



August 18, 2022

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Dockside Hall, Ocean City

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Attendees:

Cabinet Members:

R. Michael Gill, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair

Jimmy Rhee, Special Secretary, Governor’s Office of Small Minority and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA)

Assistant Secretary, James Rzepkowski for Tiffany Robinson, Secretary, Department of Labor

Horacio Tablada Secretary, Department of Environment (MDE)

Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis, Jr., for Jim Ports, Secretary, Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Robert McCord, Secretary, Department of Planning (MDP)

Michael Higgs, Director of Assessments & Taxation (SDAT)

Director of Legislative Services and Constituent Services, Bunky Luffman for Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Wendi Peters, Special Secretary, Smart Growth

Guests:

Carol Beatty, Secretary, Department of Disabilities

Gretchen Hardman, Governor’s Office of Interagency Affairs

Tyler Abbott, MDE

Kamil Willimas, DNR

Greg Derwart, Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA)

Kenrick “Rick” Gordon, Office of Statewide Broadband

Joe Griffiths, MDP – Call in

Susan Grimes, Washington County – Call in

Commerce Staff:

Julie Woepke

Tom Riford

Kyle McColgan

Jayson Knott – Call in

Margaret Whitescarver

Andrew Sargent – Call in

Brigitte Peters – Call in

I. Call to Order

Secretary R. Michael Gill called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

II. Review and approval of June 30, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the June 30, 2022 meeting approved.

III. Chair Update

Secretary Gill began the Commerce presentation by stating he is working with the team to develop a top 20 list of priorities to remain focused and finish the administration strong. He then provided an update on the new Manufacturing 4.0 grant program, the Rural 50 Fund and the new Child Care Loan Program. He then introduced Senior Director Mr. Jayson Knott who provided an overview of business attractions and expansion opportunities. Mr. Knott presented recent wins; existing pipeline; and several opportunities, capital expenditures, opportunities and prospective jobs by region.

All presentations on file.

IV. Subcabinet Updates

The Subcabinet Secretaries provided updates including the status of major transportation projects; the recently announced U.S. Economic Development Administration Good Jobs Challenge Grant focused on Wind Energy; Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) programs to advance agency goals; joint compatible land use study; labor workforce programs; natural resources new dredging project; Appalachian Regional Commission upcoming multi-state conference co-chaired by the Governor; and Higher Education and State Department of Assessments and Taxation updates. Discussion occurred among the Secretaries.

V. Broadband Update

Mr. Kenrick “Rick” Gordon, Director of the Office of Statewide Broadband provided an overview of the status of the funding distributed to date; funding by program and geographic location; county funding to date for broadband expansion; and total broadband funding. He then provided an update on the Office of Statewide Broadband FY22 Program status and new programs under development. Mr. Gordon answered questions from the Subcabinet.

Presentation on file.

VI. Subcabinet Workgroups

The Regional Resources Workgroups and Customer Service Workgroups provided updates. It was referenced the Job Creators Workgroup Job Creators list was included in the meeting materials. Presentations and reports are on file.

VII. 2022 Meetings –October 4, Tradepoint Atlantic, December 15 – to be determined.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:38pm