the passing of Bevin Putnal on March 30, 2019, and so does honor the life and legacy of Bevin Putnal by saying:

WHEREAS, Bevin Putnal was born in Carrabelle on March 13, 1942 and lived a full 77 years in the community, and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners and the people of Franklin County were honored to have Bevin serve as a county commissioner for 20 years, from 1992-2012, and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners acknowledges Bevin and his wife Patsy have 3 children- Rusty, Sherry and Missy, 7 grandchildren, multiple great-grandchildren, and at least one great-great grandchild, and

WHEREAS, Bevin loved the land and waters in and around the Apalachicola Bay so much that he spent most of his life working in the seafood industry, and

WHEREAS, Bevin not only worked on the Bay, but his number one priority was to protect the Bay so that future generations could also work on the Bay.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners to recognize the legacy of Bevin Putnal and the service he made to family and community throughout his entire life.

This RESOLUTION adopted this 2nd Day of April 2019.

BY: S/Noah Lockley
Noah Lockley, Jr. Chairman

ATTEST:

s/Marcia M. Johnson
Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk

The Board observed 30 seconds of silence in honor of Mr. Putnal.

Chairman Lockley asked Commissioner Massey to tell the family they are sorry for their loss and they will be praying for them.

Commissioner Massey left the meeting at this time to attend the funeral of Mr. Putnal.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meetings held on March 1, 2019, March 6, 2019 and March 19, 2019.

Public Comments – *(This is an opportunity for the public to comment on agenda or non-agenda items. When you are recognized to be heard by the Chairman, please sign the speaker's log and adhere to the time limit. An individual will be allowed to speak for three minutes whereas a designated representative of a group or faction will be allowed to speak for five minutes.)*

There were no public comments. Commissioner Boldt said the Board welcomes public comments.

Payment of County Bills

On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve payment of the County's bills.

Rick Watson – Rock by The Sea – Request

Mr. Watson, Treasurer, would like extended hours of operation at Doc Myer's Island Pub in addition to closing the alleyway between the Pub and Resort Vacation Homes for the 13th Annual "Rock By The Sea" music festival.

Mr. Watson said he is the Treasurer of Rock by The Sea and this is the 13th year of the music festival. He explained this charity benefits children's charities. He stated the event is usually at Harry A's but they are not open so the event will be moved to Doc Myers Island Pub & Sports Bar. He recognized Mr. Dan Myers, owner of Doc Myer's, and Ms. Beth Gosnell, President of Rock by the Sea. Mr. Watson said 300 out of town guests will be attending representing 27 states and 4 foreign counties. He reported there are 31 musical acts this year and 1 of the acts is the winner of American Idol. Mr. Watson listed the charities sponsored by Rock by the Sea. He reported over the last 13th years they have raised and donated over \$750,000 for these types of charities. He explained for several years they have appeared before the Commission to extend their hours and this year they are also requesting the closing of the alleyway between Doc Myer's and Resort Vacation Homes. He stated they contacted Resort Vacation Homes and they have no problem with this request. He said they would appreciate approval of this request. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the extended hours of operation for Doc Myer's and the closing of the alleyway between Doc Myer's and Resort Vacation Homes. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt asked for the dates of Rock by the Sea. Mr. Watson responded May 8th-12th. **Motion carried; 4-0.** Mr. Watson thanked the Commissioners.

Department Directors Report

Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Nabors reported his department is continuing to replace signs that were damaged in the hurricane. He explained St. George Island sustained the worst damage and his department has almost finished replacing the signs. He said they will work on signs in Apalachicola and Eastpoint next.

Mr. Nabors stated they continue to grade roads and clean ditches across the county.

Mr. Nabors said they started cutting grass last month which is a month earlier than usual.

Chairman Lockley asked if they had problems getting the signs. Mr. Nabors said all of the signs were ordered but it took a while for them to come in. Chairman Lockley stated he heard they were behind on making the signs. Mr. Nabors reported all the signs are in but it takes some time to replace them as some of the posts are also damaged. He estimated the cost to replace a post is \$40-\$45. Chairman Lockley asked if FEMA will pay to replace the signs and posts. Mr. Nabors answered yes.

Commissioner Boldt thanked Mr. Nabors for the Caterpillar sponsored fellowship and said he was glad to meet county staff from the different departments. He said it was a nice setting.

Commissioner Boldt stated on behalf of the people of Lanark Village he wants to thank Mr. Nabors and his department for opening a completely closed ditch on the south side of their boat storage area. He said people are thrilled that this has been taken care of. Mr. Nabors explained they cleaned out the ditch and put pipes in on Franklin Street because there were some flooding issues. He stated the residents bought the pipes and the county put them in. Commissioner Jones asked if they found out anything about getting a grant for culvert pipes. Mr. Nabors said Mr. Pierce brought this up but also said they could not get grants for the cities. Commissioner Jones stated it may be too quick to know anything yet about the grant.

