

**Minutes**  
**Institute for Senior Professionals**  
**May 15, 2007, 7:30 a.m.**  
**Room LRC 128**

**Members Present:**

Dave Bechtold	Darrell James	Van Swenson
Stan Berg	David Keener	John Vaughan
Russell Christesen	Don Litke	George Wagner
Bob Garcia	Bill Maxson	Barbara Wall
Ben Grafton	Fred Pryor	Dann Wallis
Audrey Hains	Annette Register	Roger Wallis
Bill Hall	Tom Reynolds	Loyal Weaver
Inez Hall	Larmon Salmon	Al Weidenbusch
Doug Harvell	John Streit	Rae Williams
Philip Hoge		

**Members Absent:**

Eileen Arpke	Howard Dimmig	Gary McMillin
Robert Billingsley	Jim Durham	Jane Meigs
Dale Blanchard	Mike Flynt	Robert Milligan
Steve Cherny	Mack Gay	Charlie Morris
George Dean	Sam Mac Nulty	Sy Shwiller

**Others Present:**

Bob Richburg  
Becky Tislow  
Jill White

**Guest Speaker:**

Senator Don Gaetz, Florida Senate

**Call to Order**

David Keener called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Bill Hall delivered the Invocation and John Vaughan led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guest Speaker**

The Honorable Don Gaetz, Florida Senate presented the day's program on the recent Legislative Session in Tallahassee.

**College Report**

Dr. Richburg noted that Senator Gaetz is the Chairman of the K-12 Education Committee which has the largest budget in the state.

Dr. Richburg said the legislative session was good for the college. OWC received \$27 million for construction, the largest amount in the college's history; the operating budget is up by 5½ percent; the college received \$500,000 for the Teacher Education Program; the Community Services Complex received accelerated funding that should allow construction to begin next spring; the college also received \$6 million for a satellite facility in Destin on airport land owned by the county; the South Walton campus received next phase funding; the college ended the 2006-07 academic year up four percent in enrollment.

### Chairman's Report

David said there would be two study reports to consider at today's meeting, the Emerald Coast Chorus Study and the Horizons Study. He also said the Nominating Committee would present the slate of officers for the 2007-08 year; the group would be voting on the meeting format and also be voting on Emeritus Director status.

### Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the April 17, 2007 meeting were approved with one correction. **Motion, Bob Garcia; second, Rae Williams. Motion carried.**

### Treasurer's Report

Bob Garcia presented the Treasurer's Report reflecting a balance of \$4,378.31.

### Committee Reports

#### Program

Van Swenson reported that Gen. Eidsaune will not be able to speak in June and that Okaloosa County Commissioner John Janazzo has agreed to present the program.

#### Membership

Barbara Wall welcomed Philip Hoge who said he was delighted to be a member of ISP and looked forward to his work with the group.

#### Social

Bob Garcia said the Spring Social went very well with 42 people in attendance. A quartet from the Emerald Coast Chorus provided entertainment.

Due to a small number of participants, it was decided to postpone the Field Trip to the EOD School until sometime in the fall.

#### Nominating Committee

Don Litke presented the slate of officers for the 2007-08 year, each of whom has agreed to serve if elected: Chairperson, Audrey Hains; Vice Chairman, Charlie Morris; Secretary, Loyal Weaver; and Treasurer, Steve Cherny. **Bob Garcia moved the slate be accepted and officers elected; second, Dann Wallis. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Meeting Format

Discussion centered on maintaining the breakfast format or returning to the luncheon format. David said there were some members on both sides of the issue. Don Litke moved to return to the luncheon format; second Dave Bechtold. **Motion did not carry. The breakfast format remains in effect.**

#### Emeritus Director Status

**Dann Wallis moved that former member Walt Turner be granted Emeritus Director status; second Barbara Wall. Motion carried unanimously.** Dann Wallis said that it is an honor to award this status to Walt Turner, the "Father of the Prime Time Program."

