# Advisory Commission on Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing

**APPROVED (on 11.12.26)**

**MEETING**

**July 1, 2026 | 3:00 PM | Via Teleconference**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Butz, Windridge Vineyards
Dr. Joan Cartier, Links Bridge Vineyards
Steve Connelly, designee of Maryland Department of Agriculture
Roy Crow, Crow Vineyards
Dr. Joe Fiola, University of Maryland Extension
Jeffrey Kelly, Maryland Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis Commission
Kimberly Johnson, Philosophy Winery
Max Lents, Baltimore Spirits Co
Marci Ross, designee of Maryland Department of Commerce

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Laura Gutierrez, Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs
Gerald Stinnet designee, Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs
The Honorable Kris Valderram, Maryland House of Delegates
The Honorable Craig Zucker, Maryland State Senate

**STAFF**

Peter Ayeni
Lisa Hansen Terhune

Minutes of the Advisory Commission on Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing Meeting
July 1, 2026 via Teleconference | 3:00 PM – 4:45 PM

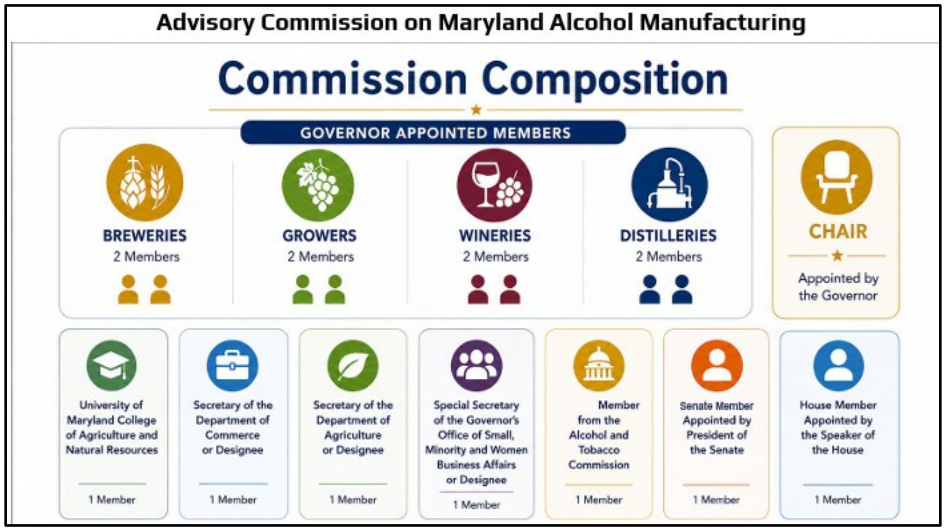
## I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Acting Chairman Robert Butz called the meeting to order. He thanked all for attending the meeting and asked Commission Members to introduce themselves then followed by asking members of the public to also introduce themselves. Mr. Butz shared that former Chair Jaime Windon stepped off the commission and he introduced himself as Acting Chair, since he is Vice Chair. He read the Open Meeting Act reminder statement.

## II. Meeting Minutes December 15, 2025

**Vote Taken:** Mr. Lents made a motion to approve the December 15, 2025 meeting minutes, and Dr. Cartier seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed by roll-call vote, with affirmative votes from Dr. Cartier, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Crow, Dr. Fiola. Ms. Johnson, Mr. Lents, and Ms. Ross. Mr. Kelly arrived late and did not participate in the vote.

## III. Commission Updates




Staff outlined the statutory composition of the Advisory Commission, which consists of 15 members representing governor appointments from specified industries, and named government, and legislative categories.

