

MOTIONS PASSED AT THE COMBINED BOARD MEETING, TUESDAY July 14, 2026

Approve June 09, 2026, Minutes

Mr. Jarman Moved; Seconded by Mr. DiBenedictis to approve

Approve Consent Agenda

Mr. Jarman Moved; Seconded by Mr. Register to approve

Action Item A

Mr. DiBenedictis Moved; Seconded by Ms. Pease to approve

COMBINED BOARD MEETING
Bay County Tourist Development Council
Panama City Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.
Panama City Beach

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

9:00 A.M.

Council Room, PCB City Hall

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Johns called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Jason Branks

Jeff DiBenedictis (Treasurer)

Will Fleming

Mike Jarman

Reggie Johns (Chairman)

Clair Pease

Andy Phillips

Ethan Register (Vice-Chair)

Josh Wakstein

Nine Members Present at the time of Roll Call.

- A. Invocation- Pastor Raymon Duvall, Beachside Fellowship Miracle Center
- B. Pledge of Allegiance-Chairman Johns
- C. Approve June 9th, 2026, Meeting Minutes
- D. **Mr. Jarman Moved; Seconded by Mr. DiBenedictis to approve**

Motion passed unanimously.

III. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes)

NONE

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Griffiths read the consent agenda into the record:

- A. Approve Board Meeting Dates for FY 2026-2027
- B. Approve Beach Management Program State FDEP grant resolution for FY 2027/2028.
- C. Approve Amendment No. 3 to Agreement No. 22BA3 – Panama City Beaches Shore Protection Project
- D. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 26BA1 – Mexico Beach Restoration Project

Mr. Jarman Moved; Seconded by Mr. Register to approve

Motion passed unanimously.

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve Accounting Services Agreement – Tipton, Marler, Garner, & Chastain Accounting Firm

Mr. Griffiths stated: Mr. Chair, members, as you remember, last month at the meeting when we were discussing the transition from the clerk's office to acquire an in-house accounting firm to help us reconcile on a weekly, daily, and quarterly basis. We have engaged Tifton Marler. They're actively

working. They were actively engaged since January through the clerk's office, so we felt it was best to work with them. We have a letter that will take us through the end of this fiscal year. And then as we plan for the budget for fiscal year 2027, we will include them in our budget for the next fiscal year so they can continue those services for us.

Mr. DiBenedictis Moved; Seconded by Ms. Pease to approve
Motion passed unanimously.

VI. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. DiBenedictis stated: I can report that there was \$4,282,107 in TDP tax dollars taken in. We've collected year to date \$16,772,866. You'll notice in your packets that we don't have any current financials more recent than what we had last month. We're in the transition from the clerk's office to Tipton and Marler, and there's some logistics about them getting full access to the accounts. So, we don't have the May or June financials to report at this time. We hope that by next meeting they'll be caught up with those two months, and we'll have something to report. We just didn't want to report information that's not accurate or what we can't rely on.

He was asked if there has been any delay or issues transitioning from the clerk's office. Mr. DiBenedictis stated that they're working with the banks, the two key banks, and changing signers and then getting online access approved. It just takes a little bit of time. But hopefully we'll get it resolved maybe by the end of this week, early part of next week, and then they can start doing their reconciliation for us.

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Griffiths stated: While we are already engaged with Carr Riggs, working on our annual audit, we have separately engaged them to do a little bit deeper dive on our forensic audit. The audit that the county engaged early on, we felt didn't quite do enough. So, we're going to do a line by line, deep dive on that. They're actively engaged working in a conjunctive spirit with Rich Moreira, who most of you know. They feel like that would be about a 60-day process. Hopefully in the next 60 days, we'll have a lot of reconciliation on those dates that happened between January 24 and December 25, those two years that were of some critical nature. Tipton Marlor, as we've talked about, is working daily with us. The bank reconciliations and accesses should be handled today, tomorrow at the latest. They're already working with the information they have.

The Tax collector's office, Shanta had a meeting with them yesterday to discuss the future of how the transition takes place. For the collectors out there, it should be very, very simple. Every one of them is required to use an online portal right now. Shouldn't much change with that. There'll be an educational format if we must go out and educate the collectors on how to pay that tax. Most of them are very savvy and I think it shouldn't be an issue at all. I think it will be a very smooth transition.

The new signs, 10 of the new beach signs, are being installed. So, if you're on Front Beach Rd today, he's out there working as we speak. I saw him a little while ago. He is just to the west of the city pier right there. So, stop by and check them out. They look fantastic.

Beach cleanup. As you know, prior to the fourth, we had a lot of sargassum washed up. I give a lot of credit to Coastal Parasail and his crew. They went to work really, really hard and got it cleaned up and

had the beaches looking really, really good for what was a very strong 4th of July. All I've heard on the beach is how strong it was and how big the crowds were, how everybody behaved themselves. The chief, the sheriff, everybody is very, very happy with what was a very successful 4th of July. So, we appreciate that.

Working on sunset sessions here, which is our September concert that we're working in conjunction with the county. It will be at the county pier on September 18th. It will be similar to the concerts at the park that the city holds at Aaron Bessant Park, but this one will be at the county pier.

Mr. Griffiths was asked by the board if the TDT Tax Reports would be changing as it transitions to the Tax Collector's Office. Mr. Griffiths said that the reporting documents will be discussed and will provide the board with all pertinent information as the board wishes. It will be formatted and the contents adjusted to the board's specifications.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Johns Adjourned the meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Cook, Recording Secretary