Meeting Minutes
Subcommittee on Economic Development
April 29, 2020
Virtual Meeting
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Member Attendance (9/12)
Bel Leong-Hong (Chair), Heather Gramm, Brian Israel, Mathew Lee, Martin Rosendale, Christine Ross, Gregg Smith, MG Linda Singh (MDNG, Ret), and Steve Tiller.

Staff Attendance
Hannibal Kemmerer (Director of Legislative Affairs, OAG), Howard Barr (Assistant Attorney General and Chief Counsel, DoIT), and Dr. Greg von Lehmen (University of Maryland Global Campus, Assigned Staff to the Maryland Cybersecurity Council).

Meeting Summary

1. The chair welcomed the members and asked new members (Heather Gramm, Senior Director, Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship, Maryland Department of Commerce) and MG Linda Singh (Interim CEO, TEDCO) to introduce themselves.

2. The minutes for the subcommittee's 24 September 2019 meeting were approved unanimously on motions by Mathew Lee and Gregg Smith.

3. The chair invited the members to provide an update on how their organizations are operating under the current circumstances. In the course of comments, our members referenced and subsequently provided links summarizing resources for businesses affected by the COVID-19 response:
   a. MG Singh for TEDCO: https://www.tedcomd.com/news-events/covid-19-maryland-business-resources

   b. Mr. Rosendale for the Tech Council of Maryland identified two links of interest: https://reliefwizard.net/ and https://marylandmanufacturingnetwork.com/
   c. Gregg Smith referenced the Cyber SWAT Team organized by the Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: https://www.mdcyber.com/cyber_swat_team.php

   d. Heather Gramm drew the members attention to two key sites providing information and resources for the State: https://govstatus.egov.com/md-coronavirus-business and https://commerce.maryland.gov/fund/maryland-small-business-covid-19-emergency-relief-fund-programs

4. Updates:

a. CAMI SWAT Team. Gregg Smith offered an overview of the SWAT Team. With the exponential increase in cybersecurity threats during the COVID-19 response, CAMI facilitated a coalition of cybersecurity services firms willing to assist affected businesses. The triage is free. Fees for post triage services are between the affected firm and the cybersecurity firm. This initiative was recognized by the State and listed as a resource on the State'sCOVID-19 resources page https://govstatus.egov.com/md-coronavirus-business. Christine Ross indicated her willingness to push the SWAT Team link out through channels used by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

b. Maryland ISAO. Dr. von Lehmen noted that the Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure was moving forward with a working document that could serve as a high-level blueprint for establishing an ISAO in the State. This document is the outcome of discussions with the Arizona Cyber Threat Response Alliance (ACTRA) that grew out of a presentation by Frank Grimmelmann to the full Council last fall. The document will likely be outbriefed at the Council's June meeting.

5. Baseline legislative review (2020 session):
   a. The key take-away for the subcommittee was that the cybersecurity-related tax credits that had been enacted in past years remain in place.

   b. Of interest to the subcommittee were three bills that passed the General Assembly but have not been signed into law by the Governor:
      i. HB 521 (Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program -Establishment). Fiscal Policy Note: http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/fnotes/bil_0001/hb0521.pdf

         MG Singh noted that TEDCO is strongly supportive of the bill which would enable it to provide technical assistance to firms applying for federal grants. Martin Rosendale commented that the bill was important in that the process of applying for federal grants prepares start-ups for the capital markets.

      ii. SB 397 (Sales and Use Tax and Personal Property Tax -Exemptions -Data Centers). Fiscal Policy Note: http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/fnotes/bil_0007/sb0397.pdf
         Ms. Gramm drew attention of the subcommittee to the bill, which would create incentives for both the establishment of data centers in the State and employment by those centers.

      iii. HB 45 (Economic Development - Opportunity Zone Incentives - Alteration of the More Jobs for Marylanders and Opportunity Zone Enhancement Programs). Fiscal Policy Note: http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/fnotes/bil_0005/hb0045.pdf

Ms. Gramm reminded the subcommittee that Maryland passed a variety of enhanced benefits to existing programs for businesses located in an Opportunity Zone. Current programs can be found at https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Pages/OZ/OZ-Conference.aspx under the third section titled Maryland Programs to enhance Opportunity Zone Investments. How HB 45 would impact those programs is outlined in the Fiscal and Policy note.

The chair asked if there had been a bill to establish a public-private partnership to support start-ups in Montgomery County. Ms. Gramm indicated that she would research the question and report back.

6. Discussion of issues or initiatives of interest for the 2021 session. Emerging from the discussion were the following ideas:
    a. Innovation that would make teleworking more secure. This would include both hardware and software.

    b. Products and services around contact tracing. Innovations would address both security and privacy concerns. MG Singh mentioned an MIT PowerPoint that she received that considers the privacy dimension. This is related to the Safe Paths initiative (https://covidsafepaths.org/) . The white paper informing the presentation can be found at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nwOR4drE3YdkCkyy_HBd6giQPPhLEkRc/view She indicated that she would subsequently share the presentation with the subcommittee.

    c. Mr. Tiller suggested that the subcommittee lay out the economic advantages that would come from being at the economic forefront in these areas and what particular legislative proposals might look like. A working group was created to consider this question with Mr. Tiller, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Rosendale volunteering to serve.

7. Other business. The chair asked whether the subcommittee would object to a proposal to create a statement commending the Governor for his leadership in keeping citizens informed and for the measures taken to protect them and the State. During the discussion, a question was raised whether the proposal was aligned with the Council's purposes. Hearing no other reservations or objections, the proposal was approved. Dr. von Lehmen was asked to draft language that the subcommittee could place on the record or send forward for consideration.

8. Adjourn. The chair recapped the action items from the meeting:

    a. The convening of the 2021 working group
    b. Follow-up materials for the record: Mr. Rosendale. Mr. Smith, and MG Singh
    c. Draft statement for the Governor

There being no other business, the subcommittee was adjourned at 2:45 pm on motions duly made and seconded by Mr. Smith and Mr. Rosendale.

Minutes approved at the Subcommittee's 03 December 2020 meeting.