

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

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2026 Regular Session

February 10, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third 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 February 10, 2026, at 11:00 AM 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, Jim Gooch Jr., Kim King, Matthew Lehman, Bill Wesley, and Susan Witten.

Guests: Mark Kellen, Acting Commissioner, Department of Parks, Tourism Arts and Heritage Cabinet (TAHC); Scott Baker, Executive Director, Facility Development, Division of Engineering and Contract Administration, Finance and Administration Cabinet; and, Mona Juett, Chief of Staff, TAHC.

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

Approval of Minutes

Representative Wesley moved to approve the February 3, 2026 minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair McPherson, and the minutes were approved without objection by voice vote.

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

Mark Kellen, Acting Commissioner, Department of Parks, TAHC; and Scott Baker, Executive Director, Facility Development, Finance and Administration Cabinet, presented information on Kentucky State Parks Capital Projects.

Chair Fugate requested more information regarding the capital projects, including usage of appropriations already received, how many projects were completed, and amount of remaining funds, if any. He stated that the legislature should be more involved and

requested a monthly meeting to update the committee on the projects.

Vice Chair McPherson expressed his appreciation for their transparency, and stated that the funds already received should be spent before more is appropriated. Commissioner Kellen agreed, adding that they have over six hundred projects which requires integral planning; especially when in the hospitality sector.

In response to Representative Bowling, Commissioner Kellen said more information about the bond authorizations will be provided as soon as possible.

In response to Representative Wesley, Commissioner Kellen said there are several projects ongoing at Natural Bridge State Resort Park, including the bath houses. More information will be provided at a later date.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 11:00 AM in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.