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Mr. Davis said the Day of Ball will start this weekend. Commissioner Jones asked if it starts on Friday. Mr. Davis answered yes.

Chairman Lockley said he has received reports about balls from other fields hitting people at the games. He asked if there is any way to install some netting for protection. Mr. Davis said they have addressed netting at Vrooman Park. He asked if the complaints are about D.W. Wilson Park. Chairman Lockley said it happened at the last game. Mr. Davis stated the last game was at Vrooman Park. Chairman Lockley stated nets need to be put up at all of the parks. Mr. Davis agreed to check on this matter. Commissioner Jones discussed the positioning of the

netting. Chairman Lockley said whatever Mr. Davis suggests is okay because he knows about the parks.

Mr. Davis said Amnesty Day on Saturday was successful and they accepted 67 tons of debris. He reported there are 3 more Saturdays to go. Chairman Lockley stated people are cleaning up the debris and that is helping the county.

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director

Mrs. Brownell said she does not have any action items. She reported the C-30 West project has been obligated by FEMA so the money should be moving toward the county quickly. Chairman Lockley stated he received a telephone call from Senator Bill Montford about an Emergency Management meeting that will be held to address getting FEMA money back quicker. Mr. Moron said Mr. Pierce is attending that meeting today.

Commissioner Parrish referenced the Alert Franklin and Re-Entry Tag portion of Mrs. Brownell's report and said this needs to be advertised to let the public know because this was a big issue during the last event. He explained people came to the meeting complaining about not getting information during the storm but if they were signed up for Alert Franklin they would have received up to date information. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to advertise these two paragraphs about Alert Franklin and Re-Entry tags. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley suggested advertising on the radio too as some people do not read the newspaper. Commissioner Parrish agreed they could advertise it there too, if possible. Mr. Moron stated his office will contact Emergency Management and handle the advertising in the newspaper, on the radio and on the website. **Motion carried; 4-0.**

Action Items:

Information Items:

1. EOC staff continue to address Hurricane Michael and the Recovery of Franklin County. At this time EOC staff has submitted 8 projects for Obligation totaling \$619,647.05. EOC Staff continue to collect data from our departments throughout the county regarding projects that still need to be submitted. 30 Projects remain to be submitted. The Commission will continue to be updated via email as projects are submitted.
2. 04/01/19 EOC Hosted a One on One Training for Grants Portal to assist with FEMA Reimbursement. All County Department Heads, Municipalities, and Sheriff's Dept. were invited.
3. 04/02/19 EOC will be hosting a meeting regarding the Eastpoint Limerock Fire Survivors and their housing needs.
4. EOC staff and ESF15 Capital Area Community Action continue to work together to issue donated flooring to Franklin County Residents whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Michael.

5. 04/03/19 EOC Staff will participate in the Region 2 Regional MYTEP Meeting/Conference Call allowing us input regarding training we would like held in Franklin County as well as in Region 2. 03/25/19 EOC Staff hosted the MYTEP meeting for Franklin County. Participating in this meeting were representatives from Florida Department of Health-Franklin, Weems Memorial Hospital, EOC Staff, Capital Area Community Action.
6. 03/21/19 EOC Staff participated on the Governors Hurricane Conference Panel Planning Call. EOC Staff have been asked to speak on the Panel at the Governors Hurricane Conference regarding the Coastal Community Impact of Hurricane Michael. Staff spoke at the FEPA Conference on a similar panel.
7. 03/25/19 EOC Staff hosted the BBHCC Region 2 closed POD Planning Meeting.
8. 04/09/19 EOC Staff will Host a WebEOC Training. This training is for the representatives from all departments that will be responsible for manning stations at the EOC during an activation. This will be our 1st scheduled Monthly Training in WebEOC.
9. EOC Staff are in the process of updating our CEMP. This update will be submitted within 60 days for approval by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.
10. In order for Franklin County to be NIMS Compliant, which is required by FEMA for Reimbursement, EOC Staff has sent an email to ALL Departments Heads and Elected Officials requesting copies of ICS 100, 200, 700, & 800 certifications. This must be submitted to the EOC by June 1, 2019. All courses are free of cost and can be found online at <https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx>
11. On 03/28/19 EOC Staff emailed a copy of the Hurricane Michael After Action Report to the Board of County Commissioners. This report addresses all strengths and improvements for the Hurricane Michael Activation and Response. An After-Action Report is compiled by inviting all partners to participate in an open discussion of strengths and improvements during a specific incident. This meeting was conducted at the Franklin County EOC on 12/12/18. Participants included the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, Florida Department of Health-Franklin, Franklin County Road Department, City of Apalachicola, Capital Area Community Action, First United Methodist Church, Franklin County Property Appraisers Office.