#### Project Opportunities

Walton County Mitigation Strategy Plan - David said he had received a letter from Walton County concerning the Mitigation Strategy Plan. Bill Maxson and Phil Hoge met with Ms. Pat

Blackshear who requested ISP look over the draft plan to get it ready to submit to the state. Walton County used the Okaloosa County plan as a model. Bill said he thought it would be a worthwhile effort, but would take some manpower to complete since the deadline is January 2008. **Motion to approve, Don Litke; second, Bob Garcia. Motion carried.** Ben Grafton, Don Litke, Bob Garcia, Stan Berg and Al Weidenbusch volunteered to assist in this effort.

Destin Vision Study – Russell Christesen met with City of Destin staff but is unable to understand what role the city would like ISP to have. He said the city is looking at changing demographics concerning retiring baby boomers and wants to be sure to properly welcome them to the area and determine what assets and skills they might bring with them. Russ asked the Mayor and citizens group to submit a Scope of Work to determine how ISP can assist. Doug Harvell said he was attending a web cast on retiring baby boomers that Jim Chitwood had arranged.

#### Freeport Study

Bill Maxson said formal participation has ended and thanked ISP members who assisted with the study.

#### Heritage Museum

Inez Hall said she met with Michelle Severino, Heritage Museum Director who said that critical issues facing the museum are adequate space, staffing and a consistent source of funding. ISP has been asked to conduct a feasibility study for a capital campaign and expansion project and to develop a business plan for the museum bookstore. Inez said there are grants available, but a professional grant writer is needed. There is no deadline for this project.

#### Okaloosa County Courier Project

Larmon Salmon said a report should be complete by the end of May or beginning of June.

#### Horizons

**Dave Bechtold moved the Horizons study be accepted; second, Bob Garcia. Motion carried.** David thanked Audrey Hains and Mack Gary for conducting the study. He will write the cover letter and submit to Becky; when copies are bound, Becky will send Horizons several copies.

#### Emerald Coast Chorus

**Bob Garcia moved the Emerald Coast Chorus study be accepted; second, Audrey Hains. Motion carried.**

#### Critical Issues Focus Groups

##### Environment and Natural Resources

Loyal Weaver said he is preparing a brief on the waste disposal plant.

##### Disaster Response

Stan Berg said the Focus Group continues to attend Emergency Management meetings and expand its contacts.

### Transportation

George Wagner said the Mid-Bay Bridge Toll Plaza is complete. The plaza came in under budget and in less time than was allotted. He said there will be a public hearing toward the end of June on the interchange at Seminole.

Dave Bechtold said the Emerald Coast Bridge Authority has not been disbanded as was previously thought; funds for the Bridge Authority will be included in funding for the Corridor Authority.

### Workforce Housing

Fred Pryor had no report.

Citizens Involvement Doug Harvell said the group has three candidates for the Tax Watch Board of Directors and is looking for three additional members.

### **Sustaining Support**

#### Web Site

Tom Reynolds said he is working on the website to permit members to send email to other ISP members via the site and will provide links to the websites recommended by Senator Gaetz; he is updating the calendar 2-3 times per month. Darrell James asked that "What Is ISP?" and Executive Summaries of all reports be placed on the site.

#### Prime Time

Dann said the recent spring session was the second best in Prime Time's history; the fall brochure will be ready by the first part of August with registration to be held September 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Around the Room**

Stan Berg said the League of Women Voters would host the "State of the County" forum May 26, 10 a.m. in the Jury Assembly Room of the Shalimar Courthouse Annex. County Commissioner James Campbell, Superintendent of Schools Alexis Tibbitts and a judge (as yet unnamed) would be available for Q & A after the program.

Loyal Weaver said that solar energy is coming back and that members should try to go "green" as much as possible.

Bob Garcia reminded members of the Pops Concert, presented by the Northwest Florida Symphony Guild, May 27, 3 p.m. on the Mullet Festival grounds.

Audrey Hains said she served as a moderator at the recent Middle School Academic Tournament and enjoyed the event.

Becky reminded members that the 2007-08 Directory would be compiled over the summer and asked them to send any changes to their biography page.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.