



October 16, 2023
Department of Agriculture, Rooms 112-114
50 Harry S. Truman Drive, Annapolis
10-11:30am
Agenda

Subcabinet:

Kevin Anderson, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
Kevin Atticks, Secretary of Agriculture
Eduardo Hayden, Small Business Outreach Manager for Y. Maria Martinez, Special Secretary, Governor's Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA)
Michael Higgs, Director, State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)
David Zaidain, Chief of Real Estate & Transit Oriented Development for Paul Wiedefeld, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Virtual
Portia Wu, Secretary, Department of Labor
Joe Griffiths, Local Assistance and Technical Trainer for Rebecca Flora, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
Sanjay Rai, Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) –Virtual
Serena McIlwain, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Susan C. Lee, Secretary of State

Guests:

Shaina Hernandez, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor – Virtual
Tunji Adenekan, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Ashley Sharp, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Labor
Alexandria Liu, Chief of Staff, Secretary of State
Signe Pringle, Deputy Secretary, Commerce – Virtual
Julie Woepke, Executive Director, MEDC
Jennifer LaHatte, Managing Director, OPRGA – Virtual
Jayson Knott, Senior Director – Virtual
Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director
Amy Duray, Director of Federal Business Relations
Jennifer Chiasson, Grants Manager

I. Meeting called to Order

Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:05am. He thanked Secretary Atticks of the Department of Agriculture for hosting the meeting.

II. Review and Approval of September 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the September 25, 2023 meeting approved.

III. Chair's Report

Secretary Kevin Anderson opened the meeting by emphasizing the importance of the Subcabinet Agencies in connecting economic development functions. He mentioned a recent meeting of the lower shore economic development partners to discuss regional needs and strategies. He emphasized the importance of incorporating all regions in overall economic development strategies.

IV. Department of Agriculture Presentation

Secretary Kevin Atticks welcomed the Subcabinet Secretaries to the Department of Agriculture and provide a brief history of the building and began his presentation on value-added agriculture. He provided an overview of the functions of the Department which includes pest management, regulated weights and measures and resource conservation.

Secretary Atticks continued his presentation by describing that value-added agriculture includes processing, marketing, and experiences (example, Agritourism). He cited a 2018 study which projected that this sector could support nearly 74,000 jobs and an economic impact of \$20.6 billion. He announced the hiring of a value-added agricultural specialist, Martin Proulx, to assist farmers in increasing the value of agricultural products which may include multi-Agency coordination for permits, meeting health and safety standards, etc... Mr. Proulx will be offering general support to new and existing farmers and agriculture stakeholders and seek to streamline and consolidate regulations.

Secretary Atticks then discussed creative opportunities being explored that can lead to new technologies, workforce development, grants or tax credit programs to support the industry. He then answered questions from the Subcabinet. Presentation on file.

V. Office of Military & Federal Affairs - Department of Commerce

Secretary Anderson then reviewed the Department's organizational chart highlighting the offices which have presented to the Subcabinet in an effort to provide opportunities for collaboration with other State Agencies. He then introduced Ms. Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director, Office of Military and Federal Affairs.

Ms. Swoboda began her presentation by describing the origin of the office, the federal government footprint in Maryland, civilian federal agencies and military installations and illustrated that government is the top economic driver of the top five (5) industries by gross domestic product as of 2022. She continued by stating in FY21, the economic impact of military installations was \$61.4 billion. She continued by describing the defense communities and how the office collaborates with all partners. She also described the successful DefTech Program which Maryland launched to stimulate and support technology transfer from federal lab partnerships and also the Maryland Supplier Support Program.

Ms. Swoboda highlighted the federal grants obtained to support programs that are collaborations with other State Agencies. She concluded her presentation by describing an installation resiliency program, and the Maryland Military Installation Council. Ms. Swoboda took questions from the Subcabinet. Presentation on file.

VI. Conair Project Announcement

Secretary Anderson introduced Jayson Knott, Senior Director, Office of Business Development to review the recently announced Conair, LLC project. The project will create approximately 700 new full-time jobs in Hagerstown. The approximately 2.1 million square feet facility will be a distribution center for

over 400 products and be operational in 2024. Mr. Knott then reviewed potential collaborations or impacts with Subcabinet Agencies. Secretary Anderson reiterated the importance of the collaborations and communication among agencies to support economic development.

VII. Regional Resources Workgroup

Mr. Joe Griffiths, AICP, Local Assistance and Technical Trainer, Department of Planning addressed the Subcabinet and thanked Secretary Atticks for providing a sample of a reporting format for the regional teams. He stated the teams are reviewing the formatting and plan to have a system in place to be able to distribute to the Subcabinet prior to the next meeting. Handout on file.

VIII. Good of the Order

Secretary Rai updated the Subcabinet of an additional project planned in Western Maryland. He noted Meritus Health in planning a \$160 million Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine in Hagerstown to address the shortage of medical professionals in the region. Along with academic facilities, the planned 190,000-square-foot-school will include student housing for some of the school's planned 720 students.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:30am.