## Advisory Commission on Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing

### Gubernatorial Terms

- Terms are three years, staggered term dates.
- At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.
- A member may not be appointed for more than two consecutive terms.
- A member appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies

| SEAT | FIRST TERM ENDS | SECOND TERM ENDS |
|---|---|---|
| 1- UMD College of Ag & Natural Resources | 6/30/2024 | 6/30/2027 |
| 2 - Brewery | 6/30/2024 | 6/30/2027 |
| 3 - Brewery | 6/30/2025 | 6/30/2028 |
| 4 - Distillery | 6/30/2026 | 6/30/2029 |
| 5 - Distillery | 6/30/2025 | 6/30/2028 |
| 6 - Wineries | 6/30/2026 | 6/30/2029 |
| 7 - Wineries | 6/30/2024 | 6/30/2027 |
| 8 - Grower | 6/30/2025 | 6/30/2028 |
| 9 - Grower | 6/30/2026 | 6/30/2029 |

Commissioner term details were outlined indicating the staggered terms for appointment categories established in 2022. Initial terms ended in 2024, 2025, and 2026, with second terms ending in 2027, 2028, and 2029.

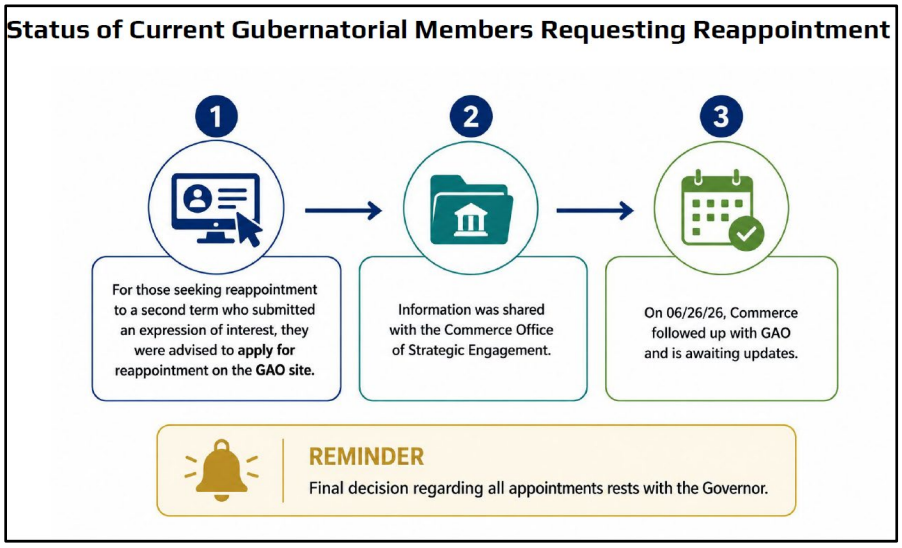
## Advisory Commission on Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing
### CURRENT MEMBERS

| Seat Name | First | Last Name | Organization | Term End | County |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1- UMD College of Ag & Natural Resources | Joseph A. | Fiola, PhD | UMD College of Ag & Natural Resources | 6/30/2024 | WASH |
| 2 - Brewery | | | VACANT | | |
| 3 - Brewery | | | VACANT | | |
| 4 - Distillery | Max | Lents | Baltimore Spirits Company | 6/30/2026 | CRRL |
| 5 - Distillery | | | VACANT | | |
| 6 - Wineries | Roy | Crow | Crow Vineyards | 6/30/2026 | KENT |
| 7 - Wineries | Kimberly T. | Johnson | Philosophy Winery | 6/30/2024 | CRRL |
| 8 - Grower - ACTING CHAIR | Robert T. | Butz | Windridge Vineyards | 6/30/2025 | MONT |
| 9 - Grower | Joan | Cartier, PhD | Links Bridge Vineyards | 6/30/2026 | FRED |

