



Tuesday, April 20, 2021
Via Teleconference
12:00pm – 2:00pm
Minutes

Attendees:

Cabinet Members:

Kelly Schulz, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
Ken Holt, Secretary, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Chantal Kai-Lewis, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs for Jimmy Rhee, Special Secretary,
Governor's Office of Small Minority and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA)
Tiffany Robinson, Secretary, Department of Labor
Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Department of Environment (MDE)
Greg Slater, Secretary, Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Robert McCord, Secretary, Department of Planning (MDP)
Jim Fielder, Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
Michael Higgs, Director of Assessments & Taxation (SDAT)
James McKirk, Director of Legislative and Constituent Services for Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio,
Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary, Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Wendi Peters, Special Secretary, Smart Growth

Guests:

Meredith Wimbrow, Office of the Governor
Ryan Snow, Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (GOIA)
Gretchen Hardman, GOIA
Deputy Secretary Horacio Tablada MDE
Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis MDOT
Deputy Secretary Julie Oberg, MDA
Deputy Secretary Owen McEvoy, DHCD
Allison Cordell, Governor's Office of Performance Improvement (GOPI)
Kenrick Gordon, Governor's Office of Rural Broadband
Kory Boone, SDAT
Mike Pantelides, Labor
Ann Gunning, Labor tentative
Victor Clark, Labor
Janice Walker-Emeogo, Labor
Anthony Butler, Labor
Teresa Mena, Labor
Todd Scott, DHCD
Marcie Castaneda, DHCD
Roger Campos, DHCD
Joe Griffiths, MDP
David Dahlstrom, MDP

Commerce Staff:

Julie Woepke
Kyle McColgan
Jayson Knott
Sarah Sheppard
Brigitte Peters
Andrew Sargent
Wade Hearle
Elizabeth Carven
Michael Siers
Nancy LaJoice
Nancy McCrea
Melanie Koorey

I. Call to Order

Secretary Schulz called the meeting to order at 12:00pm and thanked all for adjusting schedules.

I. Review and approval of February 16, 2021 Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting approved.

II. Chair Update

Prior to beginning her presentation, due to time constraints, Secretary Schulz invited Secretary Fielder to provide the Maryland Higher Education Legislative update. He stated the primary legislative action was the passage of Senate Bill 1 and the companion House Bill 1 which the Governor signed. This legislative action requires settlement of the 15-year-old Coalition case and provides \$577 million funding for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities over a 10-year period.

Secretary Schulz began the Commerce presentation by updating the Subcabinet on a few new internal communications activities intended to engage and support the Department as remote working continues. Prior to introducing Commerce team members to continue the Department update, Secretary Schulz gave brief updates on the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Washington Football Team and World Cup projects.

Secretary Schulz continued by introducing Economist Michael Siers who presented on the economic recovery covering the unemployment rate; impact of the pandemic by industry; unemployment trends; particularly food services and accommodations; reopenings and vaccinations; and factors tracked for recovery. Jayson Knott continued the Commerce presentation by providing an update on major opportunities activity representing at least 25 new jobs.

Secretary Schulz then introduced Assistant Secretary Tom Riford who provided an update on the Maryland Marketing Partnership (MMP). He described the placement of digital and new print ads to reflect Maryland Innovators; the introduction of ads to niche trade publications; increased ad buy; and a custom supplement on Maryland in partnership with FORBES Magazine. Mr. Riford continued by describing the impact of the pandemic on the tourism industry. While the pandemic continues to have negative impacts on tourism, he stated signs of improvement. Mr. Riford then answered questions from the Subcabinet. Presentations on file.

III. Legislative Updates

The Subcabinet provided updates on the status of the 2021 Legislative Session priority bills impacting their respective Department or Office. Mr. James McKirk presented DNR's update on behalf of Secretary Haddaway-Riccio and Ms. Chantal Kai-Lewis provide the updated for Secretary Rhee, Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs.

IV. Subcabinet Workgroups

The Leaders of the five (5) Workgroups gave presentations: Customer Service, Job Creators, Workforce Development, Small Business, Regional Resources and SM3. The Regional Resources Team Leaders provided Updates and Opportunities Reports, Action Plans, and Narratives as applicable. Presentations and reports are on file.

V. Good of the Order

No additional information presented.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 1:58pm.