



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**January 10, 2026**  
**Tampa, FL**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**Call to Order:** President Cate Thompson

The Executive Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Cate Thompson. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. The invocation was led by Past President Rick Keeney and then Secretary Althea Parrish took roll call. Self-introductions were done around the table.

**President**

Cate Thompson  
 Infra Pipe  
 561-221-9007  
[Cathompson@gmail.com](mailto:Cathompson@gmail.com)

**President-Elect**

Tom Pugh, P.E.  
 Mead & Hunt, Inc.  
 239- 940-0580  
[Tom.Pugh@meadhunt.com](mailto:Tom.Pugh@meadhunt.com)

**Vice-President**

Joseph Kroll  
 City of Hollywood  
 945-967-4336 (o)  
 305-525-1694 ©  
[jkroll@hollywoodfl.org](mailto:jkroll@hollywoodfl.org)

**Secretary**

Althea Parrish  
 (Retired)  
 407-340-6967  
[Parrisha1a@gmail.com](mailto:Parrisha1a@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Lee Ann Luhrs  
 954-650-55753  
[treasurer@florida.apwa.org](mailto:treasurer@florida.apwa.org)

**Immediate Past President**

Mark Collins  
 Retired  
 954-972-8126  
[mvcollins76@yahoo.com](mailto:mvcollins76@yahoo.com)

**Council of Chapters**

Amy Blaida  
 Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc.  
 813-468-4576  
[Amy.blaida@ergon.com](mailto:Amy.blaida@ergon.com)

(Atl. Council of Chapters – Sam May)

President Cate Thompson	Present
President Elect Tom Pugh	Present
Vice President Joseph Kroll	Present
Treasurer Lee Ann Luhrs	Present by phone
Council of Chapters Delegate Amy Blaida	Present
Immediate Past President Mark Collins	Excused Absence
(Proxy to Past Present Mike McCabe)	
District I Representative Clint Murphy	Present
District II Representative Joe Sisk	Present
District III Representative Don Clifton	Present
District IV Representative Joey Dunton	Present
District V Representative Elia Twigg	Present
District VI Representative Mike Weaver	Excused Absence
(Proxy to Past President Rick Keeney)	
District VII Representative Robert Carlsen	Present
District VIII Representative Bill Vest	Present
District IX Representative Leah Holmes	Present
District X Representative Jamie Brown	Present
District XI Representative Jay Fink	Present

## OFFICERS REPORT

1. Secretary's Report - Althea Parrish

**MOTION:** Vice President Joe Kroll made a motion to approve the Executive Committee Minutes dated November 9, 2025. Lisa Sterling (proxy from District Representative Joey Duncan) seconded said motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Treasurer's Report - Lee Ann Luhrs see written report (attended by phone)

Lee Ann gave the Treasurers report. The balances of the chapters operating account, annual meeting funds, money market and the various Raymond Jams accounts. In her report she gave the information of new treasurers and how important is it for any changes to branch officers to communicate to her and the chapter secretary. Some branches still have vacancies for treasurers.

She then talked about the upcoming calendar events with time lines that need to be kept. She stated how important the 1099 forms are. She asked for budget submittals request forms from branches if needed and anyone submitting budget requests be prepared to discuss and be available for questions. Budget request must be submitted to the chapter treasurer by March 13, 2026. It is the responsibility of each district representative and share with branch treasurers to pay "pay attention" to the calendar in advance for due dates as supplied in the

Treasurer Report. Each year a new budget request form must be submitted. All branch treasurers should submit approved budgets to the chapter treasurer by March 13, 2026 and entered approved branch budgets in QuickBooks. The upcoming Annual Chapter Dinner in August in Texas was discussed.

