

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**  
Monday, March 2, 2026  
(Virtual Meeting)

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**Members:**

Rachel Brewster, Chair  
Scott Bailey, Vice-Chair  
Margaret Conn Himelfarb  
Diane Hoffmann  
David Mosser  
Barbara Nsiah  
Linda Powers  
Alan Regenberg  
Avram Reisner  
Ira Schwartz  
David Valle  
Curt Van Tassell

**Staff:**

Ruchika Nijhara, MSCRF  
Ben Antebi, MSCRF  
Sabrina Spinner, MSCRF

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

**I. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the January 13, 2026 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Executive Director Report**

Dr. Ruchika Nijhara along with the Commission Chair Dr. Rachel Brewster provided an overview of senate Bill 0905, proposed legislation to establish a state-funded manufacturing grant program, including support for regenerative medicine manufacturing, to be administered by TEDCO. The bill originated from discussions intended to recover or restore funding previously reduced from MSCRF's budget.

**III. Senate Bill SB0905**

Commissioner Ira Schwartz recused himself from this discussion by muting his microphone and turning off his camera, and did not participate in discussion or vote.

The Commission discussed several concerns regarding the Bill as currently drafted.

The Commission discussed potential paths forward, including further engagement with TEDCO, in an effort to secure agreement on mutually acceptable amendments to the Bill language, or other mechanisms to address these concerns. It was noted that previous attempts to resolve these issues had not been successful.

The legislative hearing for the proposed Bill was stated to be scheduled for March 5, 2026. A motion was made to prepare and submit written testimony as part of a formal "Favorable with Amendments" response, with oral testimony to be presented by Commissioner Brewster. The motion passed with 11 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.