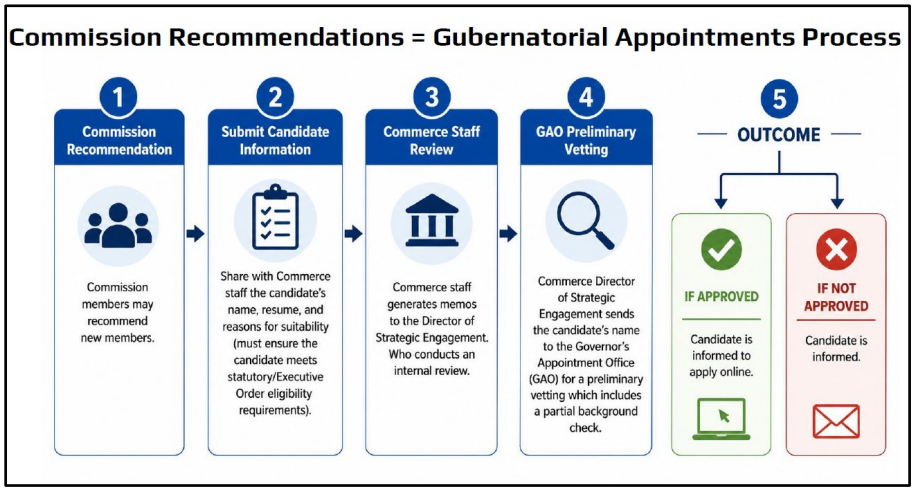
**Ex-Officio**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Secretary of Commerce or designee | Secretary Harry | Coker |
| *-designee* | Marci | Ross |
| Secretary of Agriculture or designee | Secretary Kevin | Atticks |
| *- designee* | Steve | Connelly |
| One member of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, designated by its Chair | Jeffrey A. | Kelly |
| Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs or designee | Laura | Gutierrez |
| *-designee* | Gerald | Stinnett |
| One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate | The Honorable Craig J. | Zucker |
| One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House | The Honorable Kris | Valderrama |

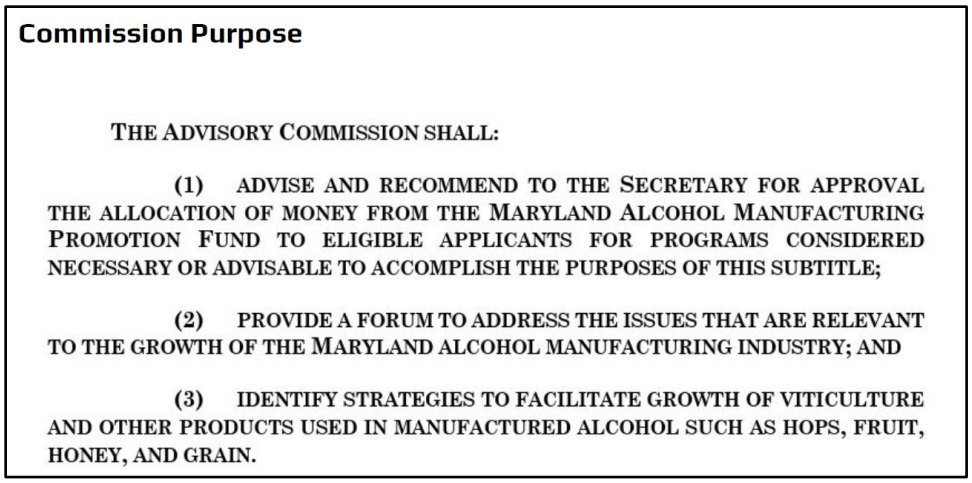
The Commission currently has 12 members including ex officio representatives. Two members resigned in March 2026: Mark Burke of Streetcar 82 Brewing and Jaime Windon of Lyon Distilling. Per the statutory quorum requirement, which is a majority of the members then serving, six members must be present to establish a quorum.




A status update was provided of current members who expressed interest in reappointments and it was shared that there are no new updates.