**MOTION:** District Representative Bill Vest made a motion to accept the treasures report. Past President Rick Keeney (had District Representative Mike Weaver's proxy) seconded said motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. President's Report - Cate Thompson see written report

Cate went over her report. She spoke again about her 2025 – 2026 Mission Statements & Goals and the back-to-basics items. After discussion an amended motion to a previous one on August 19, 2023 reads as such and will become a policy:

**MOTION:** President Elect Tom Pugh made a motion for the EXPO Task Force to accept the following people:

President

President Elect

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Immediate Past President will hold position as Chairman of this committee with the incoming Vice President as Co-Chair.

The President can appoint 2 other people of their choice to be on the Task Force and can also appoint a vendor for this Task Force.

President Elect Tom Pugh made a motion to amend the motion dated August 19, 2023 with above corrections and Vice President Joseph Kroll seconded said motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Past President Doug Layton went over all the policies and procedures with the correction on the District Representative position description to read as follows:

“In the unusual event District Representatives are unable to attend an Executive Committee meeting, they should notify the CHAPTER President and the CHAPTER Secretary of the reason for their upcoming absence and provide a proxy for any votes that may be needed at the meeting”.

**MOTION:** District Representative Joe Sisk made a motion to accept the Standard Operating Practices with the above correction to the district representative page. District Representative Bill Vest seconded said motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

All the Standard Operating Practices will be given to the Chapter Secretary for recording and safe keeping.

President Cate Thompson then discussed the Branch Officers page with emphasis on “A final list of newly selected Branch Officers is REQUIRED to be submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the Executive Committee meeting on or before the EXPO”.

Discussion on the PAE’s details to the Chapter and it was suggested that more details be included in the PAE’s role in the Chapter in the operating procedures/organizational chart.

4. President Elect Report - Tom Pugh no written report

Tom talked about the upcoming activities 2026 EXPO in Tampa and the abstract extension time. He went over the agenda for the 2026 EXPO stating most events will be held at the hotel except for the Rodero at the Florida State Fairgrounds and the Exhibit Show to be held at the Tampa Convention Center. He also stated the rodeo lunches will be available to others with payment. He then spoke about the panel of the pros.

5. Vice Presidents Report - Joseph Kroll no written report

Joseph went over the first responder's status for Public Works employee's recognition. The bill pertaining to "Public Works – First Responders" did not get approved but hopefully will get approved next time. Vice President Joe Kroll and District Representative Joe Sisk are still working on it.

6. Council of Chapters - Amy Blaida see written report

Amy went over her report. She gave an update on membership, Regions III, IV and VI having a joint Council of Chapter Leadership Training March 10 – 12, 2026, similar to the one we hosted two years ago. The Regional Directors decided to hold this APWA Regional Council of Chapters Winter Meeting at the Roger C. Clark Leadership Conference in St. Pete Beach, Fl. The Florida Chapter needs to decide who will attend the Roger Clark Leadership Training which will cover hotel cost only.

**MOTION:** Chapter Delegate Amy Blaida made a motion to increase/amend the budget for sending attendees to the Roger Clark Leadership Retreat not to exceed \$7000 which is \$2000 more that is in the budget now. Past President Rick Keeney (had District Representative Mike Weaver's proxy) seconded said motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion about honoring Incoming National President Robert Garland. Chapter Delegate Amy Blaida will contact Robert and work on this. PAE will help and obtain formation to find an appropriate venue in Houston Texas at National PWX.

7. Immediate Past Presidents - Mark Collins no report excused absence

### **DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

8. District Representative 1 - Clint Murphy see written report

Clint talked about the Emerald Coast Branch activities which continues to hold combined meetings with other associations.

9. District Representative 2 - Joe Sisk see written report

Joe talked about the Big Bend Branch activities of November, December and January. He talked about the annual food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank.

10. District Representative 3 - Don Clifton see written report excused absence

Ciro Perone talked about the Santa Fe Branch activities and the branch board is currently meeting biweekly to discuss and prioritize current operational and membership needs across the district.

