

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority Board Meeting**

**Virtual Meeting on Teams**

**February 05, 2025**

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Members Present**

Will Fediw, Ashley McLeod, Eileen Woll, Joseph Nash, Kathy Owens, Howard Shafferman, Brian Stephens

**Members Absent**

Chris Gullickson

**Virginia Energy Staff Present**

Ken Jurman, Jonika Rathi

**Call to Order and Introductions**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the February 5, 2025, meeting minutes and was passed unanimously.

**Agenda**

* Focus on 2025 planning and the General Assembly and relevant Legislative items.
* Other business and open discussions for the group

**General Updates**

* The annual report has been finalized and submitted to the department leadership.
* Based on current recommendations in the report, focus should be on keeping the supply chain going for the offshore wind workforce as well, and potentially on R&D to lower costs.
* Chair and Vice-chair’s meeting with Director Davis - continuing to focus on capturing the most economic development opportunities for Virginia.
* Update on discussion about renewing and revising the offshore Wind Grant program with VEDP - allowing maritime and manufacturing companies to move into an adjacent space with offshore wind by adding different business lines and/or manufacturing lines. The scope of that grant was pretty narrow, but all three companies that applied were awarded the grant money. Roughly $300,000 out of $ 2 million was spent, and the rest was reverted to General funds.
* Recommendations for 2026 code revisions to be made after the session.
* An idea for having a combined workforce development for clean energy instead of individual workforce development authorities for each renewable energy technology was floated.
* Getting updates from other councils in the meeting – Chamber, VMA, Workforce Council, etc.

**General Assembly and relevant Legislative items:**

* Most of the bills introduced for the OSW have all died.
* HB1616 by Michael Fagans here in Virginia Beach for an offshore wind workforce fund is still on the table. The bill asks the division of offshore wind in the department to establish an offshore wind industry workforce program and fund it before January 1st, 2026, to advance the offshore wind industry and support workforce training for the industry in the Commonwealth.
* There was a discussion on writing a letter in support of the bill. However, due to a lack of expertise and time to edit the bill after the crossover, the motion to write the letter failed.

**Other business and open discussions for the group**

* Per the bylaws, the terms (2-year) for the current chair and vice-chair are over, and elections need to be scheduled next meeting. Members interested in this position would reach out to the current chair or vice-chair.
* Discussion on removing the specific seat from the Space Flight Authority, as it has been unoccupied for a long time. It would take place through the General Assembly and could be included in the code revisions suggested by the board. The code revision would move through DOE.

**Public Comments**: No Public Comments were made.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.