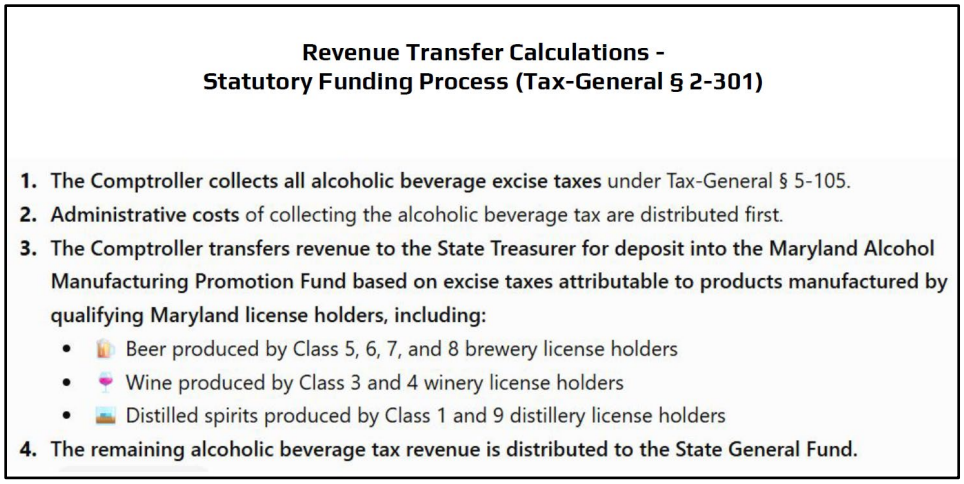



Staff reviewed the candidate recommendation process, highlighting statutory requirements. Acting Chair Butz asked about recent submissions; staff noted the sole candidate was ineligible under statutory criteria.

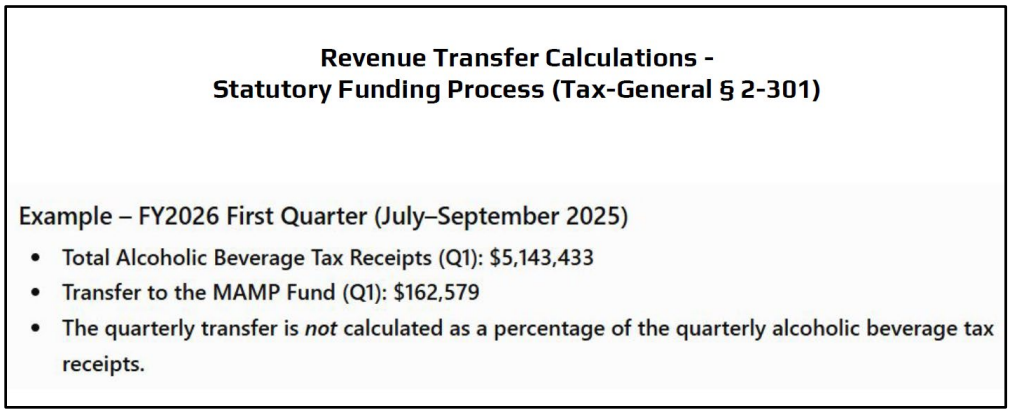



A slide showing the Commission's purpose as stated in its statute.

## VI. Commerce Update




Commerce staff provided an overview of the excise tax funding process, explaining how revenue is transferred to the Department of Commerce from the Comptroller's office via the State Treasurer. Mr. Kelly then addressed a question from the December 15 meeting regarding administrative fees, clarifying that no funds are allocated to the ATCC.




Ross explained that the revenue transfers to the MAMP Fund are only from the excise tax from the specific craft beverage classes, *not* as a percentage of all alcoholic beverage tax receipts.

## Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing and Promotion Fund FY 23 - FY 25

**Purpose:** This chart compares annual revenue received by the Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing and Promotion Fund (MAMP Fund) with total grant awards by fiscal year. It also highlights one-time funding provided through a transfer from the Maryland Tourism Development Board (MTDB)/Office of Tourism Development (OTD) and a supplemental appropriation included in the Governor's FY2027 Budget.

