



Thursday, April 24, 2025

1:00-2:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Virtual & In-person

The Strouse Corporation - 1211 Independence Way, Westminster, MD 21157

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mina Izadjoo, Ph.D., Integrated PharmaServices - VIRTUAL
April Richardson, Food Opportunity, LLC - VIRTUAL
N. Scott Phillips, Scott Phillips Consulting - VIRTUAL
Luke Chow, Prime Manufacturing Technologies, Inc - IN PERSON
Susan Chambers, the Strouse Corporation - IN PERSON

Commerce Staff & Invited Speakers:

Ricardo Benn, Deputy Secretary, Innovation and Growth - VIRTUAL
John Gilstrap, Assistant Secretary, Innovation and Growth - VIRTUAL
Ulyana Desiderio, Senior Director, OSIE - VIRTUAL
Benjamin McGlaughlin, Manufacturing Program Manager OSIE - IN PERSON

I. Call to Order & Chairman Remarks

At 1:15 pm Benjamin McGlaughlin (temporary chair) called the meeting to order. The start of the meeting was previously delayed due to lack of a quorum.

II. Review and Acceptance of the January 29, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Board members were provided the draft minutes from the January 29, 2025 meeting both via email before-hand and hard copy at the meeting. Ben asked the Board to review the minutes, then requested a motion to approve. A motion was made to approve by Susan Chambers, this motion was 2nd-ed by April Richardson, with no discussion the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Department of Commerce Manufacturing Program Updates

Benjamin McGlaughlin provided updates on the M4 program, noting the finalized M4 program for M425, budget implications from the legislature, and uncertainty around M4 program funding for FY2026. The success of the M425 program was highlighted due to additional funding provided by the governor from \$1 million statutory to \$5 million, resulting in a significant increase in capital expenditures on the part of manufacturers. Ben also discussed the Maryland Made program, funded by the

Department of Energy, which includes assessments, webinars, and mini technology grants. Risk Assessment of DOE Funding was brought up by Scott Phillips who raised concerns about the availability of funds coming through the Department of Energy (DOE). Ben responded that they had worked with the Attorney General's office and were confident in continuing operations until notified otherwise by DOE.

Discussions clarified the Maryland Made program's scope. It focuses on energy savings and smart manufacturing technologies for Maryland manufacturers, not solely Maryland-made products. The program includes technology assessments, assistance, and mini-grants for energy efficiency improvements. A question arose about whether environmental waste reduction would fall under the "energy savings" category. Ben agreed to look into this.

Ben announced an event focused on leveraging AI in Maryland manufacturing, specifically targeting medium and small manufacturers to help them adopt AI in their processes. He highlighted the importance of starting small and scaling up, rather than implementing AI across the entire organization at once. The event aims to show how accessible AI solutions are and how they can improve processes, maintenance and quality systems. The event, *AI for Smart Manufacturing Productivity Forum* will be held at the A James Clark Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD from 1pm to 6pm on May 13, 2025.

IV. Board Discussion Re: Advancing Maryland's Manufacturing Sector

The board discussed how to best understand the needs of Maryland's manufacturing sector. They considered using surveys or in-person events to collect feedback from various industry segments. April Richardson suggested starting by defining target industries and leveraging existing relationships. Mina Izadjoo favored an initial online questionnaire followed by in-person meetings. Concerns were raised about the accuracy of the existing 4,500-5,000 manufacturer count and the need to identify active manufacturers. Scott Phillips suggested a statewide manufacturing event to allow for self-identification and feedback, similar to methods used in Virginia. Benjamin McGlaughlin noted the availability of a free technology assessment through Maryland MEP, utilizing CESMII's tools, which could help companies identify their technology readiness and needs.

Benjamin McGlaughlin also suggested focusing initial outreach on the Governor's "lighthouse sectors" (AI & quantum technologies, computational biology, and PNT—position-navigation-timing) but not ignoring other sectors and their contributions to the supply chain.

V. Public Comments/Discussion

There were no members of the public in the meeting when the agenda item for public comment was presented.

VI. Closing Remarks

The next meeting date was initially listed as May 7th, but Benjamin McGlaughlin clarified that it has been rescheduled to May 29th due to prior scheduling conflicts. He asked attendees to check their calendars and confirmed they would send a reminder if needed.

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was received at 2:01pm