



February 5, 2026  
401 E. Pratt Street, 17th Floor Conference Room, Baltimore Maryland 21202  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

**Commissioners in attendance:**

Paxton Baker	PKB Enterprises
Dr. Nia Banks	Beaux Arts Plastic Surgery, Art of Balance Spa
Nakeia Drummond	The Women Entrepreneur Leadership Lab
J. Russell Fugett, PMP	My Progress Coach
Elizabeth Georg	Deep Creek Title Group
Seth Goldman	Eat the Change
Reginald Hilton	Client Partnerships EZRA Coaching LHH
Israel “Izzy” Klein	Klein/Johnson Group
Ginger Noble	Business Operations & Tax Preparation
Leon Pinkett, III	Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation (BARCO)
Dana Stebbins, Chair	The Cornelius Group, Inc.
Eben Smith	Three E Consulting Group, LLC
Andrew Vickery	Business Strategist

**Ex Officio members in attendance:**

Harry Coker (Secretary)	Department of Commerce
Troy LeMaile-Stovall	TEDCO
Tom Sadowski	MEDCO
Portia Wu (Ashley Sharp)	Department of Labor

**Commerce staff in attendance:**

Ricardo Benn  
Afiya Bey  
Cori Duggins  
Mary Hanley  
Stephen Rice  
Judy L. Smith

## **I. Call to Order**

Chair Dana Stebbins Esq. called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

## **II. Review and approval of December 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the December 4, 2025 meeting were approved.

## **III. Chair's Report**

Chair Stebbins reported that the 2025 MEDC Annual Report had been formally submitted and subsequently provided the following updates:

- **Strategic Planning Phase II**
  - Due to an amendment being issued for the RFP, the deadline for questions was extended to January 12, 2026. The due date for proposals was extended to February 4, 2026. Contract evaluation will be about two weeks; an award is expected mid-March.
- **FY26 Implementation Planning**
  - A draft version of the FY26 Implementation Plan is being developed. The goal is to have a final draft on or before March 15, 2026. The plan lists activities, POCs, and timeline.
- **Loaned Executive Program Status**
  - The Department of Commerce is working with its legal department to develop an MOU for the engagement with the loaned executive company, as well as a non-disclosure agreement and a conflict of interest affidavit. A start date is anticipated for mid-April.
    - **Action:**
      - Commerce will confirm whether budget items were incorporated into the MEDC report submission and verify receipt of the report by the legislature.

#### IV. Meet the Commissioners

As a standing agenda item, Commissioners at each meeting introduce themselves and share brief insights into their professional and personal backgrounds. The newest Commissioner, Andrew Vickery, currently based in Los Angeles, shared that he runs the commercial team for a healthcare startup. His experience also includes public sector work, notably advising the Jordanian government on economic development initiatives focused on youth unemployment. As a travel enthusiast, he dedicates his free time to adventures, having visited more than 60 countries.

#### V. Secretary's Report

Department of Commerce Secretary Coker provided the following updates:

- Maryland is facing significant economic headwinds, including 25,000 federal civil service layoffs in Maryland and the impact of tariffs on the business community. The funding for Phase Two of the economic development strategy is secured, but approval is required from the Board of Public Works, consisting of the Controller, Treasurer, and the Governor.
- The Secretary is continuing with County Tours throughout the state, which has effectively showcased Maryland's significant geographic diversity. Recent highlights from tours included a significant deal closure for a container terminal at Trade Point Atlantic in Baltimore County. In Howard County, the CEO of Feast & Fettle commended the seamless experience of evaluating and relocating their business to Maryland. Additionally, Montgomery County will see a leading developer, X Energy, moving its headquarters to Rockville.
- Commerce conducted recent trade missions to Canada, resulting in an MOU and alignment on mutual interests, and to the Middle East (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and UAE), the first such mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Pipeline updates included AstraZeneca's \$2 billion deal impacting Frederick and Montgomery counties, Samsung Biologics opening their first US-based manufacturing facility in Maryland, and the announced construction of "The Sphere" at National Harbor in Prince George's County.
  - Members of the Commission thanked Secretary Coker for his update and asked if they could participate in County Tours. Additionally, questions were raised regarding Data Center conversations across the state and the status of the Blue Line Corridor project in Prince George's County.
    - **Actions:**
      - Commerce will distribute the County Tour schedule, enabling Commissioners to request participation in upcoming tours.

