



Board of Directors Meeting

August 30, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. CT

Escambia County Board Chambers

221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, FL 32502

[Meeting Recording](#)

Members Present

Woody Speed, Chair	City of Orange Beach
Colten Wright, Vice Chair	Santa Rosa County
Robert Bender	Escambia County
Vernon Compton	City of Milton
Cherry Fitch	City of Gulf Breeze
Mike Kohler	Escambia County
Mike Norberg	Okaloosa County
Kerry Smith	Santa Rosa County

Members Absent

Jared Moore	City of Pensacola
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Interested Parties Present

Matt Posner	PPBEP
Whitney Scheffel	PPBEP
Logan McDonald	PPBEP
Haley Gancel	PPBEP
Madi Ross	PPBEP
Molly McDaniel	PPBEP
Mary Jane Bass	Beggs & Lane
Ryan Kirby	Escambia County
Chips Kirschenfeld	Escambia County
Paul Looney	WRA
Chris Verlinde	Santa Rosa County
Christian Wagley	Healthy Gulf
Phillip West	City of Orange Beach
Shelley Alexander	Santa Rosa County
Amanda Mattair	Community Member
Tanya Linzy	Santa Rosa County

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Matt Posner (Director, PPBEP) called the roll. A quorum was present.

3. Approval of Board Agenda

Mayor Cherry Fitch (City of Gulf Breeze) made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Robert



Bender (Escambia County) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of August 16, 2023, Board Minutes

Mike Norberg (Okaloosa County) made a motion to approve the August 16, 2023, Board of Directors minutes. Vernon Compton (City of Milton) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Action Items

a. Approval of 2023-2024 PPBEP Community Grant Program Project Proposals

Discussion was held on the proposed slate for the 2023-2024 Community Grant recipients. A total of 21 total applications were submitted. The selection committee, comprised of representatives of the Technical, Education and Outreach, and Environmental Justice Committees, reviewed proposals and recommended a slate of proposals that included six fully funded proposals and three partially funded proposals. Discussion was held on the Protecting Water Quality and Improving Communities Through Better Land Use Patterns Project by 1000 Friends. The Board showed their appreciation for the work the Selection Committee put into reviewing the proposals and creation of the slate.

Commissioner Robert Bender (Escambia County) made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 PPBEP Community Grant Program Application slate. Mayor Cherry Fitch (City of Gulf Breeze) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Entering into a Contract with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, LLC for Accounting Services

Discussion was held on the Board's action to approve a contract without having the documents presented for review.

Commissioner Robert Bender (Escambia County) made a motion to approve the scope and fee as presented for entering into a contract with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram LLC for accounting services contingent upon legal counsel review of the standard contract and delivery to chairmen for any objections. Mayor Cherry Fitch (City of Gulf Breeze) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Entering into a Contract with Hancock Whitney Bank for Banking Services

Commissioner Colten Wright (Santa Rosa County) made a motion to approve entering into a contract with Hancock Whitney Bank for banking services. Mayor Cherry Fitch (City of Gulf Breeze) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Policy Board/Agency Updates

- a. The Board showed their appreciation for services provided by Escambia County that will allow for a smooth transition to an independent organization.
- b. PPBEP staff shared a save the date for the Evening for the Estuaries gala with the Board.
- c. Matt Posner (Director, PPBEP) recognized Madi Ross' (PPBEP) time as the Community Outreach Assistant over the past two years.

7. Public Comment



**PENSACOLA
& PERDIDO BAYS
ESTUARY PROGRAM**

**Woody Speed, Chair
Colten Wright, Vice Chair**

8. Adjourned