

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
SMALL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS; IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
REPORT. (HB 206)**

**REGULATORY ADVISORY PANEL MEETING MINUTES, MEETING #2**

**MEETING LOCATION:  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
J. SARGEANT REYNOLDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS  
1651 E. PARHAM RD, SUITE 108  
RICHMOND, VA 23228**

**Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022**

**Members (including primaries, alternates, and SMEs):**

**In Attendance (Last, First):**

Allmond, Josephus	Flavin, Andrew	Marshall, Elizabeth
Belville-Marrion, Jenny	Gordon, Chris	Martin, James
Berryhill, Aaron	Hammond, Jeff	Martin, Amy
Binder, Cathy	Hammond, Drew	McDonald, Christopher
Boschen, Amelia	Harbin, John	Piontek, Emily
Brumberg, Sam	Hearne, Carrie	Seaford, Kevin
Clark, Hilary	Higgins, Victoria	Seward, Susan
Crockett, Robert	Holmes, Dan	Shreve, Kyle
Crum, Katie	Ignosh, John	Sili, Jeff
Daniels, Lee	Jacobs, Zach	Sink, Dominika
Dicks III, Chip	Jamison, Dan	Smiley, Mitchell
Drazenovich, Rick	Jesensky, Kenny	Sydnor, Cutter
Dunscumb, Judy	Killius, Anna	Utt, Tyson
Fanning, Patrick	Lasher, Terry	Vaughan, Evan
Farrelly, Kevin	Lerch, Joe	Weber, Joe

**Members Absent:**

Amores, Jon	Dreiling, Michael	Howe, Kevin
Anderson, Meade	Egghart, Chris	Joshiyura, Neil
Bolthouse, Julie	Ericson, Jason	Kane, Stephanie
Coggeshall, Charlie	Flowers, Todd	Moore, Martha
Connors, Corey	Fogel, Jonah	Murray, David
Corradi, Rob	Giese, Will	Newton, Jacob
Crenshaw, Walter	Green, Charles	Norris, Ben
Davenport, Melanie	Guthrie, Joe	Orrell, Jim
Dodson, Chris	Hawk, Chris	Pollard, Speaker

Rovner, Nikki  
Sanner, Peggy  
Saunders, Ben  
Schmidt, Kevin

Sims, Jessica  
Skiffington, Michael  
Sundstrom, Craig  
Thomas, Rick

Westcott Jr, David  
Wheeler, Lauren  
Wilder, Joe  
Wortzel, Andrea

**Department of Environmental Quality:**

Foster, Amber  
Meyer, Elena M.  
Thompson, Tamera M.  
Tripp, Susan  
Dowd, Michael (absent)  
Rolband, Mike (absent)

**Facilitators, Institute for Engagement & Negotiation (IEN), University of Virginia:**

Altizer, Kelly  
Cobb, Tanya Denckla  
Oliva, Michelle Montserrat  
Rizk, Sarah

The meeting began at approximately **9:35 am EST**.

**Meeting Purpose:** This regulatory advisory panel (RAP) has been established to advise and assist in developing a program to mitigate the impacts of small solar projects on forest cores and prime agricultural soils. This group was formed in accordance with and to satisfy the requirements put forth in HB 206. The goal of Meeting #2 was to further refine the workgroup proposals which the stakeholder groups have been developing.

**Introductions, Logistics:** Tanya Denckla Cobb (TDC) reviewed the Shared Goals Statement for the group and the goals for this meeting. Michelle Montserrat Oliva (MMO) reviewed FOIA requirements for the RAP.

**Presentation by Dr. Lee Daniels:** Dr. Daniels (T.B. Hutcheson Jr. Professor of Environmental Soil Science at Virginia Tech) gave a presentation to all the working groups about soils, primarily focusing on soil conservation and restoration concerns for solar installations. This presentation highlighted the potential for post-disturbance soil restoration, such as pH adjustments, soil amendments, and mechanical tillage. However, he also cautioned against promising landowners a 100% return to prior usage for solar installations, especially for prime agricultural soils. He highlighted that every case is unique. Dr. Daniels answered a variety of questions from the HB 206 group.

**Logistics and Overview of Workgroup Process:** TDC reviewed the consensus-building method that the workgroup (WG) will be utilizing. MMO reviewed the schedule for this meeting and allowed individual working groups to get together and discuss the proposals they have drafted in the interim. The WGs are as follows:

- Workgroup 1: Avoidance & Minimization (Facilitator = Kelly Altizer)
- Workgroup 2+3: Mitigation/In Lieu (Facilitator = TDC)
- Workgroup 4: Significant adverse impact <10 acres ag soil/50 acres forest (Facilitator = MMO)
- Workgroup 5: Local Control (Facilitator = MMO)
- SMEs are available to all WGs to ensure technical accuracy and answer any relevant questions that may come up.

### **Workgroup Sharing Discussions (to the full RAP/all WGs):**

The WGs discussed with the broader group how their proposals were progressing. Based on feedback from the WGs, it was decided to allocate additional time to WG in-person discussion in the following meetings. The deadline for the 2nd draft of proposals was extended to August 16th, prior to the next meeting on August 19th.

### **Future Meetings:**

Meeting #3 - **Fri Aug 19:** Building Consensus (Day 1)

Location: Charlottesville – Hillsdale Conference Center, 550 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901

Meeting #4 - **Tue Aug 23:** Building Consensus (Day 2)

Location: Richmond (Workforce Development and Conference Center)

Meeting #5 - **Wed Sep 28:** Review of Final Draft Report Wrap Up

Location: Charlottesville – Hillsdale Conference Center, 550 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901