

CLEAN ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2022 (Monday)

1:00PM – 4:00PM

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

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

Call to Order

Bill Greenleaf calls to order at 1:03 pm, 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 votes may be taken at the meeting.

Roll Call

Present virtually: Sam Brumberg, Bill Greenleaf, Carmen Bingham, Kendyl Crawley Crawford, Janaka Casper, Susan Kruse, John Warren, Taylor Brown

Not present:

Hannah Coman, KC Bleile, Will Cleveland, Will Reisinger, Katharine Bond, Kirk Johnson, Toni Ostrowski, Sarah Nerette

Virginia Energy Staff: Carrie Hearne, Devyn Keller, Austin Counts, Bettina Bergoo (virtual), Mike Skiffington (virtual), Aaron Berryhill (virtual)

Office of Attorney General: Grant Kronenberg

Guest: Wafa May Elamin (virtual)

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.

General Assembly Update

status on SB625, green banks bills, shared solar legislation, budget proposals, etc.

Mike Skiffington (Director of Policy) provided a high level review of some big ticket items.

- SB625 (Favola)- Makes tweaks to operations of LMI Solar Fund. Passed Senate unanimously and will be heard in Commerce/Energy House subcommittee no. 4, 2:15/30ish tomorrow (3/1/22)
- 2 green banks bills presented by Democrats, didn't make it out of House.
- Senate side: shared solar, Hanger's bills have been reduced to a report process type bill.
- Budget: Each body released their own versions. House budget has no money for LMI Solar Fund and Senate reduced it from \$30 million to \$10 million.
- This is the last week for General Assembly committees. Bills with differences will need to be reconciled. The House and Senate budgets are pretty far apart, so conferees have a lot of work to do in compromising. The General Assembly is set to adjourn March 12. Staff will inform the Board of major updates.

Sam Brumberg, Policy and Regulatory Committee Chair, provided further details about the current relevant legislative issues.

- Green bank bills were the subject of some contention within Democratic caucus, may be political issues to work out before getting to full committee
- SB625- important bill for the Board. The bill does two important things from the Board's perspective:
 - Places authority for the program and conduct of the program within the Department rather than the Board for procurement. This will help us comply with other Commonwealth procurement laws.
 - Also removes the hard coded 12 percent energy efficiency measure, replacing it with a more generic measure that will help the program.
- Shared solar: SB606 (Hanger) pared down to initiate working group and stakeholder process, coordinated with Association of Electric Cooperatives and Coalition for Community Solar Access, will keep Board informed on their work, has to make it through House committee. Cooperatives are committed to conducting a stakeholder process either way this year.
- In response to question about how we can help: Need to see who the budget conferees are and call friends and see if there is support for future appropriation.

Mike Skiffington clarified that Virginia Energy cannot advocate for this bill, but individuals may talk to Senator Favola's office for questions or comments.

Virginia Low and Moderate Income Solar Pilot Program Update on RFP and Board discussion

Carrie Hearne, Associate Director of Energy Equity Programs, updated that Board Chair Hannah Coman couldn't be present today, but she has been very involved in the development of the RFP (Request for Proposals) along with Wafa May Elamin of the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), Grant Kronenberg (OAG), Bettina Bergoo (Clean Energy Financing Program Manager) and Austin Counts (Rural and Industrial Clean Energy Manager; helping lead the solar pilot program). Austin will have a few new employees reporting to him in Big Stone Gap

and these jobs have just been posted. The RFP review team has been working on questions around contracting and procurement policy in the Commonwealth regarding posting and content of the program. The agency can't share the details until it has been posted on the public procurement website, hopefully a couple weeks away, but there are still a lot of details to work through. Good consensus on the scope of the program, but certain questions around ARRA funding and how it impacts this RFP remain. The goal of this RFP is to test the market with an equitable distribution of homeowners before the program scales up after the pilot. Other grant funding opportunities to support the program are being explored as well.

Grant Kronenberg, Office of the Attorney General, has reached out and engaged an attorney in the OAG's procurement section who is advising the RFP workgroup. Some high level issues include: making sure the RFP complies with proper statutory requirements for taking funds from ARRA; ensuring compliance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act; and making sure contractual agreements are worked out.

Carrie Hearne- Notes that requirements of using ARRA funds include Davis Bacon Act and Buy America Provision. Virginia Energy has experts in house to ensure compliance.

Austin Counts - Wants to be sure RFP is created in a way that allows for programs in every area of Virginia to access the program once it can scale up. This pilot program should effectively test that.

Wafa May Elamin, CESA - Team has made a lot of substantial progress towards it and is looking forward to seeing how the marketing campaign will help the group determine what kind of program is best for moving forward.

Public Comment

There were no public comments given.

Discussion and Next Steps

Carrie Hearne will send out a Doodle poll to schedule the next CEAB meeting within the next day or two. A broader agenda was initially scheduled but couldn't take place due to lacking a physical quorum of the Board. The next meeting will be scheduled in March. There is an in person meeting Wednesday, March 16th for the Policy and Regulatory Committee which will be posted on Town Hall.

Conclusion

Meeting adjourned at 1:34pm.