



October 6, 2021
Department of Housing and Community Development
7800 Harkins Road, Lanham
2:00pm – 4:00pm

Attendees:

Cabinet Members:

Deputy Secretary Signe Pringle for Kelly Schulz, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
Ken Holt, Secretary, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Eduardo Hayden, Small Business outreach Manager for Special Secretary Jimmy Rhee, Governor's Office of Small Minority and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA)
Deputy Secretary Horacio Tablada for Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Department of Environment (MDE)
Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis, Jr. for Greg Slater, Secretary, Department of Transportation (MDOT) – call in
Robert McCord, Secretary, Department of Planning (MDP)
Jim Fielder, Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) – Call in
Michael Higgs, Director of Assessments & Taxation (SDAT)
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Call in
Wendi Peters, Special Secretary, Smart Growth – Call in
Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary, Department of Agriculture (AG) - Call in

Guests:

Meredith Wimbrow, Office of the Governor – Call in
Gretchen Hardman, Governor's Office of Interagency Affairs (GOIA) - Call in
Deputy Secretary Julie Oberg, AG – Call in
Deputy Secretary Sandy Schrader, MDP – Call in
Ligia Aceves, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) – Call in
Allison Cordell, Governor's Office of Performance Improvement (GOPI) – Call in
Kenrick Gordon, Governor's Office of Statewide Broadband
Johnathan Glaser, SDAT
Mike Pantelides, Labor
Jacqueline Davis, Labor
Victor Clark, Labor – Call in
Janice Walker-Emeogo, Labor – Call in
Angella Moon, Labor – Call in
Todd Scott, DHCD
Amber Saulsbury, DHCD
John Hershey, DHCD
Randeep Singh, DHCD
Elizabeth Coleman – DHCD – Call in
Roger Campos, DHCD – Call in
Joe Griffiths, MDP
David Dahlstrom, MDP – Call in

Commerce Staff:

Tom Riford – Call in
Julie Woepke
Kyle McColgan – Call in
Jim Palma – Call in
Brigitte Peters- Call in
Wade Hearle – Call in
Tonya Wigfall – Call in

I. Call to Order

Deputy Secretary Signe Pringle called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

I. Review and approval of August 16, 2021 Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the August 16, 2021 meeting approved.

II. Chair Update

Deputy Secretary Pringle began the Commerce presentation by playing two (2) new fall tourism marketing videos and social media campaign banners running in the mid-Atlantic regions that encourage travel to Maryland. She then provided an update on the business attraction and expansion opportunities. She highlighted the recent win in Carroll County of the Penguin Random House, a 1 million square foot facility with 150 new jobs. She then describe the robust pipeline of 30 opportunities of at least 50 jobs and illustrating the region, capital expenditure, and industries.

Deputy Secretary Pringle proceeded to update the Subcabinet on the Purple Line Business Assistance Grants Program and thanked the Maryland Transit Authority for assisting in compiling a list 750 businesses impacted due to the construction of the Purple Line.

Ms. Pringle then introduced Jim Palma, Research Director to provide an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act Statewide Planning Grant application submitted on September 10, 2021 to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Mr. Palma described the four (4) projects that submitted for the \$1 million in non-competitive funds as part of the program. He briefly mentioned the Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation and Coal Communities funding also available through the U.S. EDA. All presentations on file.

Mr. Palma answered questions from the Subcabinet.

III. Western Maryland EDA Grant Update

Special Secretary Peters addressed the Subcabinet and provided background on the work of the State with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Through the ARC, a feasibility study was conducted for an advanced Technology Center at Frostburg State University (FSU). The study laid a foundation for an application of a Build Back Better Planning Grant for Coal Impacted Communities to continue the development of the Advanced Technology Center for workforce, remote work center and renewable energies. It is a regional effort and it is anticipated the application will receive strong support given the project will have a regional impact.

IV. Project Restore Update

Secretary Holt provided a program overview of Project Restore, its purpose, allocation, and target areas for the \$25 million funding. He stated grant opportunities are available in the form of property assistance grants and business operations grants for properties that have been vacant for over six (6) months. To date, 1,481 applications requesting \$30.7 million received. He added that awardees likely to be announced in November. Presentation on file.

V. Census Data Update

Secretary Rob McCord provided an overview on accessing recently released data from the U.S. Census. He presented a comprehensive collection of snapshots from the State Data Center and Census that can be useful for Secretaries when planning programs, targeting customers and understanding the growth and population trends of the state. He referenced the hyperlinks provided in a separate hand out and encouraged the Subcabinet to review the changing landscape of the State's population. He stated this information has not been interpreted rather the raw numbers and has not been adjusted. Secretary McCord indicated that there is more business data available than in previous years. Presentation on file.

The Secretaries held a discussion on the demographics, data collection, race vs. ethnicity and housing counts.

VI. Subcabinet Workgroups

The Leaders of the six (6) Workgroups gave presentations: Small Business, SM3, Regional Resources, Customer Service, Job Creators, and Workforce Development. Reports are on file.

VII. Good of the Order

No additional information exchanged.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.