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

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2026 Interim

September 2, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call
The 3rd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Protection was held on September 2, 2026, at 9:00 AM 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; Senators and Phillip Wheeler; and Representatives Jim Gooch Jr., Kim King, Matthew Lehman, Shawn McPherson, Bill Wesley, and Susan Witten.

Guests: Jeff Noel, Secretary, Cabinet for Economic Development; Matthew Wingate, Chief Legal Counsel, Cabinet for Economic Development; and Lee Carter, President, Kentucky Horse Park.

LRC Staff: Mariah Derringer-Lackey and Benjamin Thompson.

Approval of Minutes
Senator Nunn made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2026 meeting of the subcommittee. Representative McPherson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved without objection.

Cabinet for Economic Development
Jeff Noel, Secretary, Cabinet for Economic Development (CED); and Matthew Wingate, Chief Legal Counsel, CED provided information on the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) program.

In response to a question from Representative McPherson, Secretary Noel noted that the majority of federal programs get reauthorized and the CED does not foresee federal economic development grants being reduced or eliminated.

In response to questions from Representative King, Secretary Noel stated that heritage counties are counties that lack population growth and have additional resources available

to them.

In response to a question from Representative Lehman, Secretary noel confirmed that the GRANT program is something that was originated in other states, but Kentucky was an early adopter.

Kentucky Horse Park
Lee Carter, President, Kentucky Horse Park spoke on the status of projects that were authorized in 2024 Regular Session House Bills 1 and 6.

Adjournment
There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 AM ET/8:54 AM CT.