- Commerce will research the Blue Line Corridor funding and provide an update during the next MEDC meeting.

## **VI. Energy Update**

Ms. Afiya Bey presented an energy update on behalf of Energy Program Manager, Ryan Powell, PhD, who had a schedule conflict.

Maryland Governor West Moore signed an executive order in December 2025 to build an affordable and reliable energy future. The order aims to stabilize utility bills, improve reliability, and includes actions such as creating an industry subcabinet and an energy advisory council. Commerce is a member of the advisory council.

- **Action:** Confirm who the new Subcabinet will report to, namely the Governor.

## **VII. Collaboration Scheme Update**

Ms. Judy L. Smith presented a refined business ecosystem diagram showing the relationship, mission, and services of key economic development organizations: TEDCO, MEDCO, MARBIDCO, DHCD, and Commerce. The Secretary indicated that the Governor directed Commerce to lead the assessment to determine whether the current construct is the best fit for the state, following Maryland Economic Council (MEC) recommendations to streamline state processes.

Mr. Tom Sadowski requested a follow-on discussion to establish a baseline understanding between MEDCO, TEDCO, and Commerce.

- **Action:** Secretary Coker will meet with Tom Sadowski and Troy LeMaile-Stovall to discuss the organizational construct initiative.

## **VIII. Maryland Consolidated Competitiveness Biannual Plan**

Ms. Mary Hanley presented an overview of the purpose of the Maryland Consolidated Competitiveness Biannual Plan (as outlined in EO 01.01.2024.39 that established the Governor's Economic Competitiveness Subcabinet (GECS)). Maryland does not currently have an integrated economic development strategy. In addition to outlining the current GECS Plan framework and sharing lessons learned by the working group developing the Plan, she discussed the public-facing version of the GECS Plan, the "Strategy," and the internal version, the "Implementation Plan."

What the GECS Plan Is:

- Executive Order 01.01.2024.39 (Strengthening Maryland's Business Climate to Bolster Economic Competitiveness) requires that the Governor's Economic Competitiveness Subcabinet (GECS) "develop and publish a consolidated competitiveness plan that

incorporates strategies and action plans from every executive department and agency represented on the Subcabinet.”

- EO 01.01.2024.39 requires that the consolidated competitiveness plan (“the plan”) be developed and published on a biannual basis.

Agencies Involved:

- Every executive department and agency is represented on the GECS.
- As needed, additional collaboration across the interagency.
  - **Action:** Mary Hanley will update the Plan's cover slide to emphasize a competitive economy, specifically highlighting sectors such as cybersecurity and biotech, following a suggestion from Commissioner Seth Goldman.

## **IX. Message from Governor Moore**

As Chair Stebbins concluded her tenure and presided over her final meeting as Chair of the MEDC, a video message from Governor Moore was presented.

Chair Stebbins concluded by stating she would continue to be involved in economic development across the state and charged the Commissioners to continue the MEDC economic development work.

## **X. Summary of Key Decisions and Actions**

Ms. Smith summarized the following action items that resulted from the meeting.

Action Items for Department of Commerce:

- Confirm whether budget items were incorporated into the MEDC report submission and verify receipt of the report by the legislature.
- Ascertain the availability of the Blue Line Corridor funding and whether its allocation is at risk.
- Distribute the county tour schedule, enabling Commissioners to request participation in upcoming tours.
- Confirm who the new Energy Subcabinet outlined in the recent Executive Order will report to, namely the Governor.
- Secretary Coker will meet with Tom Sadowski and Troy LeMaile-Stovall to discuss the organizational construct initiative.
- Mary Hanley will update the Biannual Plan's cover slide to emphasize a competitive economy, specifically highlighting sectors such as cybersecurity and biotech, following a suggestion from Commissioner Seth Goldman.

**XI. Good of the Order**

- Secretary Coker presented Chair Stebbins with a Commerce coin as a token of the Department's gratitude for her leadership.

**XII. Adjournment**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.