11. District Representative 4 - Joey Duncan see written report  
 Joey went over the Northeast Branch activities which included their November and January meetings. They are currently working on updating the Northeast Branch's bylaws, better publicity on NWFL Scholarship Program and increasing membership growth.
12. District Representative 5 - Elia Twigg see written report  
 Elia spoke of the Central Florida Branch activities and filling the vacancies on the branch executive board.
13. District Representative 6 - Mike Weaver see written report excused absence  
 Past President Rick Keeney went over his written report for the West Coast Branch.
14. District Representative 7 - Robert Carlsen see written report  
 Robert went over the Treasurer Coast Branch activities.
15. District Representative 8 - Bill Vest no written report  
 Bill went over the Sun Coast Branch activities. They have held monthly meetings.
16. District Representative 9 - Leah Holmes see written report  
 Leah spoke of the Southwest Branch activities and spoke of their breakfast meetings and their upcoming Scholarship fundraiser scheduled in February 2026.
17. District Representative 10 - Jamie Brown see written report  
 Jamie spoke about the Gold Coast Branch golf tournament, their arcade networking event, axe throwing event and other branch activities.
18. District Representative 11 - Jay Fink see written report  
 Jay spoke of the South Florida Branch activities, their quarterly luncheon meetings.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

19. Accreditation - Brittany Hart see written report  
 Britney talked about upcoming articles for the APWA Florida Magazine, other article ideas, upcoming presentations, webinars & Lunch & Learns, the presentation topic for the Tampa EXPO and other goals set forth for the Accreditation Committee.

20. Association Alliance - Mike McCabe see written report  
Mike stated the Florida American Society of Civil Engineers is seeking abstracts for presentations to their annual conference scheduled for July 2026.
21. Auditing - Althea Parrish no report needed at this time
22. Awards - Joe Sisk see written report  
Joe reported the committee finetuned the awards application and criteria for 2026. They held their webinar in December and the deadline for award applications. The committee will endorse our award winners to Nation for consideration in their awards program.
23. By-Laws - Mark Collins absent no written report
24. C3 - Clint Murphy see written report  
Discussion on a budget for this committee and the relationship with the DRAF fund. Will the chapter budget need to be adjusted? Chapter Treasurer Lee Ann talked about the chapter operating account. Are their guidelines on/for the finance committee and for the C3 committee? It was acknowledged that the State must be declared a state of emergency. A policy for this committee should be addressed. Past President Rick Keeney and Past President Jeff Wilson spoke. At this time a motion on this was tabled until further education and knowledge is addressed.
25. Chapter Annual EXPO - Tom Pugh no written report  
Tom talked about the upcoming 2026 EXPO in Tampa which he discussed in his President Elects report.
26. Diversity & Young Professionals Cody Cash absent see written report  
Cody gave the report and asked for each branch YP representative to give their reports to him and also spoke of their goals and work plan for this committee.
27. Education & Training - Peter Cavalli see written report  
Peter spoke about the education and training meetings held and their mission and vision statements. He spoke about having a social media policy and the need for one.
28. Emergency Management - Joe Kroll no written report  
Joe spoke on this in his Vice Presidents report.
29. Engineering & Technology - Nabil Muhaisen absent see written report
30. EXPO Task Force - Tom Pugh no written report  
Tom discussed this in his President Elect report. See motion there.

