



## Tourism Economic Development Committee Meeting – Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date: December 15th, 2023**

The December 15th, 2023 meeting of the Tourism Economic Development Committee Meeting of West Virginia was convened at 2:00 p.m. virtually over the Google Meet platform.

### **Economic Development Committee Members Present on Call:**

Chair Robert Peckenpaugh, Brian Helmick, Lisa Strader, Jeffrey Lusk, Garner Marks, Laurel Ziemianski and Dominique Ranieri.

### **Economic Development Committee Members Absent from Call:**

John Klemish

### **West Virginia Department of Tourism Representatives Present:**

Secretary of Tourism Chelsea Ruby, Director of Destination Development Ennis Smith and Executive Coordinator Perri Bone and Grants and Incentives Coordinator Amanda Legg.

### **Others Present on Call:**

Meghan Smith, Business and Industrial Development Manager - West Virginia Department of Economic Development.

### **Call to Order:**

Chair of the Tourism Economic Development Committee Robert Peckenpaugh called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

### **Introductions:**

Committee Chair, Robert Peckenpaugh welcomed everyone to the call. The members present introduced themselves, along with their title and organization.

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### **Presentation of the Tourism Development Act by Ennis Smith:**

WV Department of Tourism Director of Destination Development Ennis Smith presented information about the Tourism Development Act including background, eligibility requirements and application process.

As noted by Ennis, The West Virginia Tourism Development Act was first passed in 2004 to encourage the creation of new destinations and the expansion of existing tourism destination projects in West Virginia. Tourism development projects that apply for the program should create and preserve job opportunities in the state's tourism industry, improve the local economy, and generate new sources of sales tax revenue.

After the presentation, members asked questions and provided feedback about the program.

### **Presentation of the BUILD WV Act by Meghan Smith:**

WV Department of Economic Development Business and Industrial Development Manager Meghan Smith presented information about the BUILD WV Act. Information included the program's purpose, tax incentives, eligibility requirements and application process.

As noted by Meghan, the Build WV Act passed in the 2022 Legislative Session, aims to assist West Virginia's growing communities in attracting much-needed housing development projects. The credit offers a State Sales and Use Tax exemption for building materials and a 10-year property value adjustment refundable tax credit to offset building costs.

After the presentation, members asked questions and shared feedback on the program and other similar funding options including: Partner Community Capital, Amler Grants, Industrial Road Access Grants, Earmark Matching Grants and Economic Enhancement Funds.

### **Goal Setting for the Committee:**

Secretary Ruby noted the WV Department of Tourism will provide each committee member with the updated Industry Resource Guide. She also asked committee members to pass along any requests they receive such as policy/legislative changes or businesses that would be interested in these resources.

### **Adjournment:**

Chair Peckenpaugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeffrey Lusk seconded and all members approved adjournment at approximately 3:00pm.

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