ALERT FRANKLIN

Once again, Franklin County EOC Staff would like to remind all residents to sign up for Alert Franklin by going to our website at <https://www.franklinemergencymanagement.com/> and clicking on the Alert Franklin Logo. **YOU MUST BE SIGNED UP TO RECEIVE ALERTS!** If you need assistance signing up, please contact our office and EOC staff will be happy to assist you.

RE-ENTRY TAGS

Franklin County EOC Staff would like to remind all residents to apply for your Re-Entry Tags prior to Hurricane Season. **Once the EOC is activated NO Tags will be issued.** If you have a Re-Entry tag and it is expired, simply draw a line through the expiration date. We no longer issue expiration dates on Re-Entry Tags therefore it is valid. You can print the application for Re-

Entry Tags at www.franklinemergencymanagement.com. If you need assistance signing up, please contact our office and EOC staff will be happy to assist you.

Erik Lovstrand – Extension Office Director

Mr. Lovstrand said he has one item related to the Extension facility project. He stated the bid process was completed for the building renovation and the county received one bid. He reported the bid submitted was \$450 over the budget allocated for the project so the architect worked with the bidder to make some changes and get the bid within budget. Mr. Lovstrand explained he contacted Mr. Craig Crist, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) and this one bid will be considered a competitive bid and will meet state standards. He requested Board approval to move forward with the contractor and ask them to submit a contract. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to move forward with the contractor and ask the contractor to submit a contract for the Board's consideration.** Chairman Lockley asked if the Board can move forward with only one bid. Attorney Shuler explained the reason for having staff contact the agency providing the grant money was to make sure they were satisfied with the procedures. He said the state has blessed the process so they can accept that and move forward. Mr. Lovstrand stated DACs is usually the agency that moves grant funds through for Extension Office projects. He reported when the Legislature approved the funding it was put in the budget of DACs and that is the agency the county has the contract with for this project. Chairman Lockley asked for the name of the contractor. Mr. Lovstrand responded OliverSperry and said they are based in Tallahassee. He stated the company has worked on other projects with Mr. Doug Shuler, architect at Barnett, Fronczak, Barlowe & Shuler, and he has been satisfied with the work they have done on the projects. He reported getting any bids for the project was a success because contractors are hard to get now. He said this project was advertised and the architect directly contacted 4-5 contractors and this was the only contractor that submitted a bid. Attorney Shuler said this bid is in budget. Mr. Lovstrand answered yes. **Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0.**

County Extension Activities March 20 – April 2, 2019

General Extension Activities:

- **Action Item:** Requesting Board approval to move forward and approve a contractor who submitted a bid for the Extension Office renovation project.
 - Background: One bid was received for the Extension office renovation project before the deadline and it was \$437 above the base budget available so there were two questions to address.
 - 1. *Was one bid considered sufficient for the state's competitive process?* the Extension Director contacted the FDACS personnel overseeing this grant. Mr. Craig Christ explained that bids have been hard to get on many of their projects due to storm damage keeping contractors busy. Also, that one bid was sufficient because the contractor had no knowledge that he would be the only bidder, so it was considered competitive by FDACS standards.

- 2. *Bid amount slightly over budget:* The Architectural firm overseeing this project approached the contractor regarding the situation and they value-engineered an acceptable cost reduction by selecting a similar but different flooring product option.
 - Next step would be to ask the contractor to submit a written contract that could be approved by our architect and the Board before beginning construction.
- Assisted local citizens with information regarding control of soil tests, citrus issues, sea oats planting, and more.
- Extension Director participated in an Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, Flint Stakeholders caucus call to discuss topics that will be on the agenda for the ACFS Board's next face-to-face meeting.
- Extension Office Manager and Director completed annual Affirmative Action Review checklist for compliance as required annually.

Sea Grant Extension:

- Extension Director attended a 3-day train-the-trainer course for the Seafood HACCP program, to be able to provide assistance with local seafood industry stakeholders regarding FDA/State required HACCP plans required for all seafood processing.
- Weekly coordinating calls for the sea turtle lighting grant took place with the project team and the multi-county Dark Skies project wrapped up with the final report to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Both sea turtle lighting grants that have been managed by the Extension office over the past 5 years are now completed.

4-H Youth Development:

- Planning underway for 4-H District III Council meeting/retreat on April 6. Youth will visit the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in Wakulla County.
- Franklin County youth are registering for Day-at-the-Capitol, Third Executive Board and Summer Camping programs now.

Family Consumer Sciences:

- Family Nutrition Program (FNP) Assistant is away on maternity leave at this time and our regional FNP Coordinator is conducting programs in her stead in the local schools.

Agriculture/Horticulture:

- Extension Director taught entomology class for the Wakulla County Master Gardener program.

