

Final Minutes

Governor's Energy Policy Advisory Council

Wednesday March 26, 2008
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Virginia

Called to order: 9:05 a.m.

Members Present:

Stephen Walz as Chair, The Honorable L. Preston Bryant, Jr., The Honorable Aneesh Chopra, The Honorable Patrick Gottschalk, Larry Blanchfield, Karl Bren, Darlene Burcham, Eva Hardy, John Lewis, Jr., George Minor, Ken Moss, Michael Quillen, William Tayler

Members Absent:

Dr. Irene Leech

Welcome

- Michael Town has resigned his position with the Council. Members commended his work on the Council, and will send a letter of appreciation to him.

Minutes

- Minutes from the December 19, 2007 meeting were accepted and approved with no revisions.

Freedom of Information Act

- Stephen Walz presented training on the Virginia Freedom of Information Act
- All members present received the training.

2008 Energy Legislation

- Stephen Walz discussed bills before the Governor
 - o **HB 1319** – Underground transmission lines; pilot program established
 - Should overhead lines be placed underground?
 - Who should incur the additional costs? There has been contention over the amount of additional costs. The pilots are intended to provide an on-the-ground test of the costs.
 - Issues of cost and reliability, liability, conditions to be met. There may be benefit to ratepayers generally from the pilots. Some members believe that incremental costs should be borne by landowners in the area of the line – ratepayers receive no benefit from placing the line underground. Others pointed out the issues of area landowners bearing the external costs of the line located in their area.
 - o **HB 1551** – Overweight and overload permits - Primarily affects fuel carriers in the energy industry.
 - o **SB 145** – Natural Gas utilities; recovery of funds for capital projects
 - May need technical amendment re: terms used in bill

- o **SB 320** – Solar energy collection devices – relates to controls in condominium associations
- o **SB 464** – Energy and Climate Change; new legislative energy and environment commission established
 - Some duplication with other legislation commissions
 - Need group to put together studies done by others instead of doing another study
- o **SB 596** – Electric Utility Restructuring; SCC consumer energy education program
 - Consumer education is key to reducing the rate of growth of consumption and encouraging energy conservation
- o **SB 714** – Petroleum products franchises – Relates to rights of franchises in Northern Virginia if the franchise is transferred
- o **SB 718 – Renewable energy** – Utilities to report annually on energy conservation efforts; Virginia Energy Plan to be updated by July 1, 2010 and every four years thereafter.

Executive Order 48

- Tommy Thompson with the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy discussed the progress of Executive Order 48
 - o State facilities
 - FY 2007 energy costs reduced by 1.5% of FY 2006 state facility energy costs
 - 187.7 million lbs. of CO₂ avoided
 - Savings total at 24% of the EO 48 goal
 - Non reporting agencies have until 2010 to meet the goal
 - EO 48 goals are on target to be met by the end of 2010
 - o Performance Contracting
 - 18 projects with 380 buildings planned for FY 2009
 - Will approximately double investments
 - Annual savings \$15,000,000
 - o Operational Review Recommendations
 - Virginia Energy Management Program
 - 3 positions in proposed budget
 - 2.5 existing positions
 - Expand energy efficiency projects
 - Improve natural gas purchases
 - Peak electrical demand control
 - Training of facilities personnel
 - o Other Progress
 - Expanded use of biodiesel – VDOT pilot in Hampton Roads

- 20% goal for employee participation in teleworking; expanded definition of telework to be 20% of eligible employees teleworking at least one day per week
- Required purchase of Energy Star equipment

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Energy

- Stephen Walz, Senior advisor for Energy Policy discussed key points of the EPA Clean Energy Environmental State Partnership
 - o EPA provides technical assistance to states
 - o State required to have a clean energy plan – The Virginia Energy Plan meets this requirement
 - o Enhancement of communication between the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy and the Department of Environmental Quality
 - o Activities coordinated to avoid duplication

Governor's Commission on Climate Change

- Secretary of Natural Resources, Preston Bryant Jr., discussed key points of the Commission
 - o Mission is to assess impact of climate change on natural resources, economy and public health
 - o Work Plan has been developed
 - o The 2nd of 9 meetings will take place on Thursday March 27, 2008
 - o May's meeting will focus on economics, review case studies
 - o By June the focus of the Commission will be on public input
 - o GEPAC has the opportunity to recommend energy actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Commission on Climate Change may request specific ideas be investigated by the GEPAC
 - o Information is available on the Commission's web site through the DEQ agency web site

Recommendations on other policy issues

- Other issues that should be considered include transportation issues associated with energy consumption, integration with urban policy

Next Meeting – Date has not been scheduled

Future agenda issues / discussions

- Conflict of Interest
- Pay as you go utility solar or energy efficiency financing program
- Beyond conservation and energy goals, what type of things need to be in place
- What can be learned from Maryland's energy conservation potential study

Darlene Burcham distributed the Green Government Challenge. For additional information please visit <http://www.GoGreenVA.org/>.

No public comments received.

Adjourned: 12:10 p.m.

Minutes approved 6/25/08

Prepared by Eileen Leonard, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, March 27, 2008