

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority Board Meeting**

**Virginia Port Authority**

**Virtual Meeting on Teams**

**April 17, 2024**

 **10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Call to Order**

Chair Will Fediw called the Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority (VOWDA) meeting to order at 10:02 am. Members present: Will Fediw, Chris Gullickson, Ashley McLeod, Howard Shafferman, Kathleen Owen, Laura McKay, Jim McArthur, and Eileen Woll. Staff present included: Vince Maiden, Ken Jurman, Ed Cronin, Ryan Welsh, Rabita Benee. Guests included: John Larson, Patrick Kinsman, Julie Brown, and Lilian Anderson.

**Approval of January 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

The Chair called for a motion to approve the January 2024 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**CVOW Update**

John Larsen from Dominion gave an update on the status of the Virginia Offshore Wind Project a general overview of the technical components, energy management, and project timeline. An update was shared of substation connections, monopile storage, fabrication of CVOW transition pieces. An update on the launch of Charybdis, Jones Act compliant ship was discussed. Members discussed jobs along the coast and current jobs involved with the project. John Larsen responded that most jobs are involved with loading and unloading components at the port and are in Hampton Roads. The project was declared to be on track and on budget.

**Port of Virginia Update**

Patrick Kinsman shared updates on the Portsmouth Marine Terminal (PMT) offshore wind staging port. PMT is expected to complete construction in early 2025. A CVOW construction timeline was displayed showing the milestones met since 2022. Discussion of the timeline of the CVOW commenced, comments on the Commonwealth’s ability to invest in CVOW while maintaining within budget were made. Board members posed questions about the total figure of how much taxpayer money invested since the beginning of this project. Chris Gullickson provided context of a $40 million dollar fund being set in the Virginia Port Authority’s budget from the state.

**Workforce Update**

Eileen Woll provided a written update due to technical difficulties that that the Hampton Roads Workforce Council is hosting a regional job fair in Hampton on May 1st. The board has been working with the council to include clean energy employers along with panel specifically to address offshore wind jobs.

Chris Gullickson and Will Fediw gave an update on companies that have applied for VEDP offshore wind grants and additional proposed sites to support offshore wind industries. Jo-Elsa Jordan, from VEDP, gave a brief synopsis of engaging with stakeholders to drive industries and partners to Virginia, as well as the goals for IPF conference to showcase Virginia successes in the industry.

**NOWRDC Updates**

Ken Jurman updated to the board that the commitment to NOWRDC has been renewed. Updates on summaries for the topics were requested to be provided more routinely by Virginia Energy staff to ensure board member situational awareness. Requests for better tracking and reporting for from the board were made. Laura McKay informed the board of an upcoming MARCO forum in Delaware for ocean planning in May. Details for IPF 2025 were shared and the location for the event will be Virginia Beach.

**Legislative Update**

Rabita Banee provided the legislative update. Two bills SB 578 (Deeds) and SB 688 (Sutterlein) were proposed. Both bills were continued to 2025 and not passed during the 2024 session. Laura McKay asked if letters of support will need to be resubmitted when the bills are proposed again in 2025. Will Fediw asked if VA Energy could provide updates, reporting more frequently to VOWDA so that board members could be more informed on the legislative process for meetings.

**Kitty Hawk Avangrid Update**

Ashely McLeod provided an economic impact study. Kitty Hawk is projected to be a $10 billion project, with $4.8 billion impact on Virginia. $1.5 billion in construction spending, $3 billion in operating spending. With hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue potential for Virginia cities. Brining a total of 12,166 cumulative jobs in Virginia.

**Other Business and Closing Remarks by Board Members**

Will Fediw presented an update on discussions with the Coast Guard and Offshore Wind groups to manage balance between both fairways and lease areas for ship navigation.

Vince Maiden was introduced as the new State Energy Office Director.

Laura McKay offered a send off as she completed her rotation as a part of VOWDA. Next meeting was noted as July 17 and to be held in Richmond.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment

**Adjournment**

Chair Will Fediw adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.