John Solomon – TDC Administrator – Report

Mr. Solomon offered his report for the Board, as follows:

Collections Report:

The January (2019) collections were \$52,063.46. This is a \$674.95 increase over January (2018) which is the highest Collections in the month of January for the TDC.

Web Site Activity:

We had 31,598 web hits (up 8%) in the month of February 2019.

Visit Florida Grant: Board Action

The Franklin County TDC Was awarded a \$174,000 full reimbursable grant from Visit Florida. This grant was submitted under Visit Florida's Hurricane Michael Tourism Recovery Grant. We submitted our "Open for Business" Campaign. The grants purpose is to remarket the Hurricane affected areas. The submission was specific of how and where the grant could be used.

The term of the grant is from March 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. The Campaign Budget is as follows:

Campaign Content Creation	\$	3,000.00
Print Marketing Materials	\$	39,491.00
Print/Digital/Geotargeted Advertising/ Production	\$	70,334.40
Social Media Campaigns	\$	6,880.00
Website Enhancements	\$	19,000.00
Videography, Television Advertising	\$	35,294.60
Total Campaign Budget	\$	174,000.00

The TDC Board also approved that since all parts of this campaign have to be paid by June 1st to file for the reimbursement from Visit Florida to have bills paid when invoices are received. Additional documentation will be presented to Finance when it becomes available. In addition, to allow flexibility in categories and the fact that Ad-buys are typically estimates. The TDC board approved if needed to allow up to \$5,000 over the grant amount per category from original promotional budget for any overruns. For the purposes of this grant only.

Mr. Solomon said it does not look like there should be any overruns at all. Commissioner **Parrish made a motion to approve if needed up to \$5,000 over the grant amount per category from the original promotions budget for any overruns for this grant only. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if this will free up some more money. Mr. Solomon explained some of these items were already budgeted in the promotions' budget so those funds will be able to be used for promotions for Franklin County. He explained one of the things in this category was for trip advisor and the Visitor's Guide which is now complete. He said the total amount of these 2 items is the budget is almost \$60,000 so that money will now be available in the promotions budget. Commissioner Boldt commented this is like a flash grant for 90 days and they have \$174,000 to account for. He explained everything must be paid for by June 1st. Mr. Solomon answered yes, and everything must be in to the state by June 15th. He reported everything must be in before the first meeting of the Board because they must pay the vendors and have a copy of the cancelled check to invoice everything. Mr. Solomon stated the state will reimburse everything all at once. Commissioner Boldt asked if the Finance Department facilitates paying the bills. Mrs. Griffith answered yes. Commissioner Parrish said the reason they do that is the new budget for the state starts on July 1st. Mr. Solomon agreed the state's budget ends in June. He reported everything in the grant must be started by June 1st to be eligible for the grant. **Motion carried; 4-0.**

Survey Development: The TDC board approved the development of a survey system to be used within the county at events, visitor centers and everyday use in the towns and beaches. This survey will gather information from our visitors like where they are from, why they came etc. it will also be asking questions that reference what they expect to spend in certain categories such as food per day, shopping, etc. This survey will help the TDC better stream line advertising as well as the information can be used to show the economic impact of tourism. This program will be a permanent program to run continuously for the TDC. Our Vendors 2k Webgroup are currently developing the software.

Mr. Solomon stated this system will help TDC and the county so they will know what is being spent on tourism in the county. Chairman Lockley said the neighbors to the west were hit hard by the storm and he asked if this is causing an increase in numbers here. Mr. Solomon answered yes; collections have been up every month since the storm except for October when the county was pretty much closed. He reported December and January were the two highest months ever recorded for the Franklin County TDC.

Carrabelle Chamber of Commerce TDC Representative: Board Action The board made a motion asking the Board of County Commission to accept the recommendation by the Carrabelle Chamber for Lewis Christie to be their representative on the TDC Board.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to accept this recommendation. Mr. Solomon stated Mr. Lewis apologized for not being here but his wife had car trouble.

St. George Island Restrooms: Board Action The board approved the usage of part of the \$120,000 set aside in the budget to use for gathering estimates of the costs for construction of the facilities.