| REVENUE RECEIVED | | TOTAL GRANTED | AVAILABLE BALANCE | AMOUNT TRANSFERRED FROM MTDB/OTD | REVENUE SOURCE NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FY2023** | | | | | |
| | $250,000 | **$250,000** | $0 | | Transfer from Ag |
| | $715,450 | | $715,450 | | Transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office - not granted in FY23; carried over to FY24 gran |
| TOTAL | **$965,450** | **$250,000** | **$715,450** | | |
| | | | | | |
| **FY2024** | | | | | |
| 11/30/23 | $202,896 | | | | Transfer from Ag |
| | | | | | |
| 9/30/23 | $226,627 | | | | Quarterly transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office |
| 12/31/23 | $206,230 | | | | Quarterly transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office |
| 3/31/24 | $139,545 | | | | Quarterly transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office |
| 6/30/24 | $104,933 | | | | Quarterly transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office |
| SUBTOTAL: | **$677,335** | | | | **Subtotal of Quarterly Transfers; Does not inlcude Ag. Transfer** |
| | | | | | |
| TOTAL | **$880,231** | **$1,475,451** | **$120,230** | | Carried over to FY25 grants ($715,450 + $880,231-$1,475,451=$120,230) |
| | | | | | |
| **FY2025** | | | | | |
| 9/30/24 | $171,010 | | | | Quarterly transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office |
| 12/31/24 | $227,248 | | | | Quarterly transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office |
| 3/31/25 | $137,903 | | | | Quarterly transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office |
| 6/30/25 | $155,424 | | | | Quarterly transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office |
| TOTAL | **$691,586** | **$1,787,713** | **$811,816** | $975,897 | One time transfer from MTDB/OTD to address funding shortfall. |
| | | | | | |
| | **$2,537,267** | **$3,513,164** | $0.00 | $975,897 | **PROGRAM TOTAL AS OF 6/30/25** |

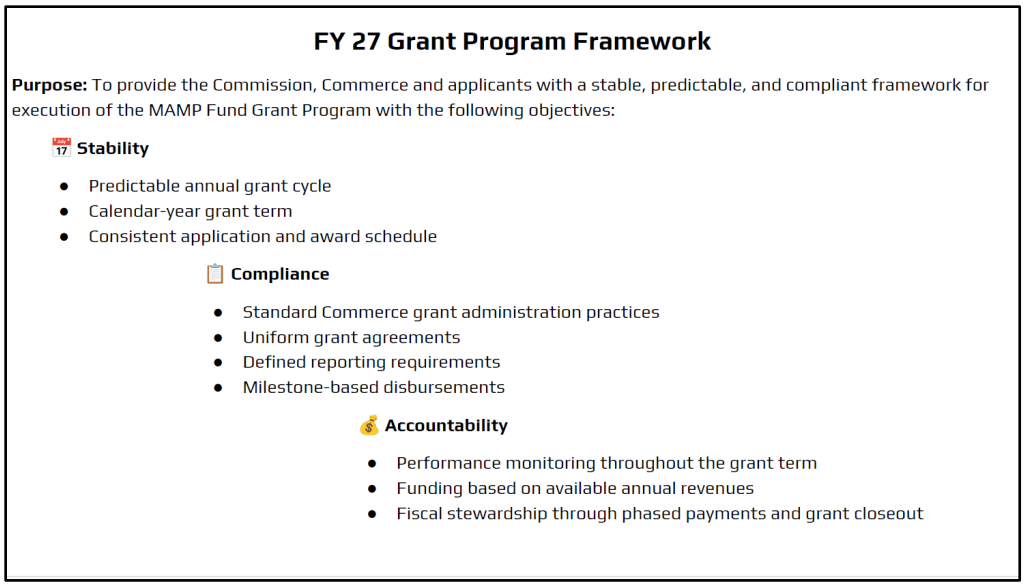
The timeline for the quarterly revenue transfers from the Comptroller's Office was explained. It was noted that the Office of Tourism/MD Tourism Development Board provided a one-time transfer to address a funding shortfall, with $3,513,164 in grants funded against $2,537,267 in revenue for FY23-25.

## Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing and Promotion Fund FY 26 - FY 27

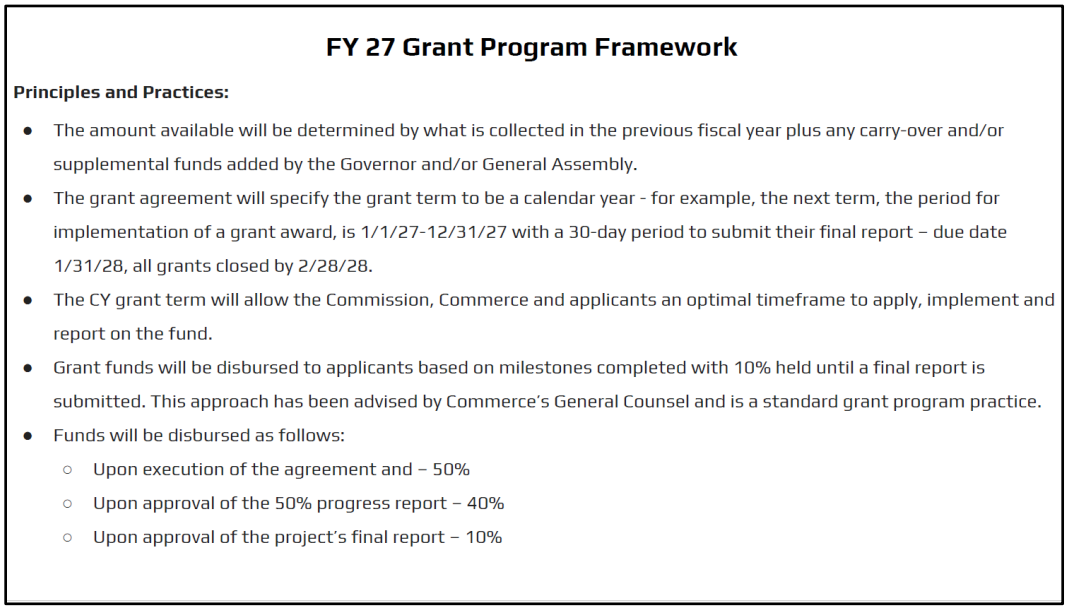
| REVENUE RECEIVED | | TOTAL GRANTED | AVAILABLE BALANCE | AMOUNT TRANSFERRED FROM MTDB/OTD | REVENUE SOURCE NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FY2026** | | | | | |
| 9/30/25 | $162,578 | | | | Quarterly transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office |
| 12/31/25 | $173,283 | | | | Quarterly transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office |
| 3/31/26 | $156,487 | | | | Quarterly transfer from the State Treasury as determined by the Comptroller's Office |
| 6/30/26 | | | | | Expected nlt 7/31/26 |
| TOTAL | **$492,348** | | **$492,348** | | |
| | | | | | |
| **FY2027** | | | | | |
| 7/1/26 | $400,000 | | | | One-time amount added in the Governor's FY27 Supplemental Budget |
| 9/30/26 | | | | | |
| 12/31/26 | | | | | |
| 3/31/27 | | | | | |
| 6/30/27 | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | |

**Estimated funding available in FY27 = $1-$1.1M**

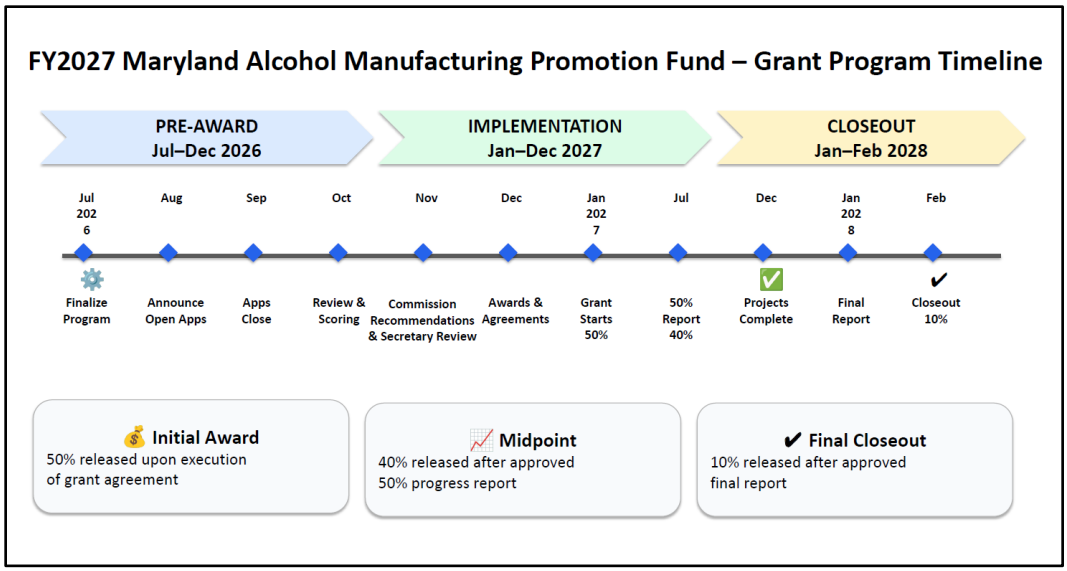
The FY26 revenue received to-date was $492,348 and the final quarterly transfer will occur at the end of July. With an estimated 4th quarter transfer and the one-time amount added to the Governor's FY27 Supplemental Budget for the Fund, an estimated funding amount of $1-1.1m is projected to potentially be available for FY27. After clarification questions were answered, the funding overview concluded.




Commerce outlined a proposed new framework for the Grant Program that utilizes best practices to provide the Commission, Commerce, and applicants with stable, compliant, and accountable objectives.




The proposed new framework bases available funding on prior-year collections, carryover funds, and supplemental appropriations. Grants will follow a calendar-year cycle (January 1–December 31, 2027), with subsequent reporting and closeout deadlines. Funds will be disbursed in three installments: 50% upon agreement execution, 40% upon progress report approval, and 10% upon final report approval.




A timeline view shows the phases of pre-award, implementation and closeout. Discussion ensued regarding the timeline shift (from a fiscal year to a calendar year) and Acting Chair Butz pointed out that the calendar year 2027 grants' final reports would be submitted by March of 2028.

During a discussion on midpoint reports, it was explained that applicants will define this milestone in their project timelines. In response to a query about awarding all funds upfront—as done previously—it was noted that the prior method deviated from standard grant management practices. Butz thanked Commerce for developing the revised grant framework.

Mr. Lents asked whether members supported the proposed timeline or preferred requesting immediate FY26 fund disbursements, which had been paused to review revenue history. After exploring several scenarios, the commission concluded that FY26 applications require updated timelines, while Commerce clarified that funds cannot be awarded retroactively for completed projects.

Members voiced concern over current industry struggles and inquired about emergency funding or expediting awards to September. Butz noted that Commerce needs 5–6 months to establish the program, emphasizing that the new schedule supports the Fund's long-term stability.

Returning to the topic of payment milestones, Commerce was asked what the decision turnaround time would be for the disbursement. Commerce's explained the plan to review and approval to disburse would be made in five business days, and per the state's process, payments would be made in 30 business days (typically). Finally, it was stated that many projects may not fit within a calendar year cycle and Commerce reiterated that the same situation occurs even if the funding is based on a fiscal year.

**Vote Taken:** Acting Chair Butz called for a motion to approve the proposed new timeline for the grant framework including review, award and payment milestones. Mr. Lents made the motion to approve the proposed new timeline and Dr. Cartier seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll-call vote with affirmative votes from Dr. Cartier, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Crow, Dr. Fiola, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lents, and Ms. Ross; an opposed vote from Ms. Johnson; and no abstentions.

## IV. Adjourn

**Vote Taken:** Mr. Lents moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fiola. The motion passed by roll-call vote with affirmative votes from Dr. Cartier, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Crow, Dr. Fiola, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lents, and Ms. Ross; and no abstentions. Acting Chair Butz adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.