

**VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**Board Meeting**  
**April 15, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.**

**Call to Order**

The Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority (VOWDA) held a virtual meeting on April 15, 2021. Chair Joan Bondareff called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. A roll call was conducted and the following members were present: Joan Bondareff, Phil Green, Jim McArthur, Mark Mitchell, Chris Gullickson, and Laura McKay. Members absent were Hayes Framme and Art Moyer. Staff present included Jennifer Palestrant, John Warren, Al Christopher, Grant Kronenberg, Jordan Burns, Alex Frazier, Lynne Astroth, Barbara Simcoe, 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 Chris Gullickson, seconded by Mark Mitchell, the Chair conducted a roll call vote. The six members present determined that the meeting qualified as an electronic meeting under the terms of the Acts of Assembly.

**Approval of January 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Following a motion by Mark Mitchell, seconded by Laura McKay, the board approved by roll call vote the January 10, 2020, meeting minutes, with one abstention.

**Introduction of New and Returning Members**

Chair Bondareff recognized returning members Laura McKay (Manager of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality) and Jim McArthur (retired Vice Admiral with the U.S. Navy and member of the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority), who were reappointed to a second term by Governor Northam. The Chair also welcomed the new gubernatorial appointment, Chris Gullickson, Economic Development Director with The Port of Virginia.

**Recent Major Virginia Wind Initiatives**

DMME Chief Deputy Jennifer Palestrant provided highlights on recent offshore wind initiatives in Virginia.

- Passage of the omnibus 2020 Virginia Clean Economy Act – elevates Virginia as a leading state on promoting renewable energy goals as well as energy equity and environmental justice
- Formation of the Mid-Atlantic Wind Training Alliance Initiative – Virginia’s first offshore and onshore wind workforce training collaborative that will make available industry

recognized certifications critical to the operation and maintenance of wind energy projects

- Memorandum of Understanding signed by the governors of Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland – first of its kind collaboration to advance offshore wind projects and promote the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic as a hub for the offshore wind energy and industry
- New wind lease areas – Virginia’s request for additional offshore wind lease areas received a positive response in January 2021 from BOEM. This summer, MD-VA-NC will hold the first ever multi-state BOEM Task Force meeting on proposed new lease areas.

### **DMME Reorganization**

DMME Director John Warren briefed members on the reorganization/realignment of DMME. With the decline in coal and increased emphasis on renewable energy, the General Assembly has changed the agency’s name to The Department of Energy (effective October, 1, 2021) and authorized new positions to the Division Energy. The savings as a result of the elimination of positions in the regulatory divisions are being reinvested in six new energy positions that will concentrate on policy, equity, rural energy, and emerging technologies. Offshore wind will remain a large focus, with an Office of Offshore Wind to be located in the Hampton Roads area.

### **National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC) Presentation**

Carrie Hitt, NOWRDC Executive Director, presented on NOWRDC’s national work and how it benefits Virginia. NOWRDC, established in 2018, is supported with DOE funds matched by NYSEDA and member (VA, ME, MA, MD) contributions, with 85% of the funds going to R&D projects. Virginia is active in NOWRDC, participating on the leadership team, project advisory boards, providing input on the Roadmap, attending board and committee meetings, and supporting specific projects. Of the 40 projects awarded so far, 14 are contracted and underway. Virginia Tech’s Dual-Functional Tuned Inerter Damper for Enhanced Semi-Sub Offshore Wind Turbine project, jointly funded by Virginia, will soon be under contract. The latest solicitation yielded 110 proposals and 20 awards were made for about \$10.8M. A new solicitation is expected later this summer and Roadmap # 3 will be released in June. The presentation can be viewed on VOWDA’s website.

### **Offshore Wind Stakeholder Updates**

Presentations can be viewed on VOWDA’s website.