Commissioner Parrish asked if they are just using a portion of the money. Mr. Solomon answered yes, and explained Commissioner Jones as TDC Chairman said they will get together and vote on how much it will be because they did not know the cost at the time. Commissioner Jones agreed they do not know the costs yet. He explained last year there was \$120,000 set aside and this year there is a \$120,000 set aside so they are talking about using a portion of those set aside funds to get an estimate. Mr. Moron questioned if they are asking for a cost estimate from the engineers. Mr. Solomon answered yes. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to approve using part of the \$120,000 set aside in the budget for gathering estimates of the costs of construction of the facilities.** Mr. Moron asked if Dewberry is okay for this work. Commissioner Jones answered yes. **Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley stated this is just for cost estimates not to do the work. Commissioner Jones agreed. **Motion carried; 4-0.**

Meetings:

The next scheduled Board meeting is April 10th at 2:00pm at the Eastpoint Visitor Center

John Solomon – National Volunteer Week – Resolution

Mr. Solomon would like support for a National Volunteer Week Resolution

Mr. Solomon said he is present representing volunteers in the county and has asked for this Resolution multiple times in the past. He stated this needs to be done especially this year after the way the community came together after the hurricane. He reported this shows the power of what volunteers can do in the community. Mr. Solomon read the Resolution for the Board's consideration. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt this Resolution. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt said the spirit of the Commission appreciates the volunteers in the community. He said if there is anything he can do as a Commissioner to make this week special let him know. Commissioner Jones reported he likes the Resolution and thanked Mr. Solomon for drafting it. He discussed the things that happened during Hurricane Michael and the way people gave of themselves. He stated their time and commitment really began with the Eastpoint wildfire. He commented there was so much going on that he was glad to see 2019 come because he had enough of 2018. He thanked Mr. Solomon for the Resolution and what it means to the volunteers. Chairman Lockley said hopefully this year will be a better year as the county went through a lot last year. **Motion carried; 4-0.** The Resolution is as follows:

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
RESOLUTION**

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

National Volunteer Week April 7th – 13th 2019

WHEREAS, the entire community can inspire, equip and mobilize people to take action that changes the world; and

WHEREAS, individuals and communities are at the center of social change, discovering their power to make a difference; and

WHEREAS, during the week of April 7th – 13th 2019 all over the nation, service projects will be performed and volunteers recognized for their commitment to service; and

WHEREAS, the giving of oneself in service to another empowers the giver and the recipient; and

WHEREAS, our Country's volunteer force of 63 million is a great treasure; and
WHEREAS, volunteers are vital to our future as a caring and productive nation;
and

WHEREAS, in 2018 there was a reported 63 million volunteers. They averaged 32.1 volunteer hours per person, per year, which comes to 7.9 billion hours of service, the equivalent of \$195 billion dollars. A volunteer saves on average of \$24.69 an hour for the organization it volunteers for.

Whereas, in October of 2018 after Hurricane Michael made landfall in our area the many men and women of this community gave of themselves by volunteering to help their neighbors. We the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners would like to thank all of our community volunteers.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, The Franklin County Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 7th – 13th 2019 National Volunteer Week in Franklin County and also urge our fellow citizens to volunteer in Franklin County. Also we urge others to recognize those who serve, by tirelessly sharing their time and talent with those in need.

This Resolution adopted by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of April, 2019.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

s/Noah Lockley
Noah Lockley, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

s/Marcia M. Johnson
Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Court – Report

Clerk Johnson did not have a report.

The meeting recessed at 9:39 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:50 a.m.

Alan Pierce – RESTORE Coordinator – Report

Mr. Moron stated Mr. Pierce is at a meeting today to see if there is a quicker way to receive money from FEMA and he will update the Commissioners with any information he receives. He read Mr. Pierce's report, as follows:

There are no new action items to report. Work on FEMA approval for repairs to Alligator Drive continue.

The TRIUMPH staff has given the go ahead for a full application for the airport fuel system so Alan will start working on that. The county will be requesting \$920K of TRIUMPH funds, matched by \$270K of non-TRIUMPH funds.

Michael Morón – County Coordinator – Report

Mr. Moron presented his report, as follows:

1. The Board, at your last meeting, awarded the design the resurfacing improvements of 1.553 of County Road 30-A to the County Engineers, Dewberry Inc. This is a FDOT SCRAP funded program for \$111,762 that will resurface from the Gulf County line to Thirteen Mile Road. Attached to my report is Dewberry's contract for this design project. **Board action** to authorize the Chairman's signature on this contract.

On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Dewberry contract and authorize the Chairman's signature on the contract.

2. The Sheriff's Office has requested the Chairman's signature on the E911 Rural County Grant Program Application. This is a standard grant that the Sheriff applies for every year to assist with the installation and maintenance of an Enhanced 911 (E911) system and to provide "seamless" E911 throughout the State of Florida. Unfortunately, the application deadline was April 1st a day prior to today's meeting, so I asked the Chairman to sign the application with the understanding that I would request the Board to ratify his signature today. **Board action** to ratify the Chairman's signature on the E911 Rural County Grant Program Application.

