

MINUTES
VIRGINIA SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Monday, NOVEMBER 27, 2017

State Capitol ~ House Room 1 ~ 1000 Bank Street ~ Richmond, VA 23219

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hardiman was delayed and so Vice Chair Robb called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. Members and staff introduced themselves, and welcomed new members Colleen Lueken and Will Gaithright.

Members Present: Katharine Bond, William Carmack, Barrett Hardiman, Ken Hutchinson, Cliona Robb, Sylvain Marsillac, Ryan Dunn, Jon Hillis, Colleen Lueken, Will Gaithright, Hayes Framme

Members Absent: Jack Rust, Cody Nystrom, Andrew Lamar

VSEDA Staff Present: John Warren, Al Christopher, Ken Jurman

APPROVAL OF REVISED BYLAWS

The Bylaws were amended to reflect the amended enabling legislation for the Authority adding energy storage to its mission and the addition of four additional members. The only change proposed was to correct the name of the Authority, which left off “and Energy Storage Authority”. The Chair called for a motion to approve the revised bylaws as presented. Sylvain Marsillac moved to approve the minutes contingent on the name correction. Ken Hutcheson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion of the 2017 Annual Report

VSEDA staff led the members through a page-by-page review of the final draft of the Annual Report that incorporated member suggestions. Chairman Hardiman called for a motion to approve the final report contingent upon incorporation of final suggestion from the group. The motion to approve the Annual Report was passed unanimously. The report was subsequently forwarded to House and Senate parties as required in the enabling legislation.

Draft Work Plan

The group discussed the draft work plan but did not come to any consensus and instead chose to put off the discussion and vote for a future meeting

Update on the Permit by Rule Process for Small Renewables

Beth Major, Permit by Rule manager at DEQ gave an update on the status of the process. DEQ has received 80 Notices of Intent to apply for a permit for solar energy systems. They have issued 15 permits for 15 solar projects and one wind power project. There is a total of 217 megawatts of generation under construction, 110 megawatts in operation, and 327 megawatts projected to be in operation by the end of 2017.

PRESENTATION ON THE RVA SOLAR FUND FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOLS

Andrew Grigsby and Tony Smith with Secure Futures delivered a presentation on the RVA Solar Fund, a competitive grant program to support solar installations at public entities in the Richmond Metro region.

The Fund is a partnership between Secure Futures, The Community Foundation and three other Virginia nonprofit organizations, including the Richmond Region Energy Alliance, Generation 180 and the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED). The program will provide grants of between \$20,000 and \$100,000 for K-12 schools and local governments that have solar installed under third-party Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with Secure Futures. Installations are planned for the summer of 2018.

The goal is to install upwards of five megawatts of solar across the Richmond metro region, and will include an educational component provided by NEED. Applications are due on January 26, 2018.

Tony Smith proceeded to offer a suggestion that the Authority, in consultation with others, develop a template PPA that would allow for state and local government agencies to acquire solar using a third party ownership model. To date, the State Comptroller has considered long term contracts such as PPAs to be capital leases, which are not allowed. Mr. Smith and others contend that it is not a lease but a contract for services. DMME Director John Warren agreed, and indicated he has discussed this issue at length and made great strides with the State Comptroller and feels that intervention by the Authority per Mr. Smith's suggestion is unwarranted and possibly counterproductive. The Authority took no action.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Hardiman opened the floor for public comments. Receiving no comments from the public the discussion turned to scheduling and topics for future meetings. Mr. Jurman said he would poll the members and other staff about a date for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.