

CLEAN ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2022 (Monday)

1:00PM – 3:00PM

****Meeting was open to the Public ****

[Virtual Informational Gathering Meeting](#)

CEAB website hosted at energy.virginia.gov, direct link [here](#)

Call to Order

Hannah Coman calls to order at 1:04pm, reads allowance for virtual, informational gathering meeting when there is not an in-person quorum pursuant to the Clean Energy Advisory Board's (Board) Policy on Meetings of the Clean Energy Advisory Board Pursuant to Enactment 17 of Chapter 1 of the 2021 Special Session II Acts of Assembly. No quorum or votes today.

Roll Call

Present: Katharine Bond, Will Cleveland, Toni Ostrowski, Hannah Coman, KC Bleile, Bill Greenleaf, Janaka Casper, Sam Brumberg, Kendyl Crawley Crawford, Taylor Brown, Kirk Johnson, Susan Kruse, Sarah Nerette

Not present:

Will Reisinger, Carmen Bingham, John Warren

Virginia Energy Staff: Carrie Hearne, Devyn Keller, Austin Counts, Aaron Berryhill

Office of Attorney General: Mike Jagels

Board Members Introductions, Welcome New Staff Guests

Members of the Board and nonmembers including staff and guests introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting.

Committee Reports

Stakeholder Engagement and Marketing Committee- There have been no meetings since the New Year. The Committee needs more information from the RFP to better plan for this and it also needs another member of the Board to become Chair of the Committee. Duties of the Chair of the Committee include soliciting information from other committee members about goals/objectives, making sure that meetings are scheduled and developing agendas for those. The Committee has conducted listening sessions in the past and considered different ways to be sure that the program's benefits is serving those it intends to serve. A new Committee Chair needs to be elected at a full Board meeting.

Program Development Committee- The Committee has not met yet this year and is looking to elect a new Chair. The Committee is focused on the actual program of the CEAB, providing input to the staff on the RFP. They focus on the mechanics and design of the program and any future developments with sufficient funding.

Policy and Regulatory Committee- The Committee met on March 16th and plans to meet again later this summer. The core of its recent work revolves around attempting to gain legal certainty around the lease of solar leases and net metering installations. The Committee attempted to engage with utilities on this matter and decided to seek legal opinion from the Attorney General as its next step. That letter draft is done and being finalized in coordination with Mike Jagels.

Virginia Low and Moderate Income Solar Pilot Program: RFP Timeline, Partner Selection Process, Discussion

This is Virginia Energy's starter program before the CEAB Pilot Program receives state funding. The starter program will be funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, which allows a bit more flexibility – about \$500K for program (marketing/outreach and solar funding on homes). Virginia Energy is working as closely in parallel to the CEAB's LMI solar loan rebate fund as possible so that it could scale the starter program and inform the solar loan rebate fund when funds are appropriated to the State treasury.

The pilot program will be based in Wise County only rather than several counties (as previously discussed) because of the limited funding and potential to have a successful small-scale program. Wise County was chosen because it recently received the SolSmart designation and also has proximity to Virginia Energy's Big Stone Gap office.

This program will use an energy efficiency proxy as identified by the CEAB in the 2021 report as a prerequisite of the program.

This program will require approval from Virginia Energy for individual participation rather than the full Board. The full Board's approval would have required it to meet in person for all approvals regularly.

Virginia is hoping to have an update on the applicability of the Buy America Provision and Davis Bacon Act to this program from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Mr. Counts presented the expected timeline for the RFP. Virginia Energy is hoping to issue the RFP on May 2nd, a preproposal conference on May 9th, and a notice of intent to award in July 2022.

Virginia Energy is currently putting together a selection committee, including Virginia Energy staff, two board members, and two nonprofit members.

Report from Virginia Energy: Virginia Energy Plan 2022 and Analysis

Virginia Energy Plan 2022- Virginia Energy puts this together under the guidance of the Governor's office and with the Secretary of Commerce and Trade in the first year of a new Governor's administration. It includes an analysis of infrastructure in the state, updates on existing policies, opportunities, challenges in energy, and recommendations based on consultation with stakeholders (industry, environmental nonprofits, localities, agencies, etc.). During the next several months, Virginia Energy will be preparing for public comment periods to see what is important to Virginians. The full plan in its final form is due on October 1st, 2022. The Virginia Energy staff will make ourselves available to receiving the Board and others' feedback in the process. The Board may want to devote some time to the agenda in June to this. Virginia Energy will make sure that all members of the Board are included on any outreach so that they can also give feedback as individuals. If the Board wants to present anything formal in a written fashion they will need to determine how best to do that.

Analysis of Disproportionate Burden to Historically Economically Disadvantaged Communities (HEDCs)- This is a report that is required by the VCEA of 2020. This report is due Jan. 1, 2023 to the General Assembly. Virginia Energy is required by code to consult with the EJ Council as well as other key stakeholders in providing this analysis to ensure that Virginia Energy understands what if any burdens there are to disadvantaged groups. This report will potentially include rate impact analysis, look at specific income/demographic groups, map analysis to identify community distribution, and engage communities for input.

Legislative updates-

SB625- Most relevant to CEAB work (technical amendments to the working of the Board and the fund), patroned by Senator Barbara Favola, ultimately failed to pass having failed to report out of House subcommittee.

SB686- Bill recently passed and signed into law by the Governor. It relates to taxes that apply to solar equipment on small scale systems, exempts solar equipment property taxes if system size is less than 25KW.

Budget- No update. The budget will likely be decided in a budget conference between Virginia House and Senate. Virginia Energy may know more by April 27th. Virginia Energy will keep the Board in the loop and report back when there is additional information. There is a very small possibility that some of the content in SB625 could go into the budget.

Shared solar- Two categories: 1) Program in Dominion's territory, authorizes Dominion to charge a minimum bill to customers and 2) Program in Dominion and ODP territory for multi-family residential housing,- authorizes utility to charge an administrative charge to customers.

Dominion proposed programs in each category. Dominion's proposals are currently before the State Corporation Commission..

SB660- Passed, signed into law, effective July 1st, a bill to study shared solar in the electric cooperatives' and Appalachian Power Company territory, requires a stakeholder process which will begin sometime after July 1st

Public Comment

Wafa May Elamin of the Clean Energy States Alliance expressed that she is excited to see the RFP moving along and the changes that have been made.

Discussion and Next Steps

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 27th 1-4pm. There is a desire to have a May meeting once budget is finalized to ensure that the Board is able to vote for new committee chairs. Ms. Hearne will be sending out a Doodle poll to schedule that.

Conclusion

Meeting adjourned at 2:04.