Commissioner Parrish made a motion to ratify the Chairman's signature on the E911 Rural County Grant Program Application. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Commissioner Jones said he does not have a problem with this but did the Board do a similar action last year. Mr. Moron answered yes. Commissioner Jones stated if this is a yearly grant will they please next year get this grant to the Board ahead of time. Mr. Moron agreed to discuss this with the Sheriff. **Motion carried; 4-0.**

3. At your last meeting, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on a FDOT grant for the remaining funding for the FAA required Airport Master Plan Update. Attached is the Task Order from AVCON to do the Master Plan Update, which is a two-year process. During this time, you will receive continuous updates from your Airport Manager, Mr. Jason Puckett, as well as representatives from the Airport Engineers, AVCON. **Board action** to sign the Task Order.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve and sign the Task Order.

4. Inform the Board that I attended the Lombardi (Waterfront) Park and Museum "substantial" inspection on Friday, March 29th at 2pm which means the project is on track for a final inspection this Friday April 5th, completing the project. I attached some pictures of the park and the museum to my report. County staff would like to schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 18th at 10am officially opening the park. Providing there are no schedule conflicts with any of the Commissioners, **board action** to authorize staff to schedule and coordinate the Lombardi ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening Lombardi Park on April 18th @ 10am.

Mr. Moron said DEP and the contractor are available on this date. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to change the name from Lombardi Park and Museum to Olan B. Ward Park and Museum.** Commissioner Parrish stated Mr. Ward contributed a lot of the community and the seafood industry and he thinks this is the appropriate thing to do. He said he wants to do this so the name will be changed for the ribbon cutting. **Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if the park is closed to the public until that date. Mr. Moron said that is a decision for the Board. Commissioner Parrish reported they are intending to open the park after the ribbon cutting. Mr. Moron explained he is hesitant to agree to a date when the final inspection has not been completed. Commissioner Parrish stated they also need to have Mr. Davis' department go out and mow the grass and clean up the area. Mr. Moron said the parking area also needs to be addressed. Commissioner Jones stated since they are changing the name the sign at the entrance needs to be redone so maybe it can be done before the ribbon cutting. Mr. Moron agreed. He said this Friday is the final inspection but he wanted a few extra days to make sure everything is in order. Mr. Moron stated this park is nice and something to be proud of. He reported the Board has taken some criticism about the park being closed. Commissioner Parrish stated it has been closed for a whole year. He said it was supposed to be opened in September but it was delayed because of the rain and hurricane. Commissioner Parrish reported when the park is open it will be very advantageous for the public. **Motion carried; 4-0.** Attorney Shuler asked if the Board approved the ribbon cutting date. **Commissioner Parrish amended his motion to include authorizing staff to schedule and coordinate the ribbon cutting for April 18th at 10:00 a.m.** **Commissioner Jones amended his second.**

5. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Division of Aquaculture, has informed staff that they are processing new aquaculture lease applications that have been submitted to their office. The County has until April 19th to submit comments on, and/or to concur with or object to, the proposed project. These comments will be used in their evaluation of the proposed applications and activity. A copy of the application is attached to my report. **Board discussion and/or action.**

Mr. Moron presented a map of the area referenced in this lease application. Commissioner Parrish said all of the Commissioners received emails about these leases proposed by individuals that DACS must review. He stated everyone is aware the Board does not control the state submerged lands. Commissioner Parrish reported his contention since this started years ago is that they do not place these leases in the way of existing industries in the bay or people are going to appear at the meeting and ask why the Board did not oppose it. He explained this proposed lease is not in the middle of the bay. Commissioner Parrish stated they do not want to see these leases in the middle of the bay because it will impact other industries. He explained these leases are done in floating cages in the water column which means you will not be able to transition these areas or it will tear up motors or entangle equipment. Commissioner Parrish reported the leases in this proposal all seem to be out of the way of traditional uses of the bay. He stated every one of these sites is up against the hill and DACS does not allow them to be on top of public bars. Commissioner Parrish reported this application is in Rattlesnake Cove. He stated a lot more applications have been submitted to DACS for approval. He said another application is at Goose Island. Commissioner Parrish reported there is going to be a meeting with state representatives that want to know the Board's thoughts about this matter. He stated DACS has been overloaded with applications and they want guidance from the county. He said his opinion is not to put these leases where there is human conflict with different industries trying to operate in the waters of Apalachicola Bay. Commissioner Parrish reported they want input from the Board on where these leases should be to be out of conflict with the traditional uses of the bay. Mr. Moron asked the Board to authorize Commissioner Parrish to attend the meeting on behalf of the county if there is going to be a meeting. He stated the Board can funnel all their questions and comments through Commissioner Parrish and he would come back and let the Board know and then he can construct an email that the Board will officially send to the state. Commissioner Jones asked where the meeting will be. Commissioner Parrish stated they have not told him yet. Commissioner Jones asked if the meeting will be this month. Commissioner Parrish answered yes. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve Commissioner Parrish going to this meeting on their behalf and also that his travel be paid for there and back. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish stated he thinks the meeting will be in Apalachicola so there will be no travel expenses. He said he needs direction from the Board members on how they feel about this issue. Commissioner Jones reported the stance the Board has taken in the past is appropriate for the Board going forward in that just as Commissioner Parrish has stated any and all aquaculture and things people are trying to do to expand on the seafood economy be done in such a way that they are not harmful to navigatable waters in the bay or harmful to other people's way or cause problems to shrimping

