

**MINUTES  
VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
VIRGINIA HOUSING CENTER  
GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013  
10:00 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bob Matthias called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. He announced that Joan Bondareff was participating via teleconference from the remote meeting location in Philadelphia, PA. He introduced Matt Gooch, new OAG counsel to VOWDA.

**Members Present:**

Primary location: Bob Matthias, Mary Doswell, Brian Redmond, Ron Ritter  
Remote location: Joan Bondareff

**Members Absent:** Art Moye, John Jester

**Staff:** Conrad Spangler, DMME Director; Cathie France, DMME Deputy Director for Energy Policy; Al Christopher, DMME Energy Division Director; Lynne Astroth, DMME Energy Project Coordinator; Matt Gooch, Assistant Attorney General; Rick Thomas, Timmons Group

**Guests:** Guy Chapman, Dominion Virginia Resources; Sally McNeilan, Fugro

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Chair called for a motion to approve the May 23, 2013, minutes as presented. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

**VOWDA ANNUAL REPORT**

The VOWDA 2013 Annual Report is due October 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussion focused on 2012-2014 activities / milestones and report recommendations. Report recommendations include:

1. Support industry request for funding to leverage private and federal funding to give Virginia an advantage over competing states in attracting the offshore wind industry to Virginia.

2. Support efforts for successful completion of the advanced technology demonstration project and work with state and federal agencies to ensure advancement of the project in the DOE's down select process.
3. Support efforts to expedite the federal process for development of the commercial wind energy area off of the coast of Virginia

**Additional Recommendations:**

1. Continue collaboration of VRSA, VOW, the maritime industry, etc. to ensure successful and productive shared use of the ocean and port off the coast of Virginia.
2. Support the extension of the federal Investment Tax Credits and Production Tax Credits.
3. Work with the VOWTAP team and winner of the commercial lease sale to strategically engage potential supply chain and workforce development opportunities.

The VOWDA Action Work Plan, which is included as an appendix to the Annual Report, will be reviewed and updated at the October meeting. Action items discussed include:

1. Gathering public input to demonstrate the economic benefits that would result if COV is home to a vibrant Mid-Atlantic offshore wind industry and supply chain, and compare the potential economic benefits to the costs to ratepayers to support offshore wind through relatively higher electricity.
2. Supporting legislative efforts that will enable the SCC to accelerate the approval of offshore wind projects in Virginia.

It was agreed that the staff will draft the report based on discussions, using the same outline as last year, and distribute the draft to members by September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Members are requested to provide their feedback to staff only by October 7<sup>th</sup>. The draft report incorporating all of the members' comments will be provided at the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for final review and approval.

**UPDATES**

**Commercial Lease (Al Christopher):** BOEM announced yesterday that it selected an area off the coast of Virginia as the site of the nation's second competitive offshore wind lease sale. This announcement, along with the Governor's press announcement and additional materials published on Virginia's offshore wind page on BOEM's website, indicate that there will be a mock auction in August to familiarize the eight entities, determined to be eligible to bid, with the online auction process. The online auction of lease blocks is scheduled to take place on September 4<sup>th</sup>. The Virginia Wind Energy Area will be sold as a single lease of the entire 112,799 acres.

**Research Leases (Al Christopher):** In a meeting with BOEM representatives in Herndon on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, DMME learned more about the steps involved and the processes associated with a research lease. BOEM advised that it has considerable flexibility and that to take advantage of the opportunities provided by this flexibility, close collaboration and sharing of plans, goals and objectives will become even more important as we move forward. The publication of the commercial lease Final Sale Notice on July 23<sup>rd</sup> means that additional movement on the two DMME research lease applications is to be expected to occur very soon.

**DMME Ocean Survey (Sally McNeilan, Fugro):** Sally reported that the sampling operations for the survey were conducted between May 27 and July 4<sup>th</sup> and covered the entire WEA. Due to weather conditions, they experienced two weeks of downtime. Geologists indicate there is some interesting data. The draft report will be submitted to DMME in early September. Samples were also collected for characterization of sand and other mineral resources, which would help inform developers and provide valuable information to the DMME Division of Geology and Mineral Resources and BOEM.

**VOWTAP (Guy Chapman, Dominion Resources, Inc.):** Guy Chapman provided an update on VOWTAP, the research project funded by DOE. He reviewed the survey areas of Virginia's research and commercial lease sites. The marine surveys, which focused on the bottom 3 aliquots, were completed the end of June. The survey data is currently being processed. A copy of the slide presentation will be available on the VOWDA web site, <http://wind.jmu.edu/offshore/vowda/index.html>.

**VOW Industry Survey (Sally McNeilan, Fugro):** Sally McNeilan briefed board members on the status of VOW Coalition public survey posted to the VOW website (<http://www.vowcoalition.org/>) on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The survey is asking for the public's views, ideas and opinions on offshore wind. The survey includes four questions that address (1) how the \$1 million for met-ocean data collection would best be spent, (2) ideas or suggestions that would increase the value of the WEA other than met-ocean data collection, (3) the most important effort the Commonwealth could make to stimulate both the local economy and value of the WEA, and (4) how they see themselves as being involved in an offshore wind industry. The survey could be modified to add questions with the announcement of Virginia's commercial lease sale.

**VOW Funding Request (Sally McNeilan, Fugro):** VOW plans to seek additional funding support from the Governor's budget this coming legislative session to continue offshore wind development in Virginia and welcomes VOWDA's support and guidance. VOWDA asked that VOW keep them informed, through DMME staff, on their proposal / funding amount.

**Virginia Offshore Wind Timeline:** Members noted two corrections to the timeline. Staff will distribute the updated timeline to board members and staff, as well as post it to the VOWDA website.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Richmond: No comments were received  
Philadelphia: No one from the public attended.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The meeting scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> has been canceled. VOWDA will next meet on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 p.m. at the Richmond Convention Center before the kickoff reception for the Governor's Energy Conference. Agenda items will include the annual report final review and approval, RFI results and other pertinent updates, and VOWDA work plan review and update.

DMME staff will circulate a list of possible agenda items for future meetings to the board for their input and prioritization.

Cathie France recently discussed the VOWDA membership reappointments and two vacancies with the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. She will follow up on status of the appointments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.