

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

OF

THE GOLDEN L.E.A.F. (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), INC.

The regular meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors of The Golden L.E.A.F. (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), Inc. (the “Foundation”), was noticed for and convened on April 2, 2026, at the North Carolina State Plant Sciences Building, located at 840 Oval Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606. Committee members participating in the meeting were Michael Easley, Jr., Laurence Lilley, Brian Raynor (Acting Chair), and Jarette Sampson. Also present were Board members Barry Dodson, Don Flow, Jim Harrell, Buddy Keller, Jeffrey Lee, Bobbie Richardson, David Rose, Tom Taft, and Bill Webb. Also present were Scott T. Hamilton, President, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation; Ted Lord, Senior Vice President/General Counsel of the Foundation; J.P. Boyd, Vice President of Investments of the Foundation; Erica Smith, Vice President of Finance of the Foundation; Kasey Ginsberg, Vice President/Chief of Staff of the Foundation; Ginger Mustamaa, Director of Programs Administration; Brynn Fann, Program Officer and AV/Tech Coordinator of the Foundation; and Byron Kirkland, legal counsel to the Foundation. J.P. Boyd served as secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Kirkland called the roll of the Committee members.

In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Raynor served as Acting Chair of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Raynor declared a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2026, meeting of the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Smith to present her report to the Committee.

Ms. Smith reviewed the Foundation's Statements of Position as of February 28, 2026, and June 30, 2025, including Cash and Cash Equivalents, Investments, and Grants Payable. As of February 28, 2026, the Foundation's Total Assets were approximately \$1.621 billion, compared to approximately \$1.530 billion as of June 30, 2025. The variance is primarily attributable to an increase in Investments. The Foundation had Total Liabilities of approximately \$187.3 million as of February 28, 2026, comprised almost entirely of grants payable. The Foundation's Net Position as of February 28, 2026, was approximately \$1.433 billion compared to a net position of approximately \$1.330 billion as of June 30, 2025, an increase of approximately \$103 million. During the period ending February 28, 2026, the Foundation's Investments increased approximately \$105.7 million to approximately \$1.613 billion. This increase in Investments reflects Investment Income of approximately \$155.1 million, Return of Funds to State (Shell Building) of approximately \$1.1 million, and Transfers to Operating Cash of approximately \$48.3 million. The balance of Grants Payable stood at approximately \$187.1 million at the end of the period, a decrease of approximately \$12.5 million since June 30, 2025, reflecting approximately \$44.4 million in Awards, \$46.1 million in Payments, and \$10.8 million in Rescissions.

Ms. Smith then reviewed the Foundation's Statements of Activities for the eight months ended February 28, 2026, and February 28, 2025, including revenues and expenses. During the period ending February 28, 2026, the Foundation had Total Revenues of approximately \$155.9 million, compared to Total Revenues of approximately \$154.3 million at the end of the same period for the prior year, an increase of approximately \$1.6 million. The difference in Total Revenues is primarily attributable to a greater amount of Investment Income in the period ending February 28, 2026, and the \$50 million non-recurring State Appropriation – Helene that was received in the period ending February 28, 2025. The Foundation had Total Expenses for the period ending

February 28, 2026, of approximately \$53.0 million, compared to Total Expenses of approximately \$113.8 million at the end of the same period for the prior year, a decrease of approximately \$60.7 million. During the period ending February 28, 2026, the Foundation's Revenues exceeded Expenses by approximately \$102.9 million, compared to Revenues exceeding Expenses by approximately \$40.6 million at the end of the same period for the prior year.

Ms. Smith reported that as of February 28, 2026, the Foundation had Fiscal Year to Date Total Investment Income of approximately \$155.1 million comprised of Dividend and Interest Income of approximately \$14.3 million, Realized Gain of approximately \$52.0 million, Management Fees of approximately \$1.5 million, Unrealized Gain of nearly \$90.3 million, and Other Miscellaneous Investment Income of \$37.5 thousand. Ms. Smith also reported that as of February 28, 2026, the Foundation had Interest Income on its Coronavirus Relief Account of \$206,391.

Ms. Smith then provided an update on the Line of Credit Expenses. As of February 28, 2026, the Foundation had Total Line of Credit Expenses of \$50,433 comprised of Origination Expenses of \$17,500, Legal Expenses of \$14,045, Line of Credit Unused Fees of \$18,875, and Interest Expense from Testing of \$13. The line of credit was successfully tested in February 2026.

Ms. Smith then reviewed the Budget Report for the eight-month period ending February 28, 2026. Ms. Smith noted that Administrative Expenses for the fiscal year through February 28, 2026, were 6.2% favorable to the budget, with much of the favorability attributable to savings in Personnel Expenses.

Ms. Smith then presented an overview of Budget Updates. The February Budget includes a capital budget adjustment of \$65,000 related to the HVAC replacement for the Lawrence Davenport Retreat Center. (The Board approved an adjustment of up to \$75,000 at the February

meeting.) Other non-capitalizable expenses related to the HVAC replacement are estimated to be approximately \$10,000, which staff expects to be absorbed into the existing administrative budget.

Ms. Smith reported that at the June 2026 meeting, staff will present the proposed FY2027 Budget for approval. Staff expects a modest increase. Major items for consideration include health insurance plan changes for employees and conversion from an onsite physical server to a cloud-based server.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

J.P. Boyd, Secretary of the Meeting

Read and approved:

Brian Raynor, Acting Chair of the Finance
Committee