

VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Board Meeting
June 8, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority (VOWDA) held a virtual meeting on June 8, 2021. Chair Joan Bondareff called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. A roll call was conducted. Members present: Joan Bondareff, Phil Green, Jim McArthur, Chris Gullickson, Hayes Frame, Art Moye and Laura McKay. Members absent: Mark Mitchell. Staff present included Jennifer Palestrant, Grant Kronenberg, Jordan Burns, Alex Frazier, Lynne Astroth, and Evie Christopher.

Electronic Meeting Notice

DMME Chief Deputy Jennifer Palestrant read the Electronic Meeting Notice regarding Chapter 56 of the 2020 Special Session I Acts of Assembly that provides a greater allowance for public bodies to meet by electronic means that is not found within the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. On a motion by Art Moye, seconded by Hayes Framme, the Chair conducted a roll call vote. The seven members present determined that the meeting qualified as an electronic meeting under the terms of the Acts of Assembly.

Approval of April 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Laura McKay, seconded by Art Moye, the board approved by roll call vote the April 15, 2021, meeting minutes.

Presentations

Presentations and meeting video will be available on VOWDA's website at <https://www.vaoffshorewind.org/authority/about>.

Overview of the Offshore Wind Leasing Process

DMME Chief Deputy Jennifer Palestrant briefed members on the next steps in Virginia's November 2020 official request to BOEM for additional offshore wind lease areas. The two basic drivers for requesting additional lease areas are the Virginia Clean Economy Act's offshore wind mandates and the decreasing costs of offshore wind. The federal lease authorization process (10+ years) includes four phases -- planning and analysis, leasing, site assessment, and construction and operation. The Planning and Analysis phase (1-2 years) will identify suitable offshore areas for wind development, with a potential lease sale in 2023. The next major step is the Renewable Energy Virginia Intergovernmental Task Force, the mechanism for coordinating and exchanging information with governmental partners. The

first Task Force meeting will probably be scheduled for this fall. Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina are also in the process of forming a Regional Task Force.

Jim McArthur asked Jennifer Palestrant to provide a briefing to the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority to ensure early coordination and compatibility among the Commonwealth's governmental entities and Ms. Palestrant agreed to do so.

MARCO – Virginia Ocean Plan

Laura McKay, Manager of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (a network of state agencies and coastal localities that implement Virginia's coastal laws and policies for which DEQ serves as the lead agency), presented on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) Data Portal's role in providing over 6,000 map layers of ocean resources and uses that can be used in the new lease area identification process. She provided a brief history of Virginia's ocean planning efforts. Virginia has received funding, \$183K per year for five years (Oct 2021 – Sep 2026), and NOAA approval for its third coastal zone management ocean strategy since 2011. This next round will develop a Virginia-specific, comprehensive Ocean Plan that coordinates with neighboring states and addresses offshore wind, marine wildlife conservation, offshore aquaculture, ocean acidification and sustainability of existing uses and resources. The process will provide a forum for more stakeholder engagement and intergovernmental coordination. The kickoff meeting with state government entities to discuss how to move forward will be held in mid-October 2021.

Offshore Wind Stakeholder Updates

Virginia Maritime Association: Will Fediw (Vice President of Industry and Government Affairs) updated members on VMA's work to help create favorable growing conditions to foster the development of offshore wind in Virginia's busy Port with DOD and commercial maritime activity. To accomplish this, VMA works with navigational safety and project risk mitigation and connects Virginia businesses with offshore wind company opportunities. It also stood up a VMA Offshore Wind Committee in June 2020 specifically to help support from a supply chain and tactical level the CVOW and Kitty Hawk Projects as well work towards creating an offshore wind mid-Atlantic hub.

Dominion Energy: GT Hollett (Director, General Projects for Offshore Wind) gave an update on the CVOW project, commercial project, and vessels that Dominion has under contract as part of its larger offshore wind program.

- The two CVOW turbines are performing slightly above what was initially modeled and the project continues to provide lessons learned in three key areas of permitting, installation and commissioning, and operation and maintenance.

- The Commercial project, scheduled for completion in late 2026 and estimated to have a total capacity of 2,640 MW, will provide the first 2.6 GW of the 5.4 GW specified in the Virginia Clean Energy Economy Act. In mid-May, Dominion publicly shared the potential onshore routes to deliver the offshore wind energy to shore and then to the existing substation. Dominion is working collaboratively with all stakeholders to determine the final route that will be provided in a filing to the SCC later this year.
- The crew transfer vessel, Endeavor, supports the operation and maintenance efforts of the pilot project. The Jones-Act qualified installation vessel, Charybdis, being built in a Texas shipyard, will be ready in 2023 to support the U.S. offshore wind industry and is expected to be used to install the CVOW turbines among other projects.

Avangrid Renewables: Jennifer Palestrant reported for Ashley McLeod (Avangrid Stakeholder Engagement Director) that Avangrid is in the final stages of preparing for the virtual open houses. Announcements will be made shortly.

VOWDA Annual Report

Since VOWDA was unable to meet last year, the Authority will submit a two-year report for 2020 and 2021. Staff will draft the report this summer for members' review and submittal in October 2021.

VOWDA Election of Officers

According to VOWDA By-Laws, election of officers is conducted at the fourth quarter meeting. Since members did not meet in December 2020 to vote on election of officers for the January 2021 – December 2022 term, current officers will continue to serve until new members are appointed by the Governor, sometime this fall, and elections are held.

Public Comments

No public comments were received.

Other Business

The IPF Conference will be held in Richmond, August 24-26, 2021. VA-NC-MD will have a multi-state booth to promote smart power and the work they are doing together. Governor Northam will give the opening remarks on August 25. Senators Kaine and Warner, and Congresswoman Luria are expected to lead a panel on August 26. Red carpet events will be held in Hampton Roads to host prospects from around the globe.

BOEM and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will announce this week they will sign a MOU, which Paul Olsen and ODU helped to facilitate, on how the Corps can support BOEM in its permitting

process. Using an existing federal authority, the Corps is allowed to provide technical assistance to another federal agency for infrastructure permitting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, Chair Bondareff entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion made by Art Moye and seconded by Chris Gullickson, was unanimously agreed to by members. The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.