

## MORE Commission Meeting Notes

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Commissioners Attending: Sec Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio , Sec Kelly Schulz, Joel Dunn, Scott Knoche, Steve Green, Liz Fitzsimmons, Rick Decker, Cathy Bramble

On conference phone: DeeDee McCue, Sean Mann, Paul Edwards

Commissioners Not Attending: Hamilton Chaney, TJ Jenkins, David Sutherland, Brian Raines

Staff: Kelly Collins Choi, Marci Ross, Trystan Sill, Heather Ersts, Bunky Luffman, James McKitrick, Carrie Cook

**Intro and Welcome** - Sec Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Sec Kelly Schulz

**Review of Subcommittee Recommendations** – Kelly Collins-Choi

### **Outdoor Recreation Jobs Initiative**

1. What agency would take the lead on assessing / inventorying outdoor recreation workforce development platforms/programs?
  - a. DLLR has an inventory of current apprenticeships opportunities
  - b. Certain programs need certification through MHEC (i.e., trade schools)
  - c. EARN MD program – nearly 90% hire rate (any industry)
  - d. Project Green classrooms also has a list of these programs avail for students – and is working on a “Green Careers” handbook → DNR
  - e. MD Business Expressway
  - f. New MD Office of Outdoor Rec to take this on??
  
2. Need a study to inventory state’s existing outdoor recreation businesses to identify sectors with job growth potential → need to do this **first** in order to achieve the inventory of workforce development programs
  - a. How to reach out to the proper communities – **Governor’s Workforce Development Board** (bring businesses into the conversation on workforce development)

### **Outdoor Economy Business Growth Initiative**

1. Two incentive programs – Opportunity Zones Enhancement Program and More Jobs for Marylanders Acts
  - a. How can we use them to benefit outdoor recreation?
  - b. Issue: Opportunity Zones are not in typical outdoor rec areas (i.e. near water access, etc.) because Opp Zones are in economically depressed areas

- c. More Jobs for Marylanders – incentive for jobs in ANY industry as long as they are in Opportunity Zone
2. Case study on specific location to establish outdoor recreation micro-manufacturing hub (like Grand Junction, CO) → Cumberland?
  - a. Overlay map with Hub Zones, Opportunity Zones from Commerce
  - b. More Jobs for Marylanders Tier 1/Tier 2
  - c. Take advantage of current incentivized zones
  - d. Cumberland is in opportunity zones and tier 1 MJM county

### **Enhancing Recreational & Heritage Tourism Experiences Initiative**

1. Streamline lease agreement process to support PPP (DNR only)
2. In-house constructions crews at DNR to work on critical maintenance projects
  - a. Save money, time, and procurement processes by doing projects in-house rather than finding contractors
3. Remember to focus on the customer service angle and get feedback from users when planning changes
  - a. DNR does this via day use surveys from Maryland State Parks
  - b. Make sure that parks and outdoor recreation are tailored to user communities (i.e., mostly Latino/a at Sandy Point SP). Systemic commitment to diverse constituents.
4. Fully fund Program Open Space (even after Gov Hogan)
5. Trails
  - a. Trail Towns Program (had one in Allegany area, ran out of ARC funding)
  - b. Prioritizing pedestrian and cyclist access (Nice Bridge)
  - c. Consider holding a Trail Summit

### **Development of World Class Experiences - Heather Erts, Commerce**

How to present recommendations – thematic or regionally?

- Staff to prepare draft to present to Commissioners for comments and thoughts
- Need to define the term “world-class experiences”
  - Need to address stakeholder conflicts
- Need recommendation on accessibility, particularly at water access points
- Follow-up group to check in and continue to work on recommendations past Governor Hogan’s tenure (some recommendations are much more long term)