31. Facilities & Grounds - Ross Prieto no written report  
 Ross talked about various situations and activities pertaining to this committee. Past President Mike McCabe stated he would help set up a webinar.
32. Finance - Lisa Sterling see written report  
 Lisa's report included the balances of the Raymond James account, the Scholarship and Chapter accounts and the DRA account. Discussion again on modifying the IPS for the DRA account to increase the return investment.
33. Fleet Services - Darryl Shivers no written report  
 Darryl also spoke about several situations pertaining to his committee.
34. Government Affairs - Joe Sisk see written report  
 Joe went over his written report. He stated Representative Woodson has filed her new first responder's legislation, HB 75, calling municipalities and counties to provide identification cards to eligible public works employees. Unfortunately, she withdrew the bill for this year.
35. Historical - Rick Keeney no written report  
 Rick spoke about articles for the magazine and maybe an article on the DRAF.
36. Leadership/Management/PW Institute Addie Javed absent see written report  
 Elia talked about upcoming webinars and that she'll be teaching at one of these.  
 Discussion on the subcommittee for the public works institute, the Indian River College situation and maybe having another institute at another location. In February the committee will meet virtually.
37. Magazine - Chas Jordan see written report  
 There is information for the deadlines that are on the website and a request for tech committee to submit at least one article each year so we can highlight all the various areas of public works.
38. Marketing - Rebecca Price no written report  
 Rebecca stated she is still working on plans and achieving goals and promotion for this committee.
39. Membership - Debra Warren see written report  
 Discussion on group memberships, anniversary pins that will be available at the APWA booth at the EXPO.

40. Nominating - Jamie Brown no written report

Jamie talked about the upcoming officers for the 2026 – 2027 year.

**MOTION:** District Representative Bill Vest made a motion to accept the following officers for the year 2026 – 2027

President	Tom Pugh
President Elect	Joseph Kroll
Vice President	Joe Sisk
Secretary	Althea Parrish
Treasurer	Arnesa Zunic
Immediate Past President	Cate Thompson
Council of Chapters Delegate	Amy Blaida

District Representative Clint Murphy seconded said motion.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

41. PACE - Amy Blaida see written report

She reported that the Florida Chapter accepted the PACE Awards for the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. PACE is due June 1, 2026. This will be another new format and she will be attending a webinar with National to explain the changes. Amy and Cate have patches and will get them to PAE for the banner. Amy also reminded everyone she will be contacting the branches for PACE information prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

42. Past Presidents Council - Ron Ribaric absent no written report

At this time the list is up to date.

43. Public Works Week - Carsey Patrick absent see written report

In his report he stated the NPWW hasn't been announced and listed his accomplishment and goals.

44. Rodeo - Jamie Brooks no written report

Jamie talked about the upcoming rodeo at the EXPO in Tampa.

45. Scholarship Trust - Mark Collins absent no written report

Past President Mike McCabe talked about the Scholarship Trust meeting from Friday. \$15,000 was approved for qualified scholarship winners.

**MOTION:** Past President Mike McCabe (had Immediate Past President Mark Collins proxy) made a motion to take out of the Scholarship Trust Fund the amount of \$15,000 to be distributed to qualified scholarship winners. Council of Chapters Delegate Amy Blaida seconded said motion.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Treasurer Lee Ann also stated that contributions from branches in even amounts in increments of \$500 by January 30, 2026 will be added to this year's scholarship award amount. Any uneven amounts will be deposited to the Raymond James Scholarship fund.

46. Scholarships - Sam May absent no written report  
Applications are available.

47. Solid Waste - Brad Kaine no written report  
Brad shared some Solid Waste information and is still working on this committee.

48. Sustainability - Lisa Sterling see written report  
Lisa talked about the future goals for this committee. Past President Mike McCabe said to submit to National for approval of CEU's that cost \$35 per event. Lisa then stated encouraged participation by offering PHD/CEU's for webinar attendance.

49. Transportation - Troy McCain/Stefano Viola Stefano absent  
No written report Troy talked about his next meeting for this committee.

50. Utilities & PW Right of Way Albert Carbon see written report  
Albert spoke of vision and purpose of this committee as public works professionals to be the stewards of the right-of-way to ensure sustainable utilization of the public rights-of-ways in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal laws.

51. Water Resources - VACANT

52. Website/Insurance/PAE - Mike McCabe no written report  
Mike is still working on the website. It's an ongoing project. He spoke about creating committee pages and update for events. Any and all events need to be shared and posted on the website.

Respectfully Submitted, Althea Parrish, Florida Chapter Secretary 11:40 p.m.