

MINUTES
VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
TYLER BUILDING – COURT ROOM 2
1300 EAST MAIN STREET
RICHMOND, VA

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bob Matthias called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Members Present: Joan Bondareff, Mary Doswell, Douglas Faulkner, Bob Matthias, Art Moye, Brian Redmond, Ron Ritter

Members Absent: Ronald Rosenberg

Staff and Contractor Support Present: Al Christopher, DMME Energy Division Director; Ken Jurman, DMME Renewable Energy Manager; Lynne Astroth, DMME Energy Project Coordinator; Barbara Simcoe, DMME State Energy Program Manager; Evie Christopher, DMME Administrative Staff Assistant; George Hagerman, Virginia Tech Advanced Research Institute; Susan Sorlie, Virginia Tech Advanced Research Institute

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair called for a motion to approve the January 16, 2014, minutes as presented. The motion to accept the minutes by Joan Bondareff, seconded by Doug Faulkner, passed unanimously.

BASIC OFFSHORE SAFETY AND SURVIVAL TRAINING FOR VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Presenters: George Hagerman, Research Director, VCERC
Mario Vittone Maritime Division Director, VLinc Corporation

George Hagerman and Mario Vittone briefed the board on the Basic Offshore Safety and Survival (BOSS) class intended for non-mariners who may travel on or over water as a scientist, engineer or technician conducting offshore surveys, ocean research, or instrumentation deployment, or simply observing these activities as a project manager or project sponsor. As Virginia and other Mid-Atlantic states embark on offshore wind site characterization activities, there will be growing exposure of non-mariners to the hazards of traveling and working on or over the ocean, on a wide variety of different vessels and aircraft. With funding support from DMME, Mario Vittone has developed a 2.5-day class, offered and accredited by the Hampton Roads Maritime Training Program of Tidewater Community

College. See the PowerPoint presentation on the VOWDA website at: <http://wind.jmu.edu/offshore/vowda>.

Bob Matthias recommended that they reach out to the VOW Coalition to make a presentation. VOWDA and DMME will promote the course on their websites.

BOEM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF PROPOSED WIND ENERGY RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OFFSHORE VIRGINIA

Al Christopher led discussion on the draft VOWDA comment letter to BOEM on its *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for Proposed Wind Energy-Related Research Activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Virginia* [Docket No. BOEM-2014-0009]. After discussion, the Chair asked the staff to edit the letter based on comments received at today's meeting and to send members the revision electronically for final review and approval for submittal to BOEM by the April 14th deadline. A copy of the final letter will be available on the VOWDA website at: <http://wind.jmu.edu/offshore/vowda>.

DMME UPDATES

Presenter: Al Christopher, DMME, Director of Energy Division

RFP: Al provided a summary of the four teams selected to receive a total of \$860,000 from the Commonwealth of Virginia to conduct offshore wind site characterization studies, surveys and measurements having a total value of more than \$3 million. Funding was awarded to:

- Dominion Virginia Power (\$310,000) – Deep Geotechnical Borings
- CoastalObsTechServices (\$260,000) – Wave Forecasting and Measurement
- Alstom Power (\$40,000) – Wave Forecasting for Optimal Turbine Control
- Timmons Group (\$250,000) – Wide-Area Metocean and Environmental Monitoring

Award recipients will be invited to attend future VOWDA meetings to present on their projects. PowerPoint slides are available on the VOWDA website at: <http://wind.jmu.edu/offshore/vowda>

Funding for Offshore Wind

State Budget: The state budget hasn't been approved yet; negotiations continue. The \$1 million in state funding provided by the previous administration was removed from the budget by the House and kept by the Senate.

New Funding Opportunities: BOEM has offered the Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) two research cost-share opportunities up to \$350,000. BOEM's two areas of interest are: (1) Commercial Fisheries – supporting work on collaborative spatial planning of the offshore wind energy area development, and (2) Virginia Geophysical Ocean Survey Phase 2 analyses. The deadline for the COV to accept the offers is June 17, 2014. Also, if new funding becomes

available, DMME reserved the right under the recent RFP to add scope and budget of projects that are awarded if mutually agreed by the parties, and to make additional awards to proposals submitted but not selected. DMME could also issue a new RFP.

Virginia Energy Plan (VEP) Update

The General Assembly extended the deadline for the next update of the statewide comprehensive Virginia Energy Plan from July 1 to October 1, 2014. The DMME Division of Energy (DE) will collaborate with government, private industry, localities and other stakeholders to develop the VEP update. Resources already provided by stakeholder groups that can help guide the development of the report include the energy goals and recommendations outlined in *Blueprint Virginia*, a comprehensive initiative led by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce to provide business leadership, direction and long-range economic development planning for Virginia. The recommendations from VOWDA's Annual Report will help frame parts of the renewable energy section. As one of the key stakeholders, VOWDA members will be kept informed of the process and will be invited to attend and participate in any stakeholder meetings.

Topics to be covered in the VEP include electricity, coal, nuclear, natural gas, renewable, petroleum, energy efficiency, research and development. New components of the Plan include emergency planning/response and policy positions relevant to any potential state regulations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel-fired electric generating units under the federal Clean Air Act. In addition to the quadrennial update, the DE is tasked with providing an interim update on the VEP by October 1st of the third year of this and future administrations.

VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT PROJECT (VOWTAP) UPDATE

Presenter: Mary Doswell, Dominion Virginia Power

Mary reported that the Dominion Team had good interaction with the Department of Energy (DOE) when they presented the VOWTAP plan details on Monday, April 7th. Several questions were asked about Virginia's State Corporation Commission (SCC) regulatory process. DOE was made aware that there are several steps Dominion needs to take and decisions to be made prior to the SCC approval process. As they await the outcome, Dominion is continuing the development of the commercial wind area and should begin the VOWTAP geotechnical work in early June. Virginia's congressional and state senators submitted letters of support and the Governor plans to also communicate his support of VOWTAP. The recently signed legislation, sponsored by Senator McEachin, was referenced. It was an important step that the legislation stated that "planning and development activities for new generation facilities utilizing energy derived from offshore wind are in the *public interest*." Dominion should hear whether they won the next phase in early May.

The BOEM VOWTAP environmental review scoping meeting was held in Virginia Beach on April 3rd. Chair Bob Matthias asked staff to send members the set of BOEM slides from the April 3rd VOWTAP environmental review scoping meeting held in Virginia Beach and a copy of Senate Bill 643 on offshore wind facility development cost recovery.

To help accelerate offshore wind development projects, Al Christopher said BOEM recommends that Virginia continue the education process so the commercial fisheries industry is on board and all users of ocean space are kept informed of the next steps and plans for the future. The VA-BOEM Task Force may meet again to bring together all stakeholders to revisit the next steps in the process.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 9, 2014, location to be announced later.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.