or other industries in the bay and/or public use because they do take up a whole water column. Commissioner Jones said as long as they are of this nature he does not see a problem with it. He stated at some point if they are going to continue to have seafood this is the way forward especially for oysters. Commissioner Jones said he did not think he would ever say that in his lifetime. He explained he never imagined in his wildest dream where they are today but he does think that time and history show that the people in Franklin County have been very resourceful and able to reinvent themselves and he views this as part of that. He said he is good with it as long as it is of this nature. Chairman Lockley reported aquaculture is coming. He stated they did it back in 1985 and it worked. He said what he needs to know is if they are going to shut down the wild bars for a while and see if they will produce. He stated it will take the same amount of time whether they are leased or not. He explained it will take a couple of years but because they are submerged they must be in an area where there is no traffic or boats will run over them. Chairman Lockley stated the main thing they are going to need is someone watching the leases. Commissioner Parrish agreed that is another issue. Chairman Lockley explained when they did this in 1985 they worked the lease and then had a night shift so no one got the oysters. Commissioner Parrish stated everyone that has requested these leases have been told about this and that they are at their own risk. Chairman Lockley commented they still need to help the wild bars by shutting them down for a while. He said he would like to see any other information that is coming in and he hopes they receive it before the meeting. Commissioner Parrish explained they are sending everything in to their IPADS but he just wanted the feelings of the Board. He stated it seems like everyone is on the same page. Commissioner Boldt agreed and said Commissioner Parrish spoke last year about the affordability of these leases and how many people from the wild caught market are disenfranchised from these leases. He said they should include input about the leases being financial affordable for people who are shifting from a wild caught market into some new science they have. Commissioner Boldt stated this is a huge need for the people in the oyster industry and that people are trained to shift into this industry. Commissioner Parrish explained the lease is affordable but it will cost \$50,000 to buy the cages, seed oysters and to get the lease set up to produce. He reported for a whole year they will work the lease but will not have time to work a regular job so the normal oysterman who worked the public bars will not have the money to get into this industry. Commissioner Parrish inquired if they want to give Franklin County citizens a priority. He said some of the applicants are from Franklin County but the rest are coming from other places. Commissioner Parrish stated he is concerned people will set up the lease and have it producing and then sell it to other people. He asked if the Board wants to give a recommendation to DACS to give priority to the people of Franklin County. Commissioner Parrish stated this needs to be brought forward at the meeting if that is the wishes of the Board. Chairman Lockley reported at least 75% should be given to Franklin County citizens. He said the people in Franklin County are the ones that are suffering now. He commented they are the people this happened to and it is not right to have 100% come in from somewhere else and none of those people were hurt and lost a job. He reported they should be included even if they cannot afford it. He explained this will cost \$100,000 up front to start but on the wild caught bars you could get started for \$10,000-\$15,000. He said people cannot afford to get started unless they get a grant from the state. Chairman Lockley reported they

need to check into all of this because the people do not have the money and have not worked in years. He questioned how long it has been since the bay produced maybe 4-5 years. Commissioner Jones agreed it has been several years for steady income. He stated he has heard there have been some proposals to do grants funds from DEP for people that want to get in the business. Commissioner Jones said he does not know if the state will allow them to say they want it to be 100% Franklin County residents. He reported like Chairman Lockley he would also prefer it to be people from here. Commissioner Jones stated what he is finding out is people that were in seafood have been working other jobs and want to get back to their roots-seafood. He said this is a different business model and it was cheaper to get in the business before but usually they were a one person operation. He stated now 3-4 people are getting together and trying to make a business to do this. Commissioner Jones reported starting any business they will lose money the first 2-3 years. He said the bigger issue is they support whatever is going to happen as long as it is done in a way they are good with. Chairman Lockley agreed this cannot be a one man operation because there is always something that needs to be done. Commissioner Parrish agreed and said if you are not working the lease then you are guarding it. He stated what he is hearing is they would like Franklin County residents that are displaced out of the bay given priority. He said the DACS may not approve that but at least they have asked for the residents. Commissioner Parrish reported they will also ask about some grant funding for people that cannot afford to get into it but need to work and have been displaced out of the bay. He explained they also need to make sure they are out of the way of traditional uses of the bay. Commissioner Parrish stated he has already heard complaints from guide fishermen about not being able to run and fish where the cages are. He explained they need to be in the forefront with what they ask for but they cannot control what DACS does. Commissioner Parrish stated the Board opposed the upper water column aquaculture when it first came out but the Florida Cabinet allowed it in Alligator Harbor. He stated he expressed concern about the upper water column and people not being able to drive over it in their boats. He said the Board opposed it but it is moving forward now. Chairman Lockley reported they are going to need some regulations and enforcement because if they don't there will be some problems. Commissioner Parrish said he told them the same thing and he can see human conflict happening real quickly. Chairman Lockley reported he will not say 100% Franklin County residents because he worked on the water before and they went other places and they let them come in and work. He said the Board can have their say but the state will regulate it.

