



June 30, 2022
Harry Hughes Conference Room
MDOT Headquarters, 7401 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover
2:00pm – 3:30pm

Attendees:

Cabinet Members:

R. Michael Gill, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
Eduardo Hayden for Jimmy Rhee, Special Secretary, Governor’s Office of Small Minority and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA)
Tiffany Robinson, Secretary, Department of Labor
Horacio Tablada Secretary, Department of Environment (MDE) – Call in
Jim Ports, Secretary, Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Call in
Robert McCord, Secretary, Department of Planning (MDP) – Call in
Michael Higgs, Director of Assessments & Taxation (SDAT)
Kamil Williams, Special Assistant for Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Call in
Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary, Department of Agriculture (MDA) – Call in
Wendi Peters, Special Secretary, Smart Growth

Guests:

Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis, MDOT
Tyler Abbott, MDE
Mike Pantelides, Labor
Greg Derwart, Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA)
Todd Scott, DHCD – Call in
Joe Griffiths, MDP
Frank Dickson, DHCD
Mike Morello, DBM
Cassie Shirk, MDA

Commerce Staff:

Julie Woepke
Tom Riford
Signe Pringle
Kyle McColgan
Jayson Knott
Wade Hearle
James Palma
Michael Siers
Brigitte Peters – Call in
Samuel Patterson, Intern

I. Call to Order

Secretary R. Michael Gill called the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

II. Review and approval of April 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the April 12, 2022 meeting approved.

III. Chair Update

Secretary Gill began the Commerce update by providing an overview of the Governor's recent Trade Mission to Ireland and France where the state continued expanding economic relationships and opportunities. Several Subcabinet Agencies participated in the mission to make it very successful. He then presented one of the Governor's Legacy Tour cards which highlights the Administration's legacy projects by county that are available to the Secretaries. He concluded by stating the importance of the Administration to finish strong in the remaining months of the year.

Secretary Gill introduced Economist Michael Siers who gave an overview of Maryland's unemployment rate, stating the rate is back to pre-pandemic level. However, Mr. Siers noted that total employment is still lagging compared to pre-pandemic years. He noted the key to recovery is to bring back the labor force. He concluded by illustrating job losses and gains by industry.

Senior Director Mr. Jayson Knott addressed the Subcabinet and provided an overview of business attractions and expansion opportunities. He presented a recent win; existing pipeline; and several opportunities, capital expenditures, opportunities and prospective jobs by region.

James Palma, Director of Research and Information Services addressed the Subcabinet and provided an update on the American Rescue Plan Act Federal Grants awarded to the state. He described the planning grants, projects and next steps.

All presentations on file.

IV. Subcabinet Updates

The Subcabinet Secretaries provided brief updates on a number of programs, new initiatives, accomplishments and challenges. Discussion occurred among the Secretaries.

V. State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Program Update

Frank Dickson, Director of Strategic Business Initiatives, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provided an overview of the new SSBCI program focused on underserved areas and disadvantaged individuals. He stated the federal funds will be distributed through eight (8) programs between a collaboration with DHCD, Commerce and the Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) extending until 2029/2030. Mr. Dickson answered questions from the Subcabinet.

Presentation on file.

VI. Subcabinet Workgroups

The Regional Resources Workgroups, Customer Service, Jobs Creators and Sustainable Materials Management (SM3) Workgroups provided updates. Presentations and reports are on file.

VII. Good of the Order

No additional information was exchanged.

VIII. 2022 Meetings – August 18, October 4, December 15

IX. Adjournment

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 3:35pm.