**CVOW Pilot and Commercial Wind Project:** Mark Mitchell (Dominion Energy VP General Construction) reported good results so far for the two-turbine pilot project, operational since October 2020 – operating at 97% availability and 53% performance capacity. The Construction and Operations Plans for the Commercial Project (188 14-MW wind turbines) was submitted to BOEM in December 2020. There is an extensive outreach program – coordination with federal agencies as well marine fisheries, businesses, and stakeholder engagement with tribal communities. BOEM’s COP record of decision is anticipated in June

2023. Dominion is also working to construct the first Jones Act compliant offshore wind turbine installation vessel.

**Avangrid Renewables:** Ashley McLeod (Avangrid Stakeholder Engagement Director) described the progress of the Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind project. The proposed project is located 27 miles offshore from Corolla, NC, and will come ashore at a substation in Sandbridge, Virginia. Avangrid, part of Iberdrola's Global Offshore Wind Portfolio, is the third largest wind operator in the U.S. The construction/operation timeline is 2022-2026, with first phase of construction expected to begin in 2024. BOEM approved the SAP in April 2020 and the motorized buoy was deployed in June. The project is expected to have a \$2 billion impact in Virginia and North Carolina over the next decade, including the creation of 800 jobs and \$100 million in tax revenues.

**Port of Virginia:** Chris Gullickson (Port of Virginia Economic Director) described the Hampton Road Harbor area, which consists of four terminals. The Newport News Marine Terminal is being used for offshore wind work and houses Dominion Research/Survey vessels. The Portsmouth Marine Terminal is now empty of cargo, but could be used as the offshore wind hub site. The Governor's budget includes \$40 million for improvements and infrastructure to support offshore wind activities. Another \$200 million has been earmarked in President Biden's proposed infrastructure bill for Port improvements.

**Commonwealth Offshore Wind Task Force:** Paul Olson (ODU Research Office Programs and Partnerships Executive Director) briefly described the work of the Commonwealth Offshore Wind Task Force's Executive Committee and subgroups. Priorities include expediting BOEM review of permits and COPs and development of new leases. To date, \$2 million has been allocated for research, and five proposals were received in 2021 for funding.

**Hampton Roads Alliance:** Nicole Ryf (HRA Chief Strategy Officer) and Matt Smith (HRA Offshore Wind Business Development Director) described the Supply Chain Initiative, which is supported with a \$530,000 GO Virginia grant. The goal of the Initiative is to build a regional offshore wind hub, and several partners are participating in the Alliance. Three new staff positions are dedicated to attracting business to the area, and committees have been formed to work on supply chain analyses, offshore wind landing issues, and supply chain development. Partner events include business2business events and CVOW Friday Forums (both with Dominion Energy) and a pre-conference event planned for the 2021 IPF Conference to be held in Richmond on August 24-26. More information on the Alliance's work can be tracked through its biweekly newsletter, The Latest Draft.

**Virginia Chapter Sierra Club:** Eileen Woll (Offshore Energy Program Director) talked about activities being undertaken by the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club that support Virginia's offshore wind work efforts. The Chapter has established grassroots teams to encourage

offshore wind development to create jobs, as well as a high-level Subcommittee to launch an advertising campaign on offshore wind opportunities targeted to younger citizens. They are conducting community outreach and coordination efforts in Hampton Roads, holding several OSW-related events, and are conducting monthly “Offshore Wind 101” conversations with OSW leaders and others.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments were received.

### **Other VOWDA Business**

Jennifer Palestrant described the excitement being generated by the 2021 IPF being held in Richmond August 24-26. It will be the first in-person offshore wind conference held in two years. Registration space is limited.

The next virtual meeting will be held on June 8, 2021, at 10 a.m. Chair Joan Bondareff and Chief Deputy Jennifer Palestrant will receive topic suggestions from members. Laura McKay volunteered to present on development of a Virginia Ocean Plan using Coastal Zone Management funding from NOAA. Chris Gullickson commented that offshore wind stakeholder updates provided great value and suggested that staff rotate stakeholders invited to present at each meeting.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to conduct, Chair Bondareff entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion made by Laura McKay and seconded by Chris Gullickson, was unanimously agreed to by members. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.