Motion carried; 4-0.

Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report

Attorney Shuler explained the only item he has is a Resolution approving the Conveyance of all Right, Title and Interest in a Borrow Pit Easement. He explained this was discussed in a meeting last month and the state statute does allow the Board to convey the easement without holding a public hearing but it does require them to adopt this Resolution. Attorney Shuler said the Resolution finds that the transfer of the borrow pit easement to the State of Florida serves the public interest and that the borrow pit is not needed for county purposes. He explained Mr. Moron's presentation at the last meeting gives the Board a factual basis to adopt the

Resolution. He said if the Board does not have any questions then he requests they adopt the Resolution. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Resolution.**

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Boldt requested an update on a motion that was made a couple of months ago relative to studying the feasibility of having an Airport Advisory Committee (AAC) for the Apalachicola Airport. He stated this happens successfully at the Carrabelle City Airport and the committee has saved the city hundreds of thousands of dollars. He reported they were looking at having this same type of citizen's advisory committee and asks what their thoughts are on this. He asked for Commissioner Parrish's thoughts for his district. Mr. Moron stated the Board tasked Mr. Pierce with doing some research on this issue. He reported he saw some emails Mr. Pierce sent about this and he will ask him to report at the next meeting. Chairman Lockley said that is okay and will be good if they have a full Board present. Commissioner Boldt agreed that will be fine.

Commissioner Boldt inquired about the Board's opinion on having a retreat for the Commissioners for the purpose of developing guidelines and direction on going forward in the next year. He explained they should make decisions based on policy and direction instead of reacting. Commissioner Boldt stated the retreat could be publicly noticed and they could look at the legality as well. He explained they could have speakers come in on certain subjects relative to health care and the environment. Chairman Lockley asked him to explain this request. Commissioner Boldt said he is looking for a workshop day in a public more relaxed setting to address specific policy issues that they face as a Board. He said the Board needs to be knowledgeable on issues such as the hospital and the bay. He stated they could focus on 1-2 subjects that matter most. He reported they could bring in outside expertise to provide information. Chairman Lockley said he does not have a problem with having a workshop. Commissioner Jones stated he does not have a problem with having a workshop either but they need to address the legality of it before they get started. He pointed out with the Sunshine Law they are not supposed to discuss anything that they are going to vote on unless it is out in the public. Commissioner Boldt reported the public would be invited and he has heard of counties doing this in the past. He said the public comes to the workshop as well. Commissioner Boldt stated this would be a workshop with the public as spectators and the Board sets an agenda of the areas they will discuss. Attorney Shuler stated he would like to look into this. He said years ago there was a discussion about having a retreat but when he looked into it the recommendation was not to have one as it had some issues that needed to be addressed concerning public notice and public input. He explained since that time there has been a new state law drafted that requires them to accept public comment during their meeting. He explained he is not sure at this time how that statute would interact with them trying to have a commissioners' retreat. Attorney Shuler reported there are issues such as public notice and where the money will come from for speakers to present and provide their opinion. Attorney Shuler stated he and Mr. Moron will look into this and report back at a future meeting.

Chairman Lockley said they have had meetings where the Board gets together to talk. Attorney Shuler agreed the Board has conducted workshops but it is usually for the purpose of receiving public comment and he does not think that is what Commissioner Boldt is referring to. Commissioner Boldt said he was talking about a planning workshop theme and what matters most in the county that they should be addressing on complex issues that they address a lot. He reported they could develop policy on how they look at things going forward. Attorney Shuler said the Board does not usually take action under public comment but if he gets a general sense from the Board that they want him to look at this issue with Mr. Moron then he will and come back and give a report at a future meeting about what the possibilities are and a recommendation about whether to conduct a workshop in a retreat setting or some other setting.

Chairman Lockley said Mr. Putnal was a Commissioner for 20+ years and he passed away and they are having the funeral in a few minutes. He stated he hates missing the funeral because he served with him. Chairman Lockley asked the Board to adopt something in Mr. Putnal's district or the county with his name on it. Attorney Shuler suggested communicating with his family to see if they are receptive to the Board considering this. He said he agrees with Chairman Lockley that Mr. Putnal was a great man and deserves the honor. Mr. Moron stated he and Commissioner Massey have already talked about this and they will talk with the family and look for something and then bring it back to the Board. He reported they will then plan an event.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts