

**Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Friday, January 29, 2015 | Patrick Henry Executive Office Building – Conference Room 3**

**Draft Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Barrett Hardiman called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**Members present:** Chairman Barrett Hardiman; Vice-Chair Cliona Robb; William Carmack; Cody Nystrom; Dawone Robinson; Jon Hillis; John Rust; Katharine Bond; and Sylvain Marsillac.

**Members absent:** Ryan Dunn; Ken Hutcheson.

**Staff present:** John Warren (VSEDA Director), Al Christopher, Ken Jurman, Chris McDonald, Borna Kazerooni, and Matt Gooch (Office of the Attorney General)

Also present was Hayes Framme from the Secretary of Commerce and Trade.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chairman Hardiman delivered brief introductory remarks to the Authority and invited all present to briefly introduce themselves.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES:**

Staff had previously circulated copies of the proposed minutes for the inaugural VSEDA Board Meeting, held December 3, 2015. The Chair called for a motion to approve the December 3, 2016 minutes as presented. The motion to accept the minutes, made by Katharine Bond and seconded by John Rust, passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF DRAFT BYLAWS:**

The Authority reviewed the revised bylaws that included the two recommendations voted upon in the December 3, 2015 meeting. In addition to these two edits, two more amendments were proposed:

1. Under Article II, Section 1, Paragraph 2, the following language is to be inserted (new language is italicized and highlighted): "The Authority is charged with, among other tasks, (i) identifying existing state and regulatory or administrative barriers **to, or opportunities for**, the development of the solar energy industry. . . ."
2. Under Article III, Section 1, Paragraph 1, the following language is to be inserted: "Authority members who wish to share or request information **related to authority business** to or from more than one member should do so through Authority staff."

With these above two amendments included, the motion to accept the minutes, made by John Rust and seconded by Cliona Robb, passed unanimously.

## **PERSPECTIVES ON THE VIRGINIA SOLAR INDUSTRY**

In an effort to provide effective background in the current state of solar energy in Virginia, two Board members made presentations to the Authority. Katharine Bond, Director of Public Policy at Dominion Resources, gave a presentation on the Utility's perspective. Jon Hillis, CEO of SolUnesco, gave a presentation from a private developer's perspective. Both presentations will be made available online.

### **PROPOSED USE OF STATE GENERAL FUNDS:**

John Warren, DMME Director, spoke to the Authority about \$360,000 in General Funds that currently are available for the development of solar energy programs (as well as a \$6 million in federal funds that could be available in the future). Warren presented two proposed uses that DMME identified:

1. Facilitating Solar Deployment Projects for State Facilities (identifying sites and developing bid-ready informational packets for state land and facilities suitable for installation of solar energy systems)
2. Advancing Solar Deployment in the Private Sector (advancing solar deployment through a combination of financial tools, such as grants, rebates and loans).

After much discussion, VSEDA determined based upon tight timeframe (funding expires at the end of the state fiscal year) as well as the relatively small amount of funding available, the best use of this funding is for the facilitation of solar projects for state facilities. It was agreed upon that the private sector goals are and will remain critical to the Authority, but for the purposes of this \$360,000, the state facility use was more realistic and has the potential for a much large overall impact. John Rust moved to formally endorse this proposal, Sylvan Marsillac seconded the motion, and VSEDA unanimously voted to approve.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chairman Hardiman opened the floor to public comment. Latham Grimes from Strata Solar, a North Carolina-based solar provider, briefly spoke to provide an out-of-state perspective on the solar industry. He agreed that while investment tax credits and renewable portfolio standards have been key to developing an attractive solar industry in North Carolina, what has been most appealing is that the state engages in long term (15+ year), predictable contracts. As Virginia seeks to enhance and expand its solar industry, Mr. Grimes encouraged VSEDA to consider this as a viable option.

### **FINAL TOPICS:**

Hayes Framme, Advisor for Infrastructure and Development for the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, provided a brief update to VSEDA on the Governor's Budget Bill, in particular discussing possible funding for increased solar development.

Ken Jurman, VSEDA Staff, provide a brief update on relevant bills that had been filed during the 2016 General Assembly Session. VSEDA Members were provided with a concise list of all pertinent legislation. VSEDA Staff will be available to answer questions should they arise.

VSEDA Staff agreed to poll the Board Members for future availability in order to schedule the next meeting. In the interim, Members were encouraged to keep April 18<sup>th</sup> open for a possible meeting and tour of a solar facility.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Authority adjourned at 11:58 AM.