

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2026 Interim

July 1, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 2nd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Protection was held on July 1, 2026, at 9:00 AM ET/8:00 AM CT in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Chris Fugate, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Chris Fugate, Co-Chair; Senator Matt Nunn, Co-Chair; Senator Phillip Wheeler; and Representatives Jim Gooch Jr., Kim King, Matthew Lehman, Shawn McPherson, and Bill Wesley.

Guests: Mark Kellen, Commissioner, Department of Parks; and Scott Baker, Executive Director, Facility Development, Division of Engineering and Contract Administration (DECA), Finance and Administration Cabinet (FAC).

LRC Staff: Wendy Bohn, Mariah Derringer-Lackey, and Benjamin Thompson.

Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Nunn moved to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2026 meeting of the subcommittee. Representative McPherson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved without objection.

Department of Parks

Mark Kellen, Commissioner, Department of Parks; and Scott Baker, Executive Director, Facility Development, DECA, FAC provided a presentation on the improvements that have been made in Kentucky's State Parks utilizing funds provided by the General Assembly.

In response to Chair Fugate, Mr. Baker noted that DECA would lead a project if an architect were required. Mr. Kellen noted that the Department of Parks has a Construction Branch that handles minor repairs and maintenance issues. DECA employs 17 project managers.

In response to Co-Chair Nunn, Mr. Baker stated that DECA's project management process is handled through an e-communication system. The budget is determined by line item and

fund source, if a project is expected to exceed budget it does not move forward. DECA requires 10% extra contingency funds for any project.

In response to Representative McPherson, Mr. Kellen said that the \$279 million provided to the Department of Parks by the General Assembly was a great start in bringing Parks facilities up to a modern standard. Mr. Baker confirmed that DECA has a dedicated project manager for the Kentucky State Police radio upgrade project.

Adjournment

There being no more business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM ET/8:55 AM CT.