

HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC PROTECTION, TOURISM, AND ENERGY

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2026 Regular Session

January 14, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Protection, Tourism, and Energy of the House Standing Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on January 14, 2026, at 12:00 PM in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Chris Fugate, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representatives Chris Fugate, Chair; Shawn McPherson, Vice Chair; Representatives Adam Bowling, Josh Bray, Kim King, and Matthew Lehman.

Guests: Tony Hatton, Commissioner, Dept. for Environmental Protection, Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC); Kenya Stump, Executive Director, Office of Energy Policy, EEC; and Cori Troutman, Director, Division of Financial Management, EEC.

LRC Staff: Wendy Bohn, Mariah Derringer-Lackey, Joseph Holt, Taylor Bishop, and Spring Emerson.

Energy and Environment Cabinet - State-Owned Dams

Tony Hatton, Commissioner, Dept. for Environmental Protection; Kenya Stump, Executive Director, Office of Energy Policy; and Cori Troutman, Director, Division of Financial Management presented information on State-Owned Dams.

In response to Vice Chair McPherson, Commissioner Hatton said actual costs may be higher than initial estimates due to inflation and other factors.

In response to Representative Bowling, Commissioner Hatton said they have a fairly normal turnaround time, and all bids are reviewed carefully before any are accepted. Director Troutman said funds are allocated to the state-owned dam repair pool, and some of the \$22.2 million currently allocated has been moved into some of these projects. All the funds must be available before the Finance Cabinet can request bids, which takes some time. Commissioner Hatton added that if the design is done too far in advance, it can also cause delays.

In response to Chair Fugate, Director Troutman said the process for the Willisburg Lake Dam was initiated within the last year. Commissioner Hatton said if there are no complications, the process takes approximately two years.

Energy and Environment Cabinet - Grid Resilience Grant Funds

Tony Hatton, Commissioner, Dept. for Environmental Protection; Kenya Stump, Executive Director, Office of Energy Policy; and Cori Troutman, Director, Division of Financial Management presented information on Grid Resilience Grant Funds.

In response to Vice Chair McPherson, Director Stump said the funding allocated to Kenlake State Park in Kentucky Dam Village will be enough to bring the system up to safety code and improve the service so that West Kentucky RECC (WKRECC) could take over the maintenance of the distribution system without putting the cost onto their other rate payers. The agreements are imminent and construction can begin at those parks in the first quarter.

In response to Representative Bray, Director Stump said the Department of Parks have received separate appropriations for utility upgrades at multiple park locations, but to determine the status of that, the inquiry should be directed to them. In order to maximize the appropriation, the Office of Energy Policy has utilized Grid Resilience Grant Funds to assist Parks with Kenlake State Park and Kentucky Dam Village State Park, and as a result has saved them approximately ten million dollars.

In response to Chair Fugate, Director Stump said the current delay is related to the Parks Department finalizing work orders with the WKRECC.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 12:00 noon in Room 171. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 PM.