

## **CLEAN ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD**

### **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**November 8, 2022 (Monday)**

**9:00-11:00 AM**

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

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

#### **Call to Order**

Susan Kruse, interim chair, calls the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

#### **Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions**

Present: Katharine Bond, KC Bleile, Susan Kruse, Carmen Bingham, Kendyl Crawley Crawford, Taylor Brown, Toni Ostrowski, Douglas Lamb, Kirk Johnson

Not present:

Sam Brumberg, Bill Greenleaf, Sarah Nerette, John Warren, Will Cleveland

*Virginia Energy Staff:* Carrie Hearne, Devyn Keller, Brook Vernon (virtually), Austin Counts (virtually)

Attorney General's staff: Eric Lansing

#### **Review Previous Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes from the last meeting are moved to approval by K. Johnson and seconded by T. Brown. The Board approves the minutes.

#### **Bylaws and Board Policy Updates**

There are many edits to the bylaws of the Board to keep up with changes in the Virginia Code.

Two substantive changes include changing the annual meeting to the beginning of the year (it is currently at the last meeting of the year) and a change to make it so that a motion will not fail for lack of a second. The change in making the annual meeting at the beginning of the year could align well with electing chairs of the Board and committees with the annual year.

Another addition includes details on holding virtual meetings or allowing Board members to attend virtually if they cannot attend in person. These rules follow the guidelines from the General Assembly.

T. Ostrowski moves and K. Johnson seconds to approve the bylaw changes. The Board approves changes.

### **Special Election of Officers**

Elections will occur at the annual meeting in January, based on the adopted edits to the bylaws.

As the elected chair, Hannah Coman, is no longer on the Board, S. Kruse is serving as the interim chair. S. Kruse nominates and K. Bond seconds T. Brown to serve as Vice Chair until January. C. Bingham moves and K. Johnson seconds nominating S. Kruse as Chair. The Board approves these positions until the next election in January.

S. Kruse encourages committee chairs to consider the goals and scope of each committee before the January meeting. Board members are encouraged to also consider how fundraising, federal funding opportunities, and compliance may fit into a committee or a newly created one. Virginia Energy staff will present on federal funding opportunities at the December meeting.

### **Status update on opinion letter sent to Office of Attorney General, Opinions Counsel**

The opinions section of the Attorney General's office, handling the request about the legality of solar leasing, still has this on the staff's to do list, but they have yet to make a decision.

### **Annual Consultation with Dominion Energy**

Each year, the CEAB consults with investor-owned utilities (IOUs) on how best to inform low-income customers of opportunities to lower electric bills through access to solar energy. K. Bond and Nate Frost from Dominion Energy provide a presentation to the Board.

House Bill 2789 (energy efficiency), approved by the SCC on July 30, 2020 and launched in 2021, provides for a three-year program for the installation of measures that reduce residential heating and cooling costs and enhance the health and safety of low income, elderly and disabled individuals (up to \$25 million). Dominion plans to bundle these programs into one to make it easier for consumers to navigate. In response to a question about marketing, Dominion staff explain that they do not track the income of customers, but they target areas where they think there will likely be many eligible customers.

House Bill 2789 (solar), approved by the SCC in September 2021 and launched in the summer of 2022, provides for a three-year program for the installation of solar panels, at no cost to the qualifying customer for households that qualify for the weatherization programs and participate in one of DEV's IAQ heating/cooling programs (up to \$25 million). Non-profit organizations may participate if the organization provides residential services to income and age qualifying individuals. Solar panels and equipment will be owned by the program participant. The first project was installed at the end of September, and they have done six so far. Dominion owns the RECs to help pay for the program.

Board members and Dominion staff discussed how these upgrades can impact the value of a home, both for the potential rise in resell value and property tax. Dominion is open to working with Virginia Energy on documenting these upgrades to help owners monetize their assets. The

General Assembly last year passed a personal property tax exemption for solar panel equipment, but more clarification is needed around if the value would be increased because of the solar panels and thus the property tax. As the program continues, there will be more data to help inform this concern.

Dominion staff discussed awareness channels for the programs. They are open to suggestions on outreach. Suggestions include to provide funds for community partners to help support the outreach, Virginia Energy Sense, mailers, targeted advertising in areas frequented by eligible populations such as public buses, and informing groups that provide services to the elderly.

### **Next Steps**

Committee chairs will think about summary statements and recommendations, including a list of meeting dates that can be incorporated into the annual report in advance of the next meeting to provide time to circulate the draft. Virginia Energy staff will incorporate data updates using the LEED tool. There will also be recommendations from the Board that will go to the General Assembly. Board members will communicate any input in advance to the Chair and Carrie Hearne rather than to the full board.

Virginia Energy staff will prepare a presentation on federal financing options that could impact the Board's mission and tasks.

### **Public Comment**

Ivy Main asked if residents would receive tax credits when they are not paying for the installation. There were no tax experts in the room, but it is something Virginia Energy staff and Board members will look further into.

### **Conclusion**

C. Bingham moves and K. Johnson seconds to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:54.