



DRAFT MINUTES

**Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority Board Meeting
Virginia Port Authority
600 World Trade Center
Norfolk, VA 23510**

**September 14, 2023
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Call to Order

Chair Will Fediw called the Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority (VOWDA) meeting to order at 10:05 am. Members present: Will Fediw, Chris Gullickson, Bryan Stephens, Ashley McLeod, Howard Shafferman, Kathleen Owen, Laura McKay, and Eileen Woll. Board members not present: Jim MacArthur. Members attending virtually: Laura McKay. Staff present included: Al Christopher, Ken Jurman, Ryan Welsh, and Ed Cronin. Guests present include Will Benner, Zach LeMaster, Steve Cook, Charles Paulin, Jordan Jo-Elsa, Orza Ajizadehne, and Jennifer Palestrant.

Virtual Participation

Laura McKay requested to attend the meeting virtually. Ms. McKay notified Chair Will Fediw via email with the reason for this request. The reason for virtual attendance was out of state.

A motion was made to use the newly approved bylaws/policy to allow board member, Laura McKay, to attend virtually. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Approval of July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The Chair called for a motion to approve the July 13, 2023 Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Update from the Governor's Offshore Wind Coordination Team (OWCT)

Chris Gullickson, a member of the Offshore Wind Coordination Team, updated the board on recent actions by the team, which did not meet in September. He updated the status of the Portsmouth Marine Terminal construction and mentioned the scheduled arrival of monopiles in October 2023.

VOWDA 2023 Annual Report

Virginia Energy staff presented the draft Annual Report for the Authority's approval. Edits were suggested for the report sections of recommendations and VOWDA actions.

Chris Gullickson motioned to approve the Annual Report with the expectation Virginia Energy would complete the suggested edits and correct minor format changes. The motion was seconded and was passed unanimously.

Research and Development Subcommittee

Kathy Owens, chair, presented on the R&D Committee's August 7, 2023 workshop, where the committee heard directly from several research organizations and recommended the creation of a white paper that provides the Authority further actions to promote the development of offshore wind in the Commonwealth. A combined R&D and Barriers and Pathways white paper was evaluated by the Authority.

VOWDA 2023 Work Plan Items

Howard Shafferman, chair, provided an update from the Barriers and Pathways Committee and added that section to the combined white paper. Will Fediw and Ashley McLeod motioned to adopt the white paper for VOWDA to be passed up to the Governor's Office through Virginia Energy. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Eileen Woll Workforce Update

Eileen Woll presented a SWOT analysis of workforce resources for offshore wind and a preliminary review of recommendations VOWDA can take to address the results of the analysis.

Other Business and Closing Remarks by Board Members

The board reviewed the latest map of the Central Atlantic Lease areas.

Public Comment

None

Industry Updates

Will Fediw brought to the Authority's attention NOAA's efforts to protect North Atlantic Right Whales. He also commended the completion of the new Mid-Atlantic offshore wind lease areas by BOEM and the amount of stakeholder engagement by Virginia businesses and industries.

Adjournment

Chair Will Fediw adjourned the meeting at 11:48 am.