

Draft Minutes

Virginia Solar Energy Development and Energy Storage Authority
Monday, July 23, 2018 at 1:00 P.M.
State Capitol, House Room 1
1000 Bank Street Richmond, VA 23219

Call to Order

Chairman Cliona Robb called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. EDT.

The Chair reviewed the agenda for the meeting and let members and public in attendance know that at the conclusion of the Authority's business, the meeting would transition into a topic-focused public listening session to receive comments from interested parties on energy storage and other Authority-specific work to help inform the development of the 2018 Virginia Energy Plan. Members and staff then introduced themselves and welcomed guests.

Members Present: Hayes Framme, Andrew Lamar, Brian Gordon, Will Gathright, Cliona Robb, Paul Duncan, Jon Hillis, John Rust, Ken Hutcheson

Members Joining by Phone: Katharine Bond, Cody Nystrom

Members Absent: Damian Pitt, Barrett Hardiman, Ryan Dunn, Colleen Lueken

VSEDA Staff Present: John Warren, Ken Jurman, Paul Kugelman

Approval of Minutes from May 31, 2017 Meeting

After some minor typos were identified, the motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously, subject to grammatical/spelling revisions to be made.

Discussion of Energy Storage Request for Interest (RFI)

A detailed discussion was held on the substance and release times for the Energy Storage Study Request for Information (RFI) and Request for Proposals (RFP). A motion was made by the Chair to have staff revise the RFI language as discussed and send the revised RFI to members with a two-day response time for any comments, incorporating any edits, and then sending to the Chair for final approval for broad distribution. The motion was approved unanimously.

The RFI will be issued by the first week in August (after member input on items to include in the request is received and approved by the Chair); the RFP will be issued September 7; and responses will be due back to DMME by October 1. The RFP will be awarded October 31, to allow for a two-month report preparation period, with the report to be due to DMME by December 31, 2018. The motion to accept the schedule was approved unanimously.

Public Comments

With Authority business concluded, public comments were solicited specific to the Authority's work, and to inform development of the 2018 Virginia Energy Plan (VEP). Several members of

the public in attendance at the meeting were invited to provide their energy-related perspectives and suggestions for consideration as the VEP is developed.

- Aaron Sutch (Solar United Neighborhoods): solar and energy storage is needed as a resiliency strategy; reduce barriers to customer-owned solar like net metering.
- Erica Bardwell (Sierra Club member): consider moral implications of fossil fuel/coal ash; do not build any new fossil fuel plants; there is a climate change crisis; commit to renewable energy (RE) and energy conservation
- Brian Kauffman: Pennsylvania community developer with Virginia customers; must provide incentives for solar and energy storage; issues with interconnections, wires vs. wireless, substation upgrades
- Rachel Smucker (Secure Futures): provided two documents; over 50,000 jobs could be created with solar installations.
- Tony Smith (Secure Futures): More distributed generation (DG) needed; expand Dominion pilot programs; revisit outdated business models for utilities; utilities should be incentivized to invest in DG.
- Lisa Thompson (teacher and Sierra Club member): “all of the above” energy is what we need, but have to really commit to it; good for jobs, security and democracy.
- Harry Godfrey (Virginia Advanced Energy Economy): energy storage very important, reaching price parity is critical; supports energy storage RFP but it needs to be completed by Q3-2019 for time to inform General Assembly in 2020.
- L. Fred Roenche: have to make solar less expensive, include social costs of other energy sources (e.g., illness, climate change, GHG, loss of biodiversity, acid rain, water pollution); need to impose fee/tax, refund to homeowners who use renewable energy instead of non-renewable carbon sources; in California, all homes will be designed as net-zero energy by 2020, buildings by 2030 using HERS scores; credit savings at retail instead of wholesale value.
- Walton Shepherd (Southern Environmental Law Center): Virginia playing catch-up on lots of energy things, but we can take the lead in battery storage to lower costs and shift peaks; storage costs fell 50% in last two years; Integrated Resource Plans need to include battery storage; pair solar with storage; be cautious regarding pumped storage facilities at abandoned mine lands; more costly than battery storage.
- Jessica Sims: oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure; “all of the above” not acceptable.
- Suzanne Keller (retired pathologist): fossil fuels cause all sorts of respiratory issues; weak regulatory regime, utilities dominate in Virginia. Dominion ranks 30th in renewable energy, 33rd ranking in energy efficiency; impediment to distributed solar, have to improve.
- Pam Hill (Sierra Club member): need land for bicycle transportation infrastructure for bike lanes and better public transit; Dominion wasting our time with wind by dilly dallying around; need to remove barriers for residential solar; incentivize electric vehicles

- Lee Williams: pro renewable energy, con fossil fuels. Is for solar incentives and battery storage, customer-owned solar, grid investment, expanded net metering. Against natural gas pipelines.
- Susan Miller (health care provider): impact of climate change on people -- increased heat and allergy illnesses, impact of weather events on children; be more urgent!
- Thomas Hadwin: current Virginia policies will lead to higher energy costs in Virginia; need to alter demand to meet generation needs; need to avoid risk of overbuilding, rising gas prices; balance of solar generation/distribution; solar as fuel for EVs; have to find different ways to make utilities prosper.
- Sophie Taylor (Sierra Club member, VCU student): solar is good, proponent of rooftop solar at VCU.
- Other meeting attendees indicated they will submit written comments for the record

At the conclusion of the public comment period, and there being no other old or new business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm EDT. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 11, 2018, in Richmond.