

**MINUTES**  
**VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**PATRICK HENRY BUILDING ~ EAST READING ROOM**  
**1111 EAST BROAD STREET**  
**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bob Matthias called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

**Members Present:** Joan Bondareff, Mary Doswell, Phillip Green, Bob Matthias, Brian Redmond, Art Moye, Deborah Miller

**Members Absent:** Ron Rosenberg, Varun Nikore

**VOWDA Staff Present:** John Warren, Al Christopher, Ken Jurman, Lynne Astroth, Barbara Simcoe, Robin Jones, Borna Kazerooni, Evie Christopher, George Hagerman, Paul Kugelman

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Chair called for a motion to approve the April 23, 2015, minutes as presented. The motion to accept the minutes, made by Deborah Miller and seconded by Brian Redmond, passed unanimously.

**VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

*Presenter: Mary Doswell, Dominion Resources Inc.*

Mary Doswell reported that the other two demonstration projects selected by DOE to receive additional funding for offshore wind demonstrations also submitted requests to DOE for a Budget Period Two (BP2) extension. DOE granted a one-month extension to BP2 so that DOE could do further analysis to respond to all three requests at the same time. Dominion hopes to have an answer by October 31.

Stakeholder Group

Mary Doswell briefed members on the deliberations and findings of the stakeholder group created to examine how costs can be reduced to keep the VOWTAP project on track as the first step towards commercial development of offshore wind in Virginia. She reported the transparent and robust process yielded meaningful outcomes, and Dominion plans to issue a new RFP on a multi-contract approach.

The stakeholder group, led by facilitator Mark Rubin from VCU, consisted of a representative from VOWDA, state and federal agencies, elected officials, DOE demonstration projects Program Manager, domestic and European contractors and suppliers, as well as utilities,

universities, and environmental groups. The group first met in July and formed three specific subgroups – Contract Process and Logistics, Policy, and Technology – to look at areas where cost and/or risk reductions might be possible. Cohort recommendations, which helped establish a path to facilitate 2018 commercial operations, included:

- Maintain all innovations;
- Seek legislative support and additional funding; and
- Use a Multi-Contract Approach in a new RFP instead of Dominion’s previous EPC approach.

The presentation can be viewed on the VOWDA website, <http://wind.jmu.edu/offshore/vowda/index.html>. Dominion expects to go out with a new RFP by the end of the year.

In order to be operational in 2018, VOWTAP will need to file for SCC approval no later than June 30, 2016. Once RFP results are reviewed and the project estimates and risk profile are revised, Dominion will reconvene and inform the stakeholder group.

A VOWDA committee was created to consider potential legislation in support of VOWTAP for the 2016 GA Session. Bob Matthias and Joan Bondareff will report at the next VOWDA meeting.

## **VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND PORT READINESS STUDY**

*Presenter: Charles Nordstrom, BVG Associates*

Charles Nordstrom, project manager of the Virginia Offshore Wind Port Readiness Study, presented an overview of the methodology, findings and recommendations of the port readiness study that was completed in June 2015 for the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. The goals of the study were to evaluate the readiness of Virginia’s ports to host manufacturing and staging activities, to develop onshore site build-out scenarios for manufacturing, provide feedback on Virginia’s value proposition, and deliver insights from the UK and European experience. BVG Associates led a team that evaluated 10 Virginia port terminals to determine their readiness to accommodate seven different offshore wind manufacturing and construction activities. The team also evaluated five Virginia commercial shipyards for their readiness to manufacture offshore electrical substations. Results of the study indicate that there is a big opportunity for Virginia ports. Among the findings:

- Strong potential for hosting offshore wind manufacturing and construction staging activity in a wide variety of scenarios.
- Job Creation – more than 1500 sustained manufacturing jobs and more than \$1 billion in annual turnover.
- Compatibility with offshore oil and gas may help accelerate offshore wind shore-side infrastructure development.

A detailed summary and links to the final report released in July 2015 are available on the DMME website at <https://dmme.virginia.gov/DE/OffshoreWindPortEvaluation.shtml>.

Art Moyer commented that better coordination with the Virginia Maritime Association (VMA) is needed and offered to help with any future updates. He agreed to support a briefing on the port study to the VMA terminal operator members for their comments and suggestions on next steps.

### **VOWDA ANNUAL REPORT**

Al Christopher reviewed the draft of the 2015 annual report, which included the suggested edits and comments submitted by members to DMME staff. Staff will edit the report to include the revisions discussed and agreed to by the board. The final report will be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly, and a copy will be posted to the VOWDA website.

### **DMME UPDATES**

*Presenter: Al Christopher, DMME Division of Energy Director*

Notices of significance:

- BOEM 9/29/15 announcement: Availability of a revised Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for VOWTAP. DOE also determined that there would be no significant impacts in a separate environmental assessment.
- DMME cost share offshore wind research projects: When available, DMME will post more details on the research studies on its website.
  - Collaborative Fisheries Planning for Virginia's Offshore Wind Energy Area ~ DEQ ~ Due March 2016
  - Virginia Regional Ocean Geophysical Survey Phase II Analyses ~ Fugro ~ Due December 31, 2015

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

David Carr, Southern Environmental Law Center: Mr. Carr commended Mark Rubin and Dominion on the VOWTAP stakeholder process and noted that the SELC thought it was successful. He emphasized that the VOWTAP is a stepping stone to commercial development. He said that the stakeholder process and today's meeting demonstrates that the environmental community, the state, and business interests support offshore wind and together can find a way to bring that support to the SCC. He also said we need to keep up with the other states and it is critical to go ahead with the project. He encouraged the group to do everything they can to move forward.

### **VOWDA FUTURE MEETINGS AND TOPICS**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2015, location to be announced later.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.