

# Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

1:00PM-3:00PM

VNECA Meeting will take place in-person at:

[Tuckahoe Public Library](#)

[1901 Starling Drive](#)

[Henrico, VA 23229](#)

(804) 501-1910

## Meeting Minutes

### **Call to Order and Introduction:**

The Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom DePonty at 1:09 P.M.

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Tom DePonty, Jeff Fox, John Capps, Larry Corkey, Rich Diddams, Gene Grecheck, Michael Lempke, Gary Tepper. An in-person quorum of 9 members was not met.

The following VNECA Board Members attended virtually: Randy Heflin and Tim Stuller

The following VNECA Board Members had conflicts and were unable to attend: Dan Stoddard, Andrew Hutton, Woody Lawman, Scott Kopple, Ken Ball, and Bill Briscoe.

The following Virginia Energy staff were present: Brandi Frazier Bestpitch, Nam Nguyen, and Ryan Welsh.

The following guests were present: April Wade (VNEC), David Essah (SCC), Arlen Bolstad (SCC), Braden Croy (Dominion Innovation Center)

The following guests were present virtually: Mike Hattfield, Jeremy Harrell, S. Sedivy, and Morgan Guthridge

Chair DePonty welcomed the board and provided a fall safety message on heighten awareness while driving.

- received an update on the status of the Virginia Energy Plan (VEP) from Virginia Energy
  - Virginia Energy advised that the plan was on schedule for its October 3 rollout
- discussed letter of recommendation for the VEP led by the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium (VNEC) on behalf of VNEC and VNECA
  - April Wade, Executive Director VNEC, briefed the board on plans to issue a press release post VEP roll out once content was reviewed. Mrs. Wade also advised that VNEC had provided public comment to the VEP and that VNEC had been consulted by Governor's Office on nuclear in Virginia.
- VNEC provided the following updates
  - Virginia Innovation Nuclear Hub (VINH) per [2021 Special Session budget amendments – HB 1800 \(conference report\)](#)
    - Close to wrapping up the work on the hub, however, industry provided feedback to the Universities. As a result, WG is drafting further revisions

based on this additional feedback. Report will be circulated among the board for further review and final approval, but should expect more action regarding HUB development.

- receive an update on SMR WG per [HB 894](#)
  - had meeting on July 11
    - Speakers at the working group include Representative Kilgore, Dr. Katy Huff, Assistant Secretary, Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy, and Christine Csizmadia, Senior Director, State Government Affairs and Advocacy, Nuclear Energy Institute.
    - A document produced out of meeting and is currently out for review and comment by WG members
    - Next WG meeting is planned for this fall to discuss priorities- economic development, deployment, workforce, and supply chain
- Approval of June 21 minutes postponed until the Q4 meeting in early November due to lack of quorum
- 2022 Annual Report draft distributed to members for their review and member comment prior to the next meeting.
- Chairman DePonty highlighted nuclear industry news and opened the floor to member news
  - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and nuclear provisions significant including tax credits that can be realized by tax exempt entities such as public/municipal utilities that can now qualify for direct payments
  - Incentives for clean energy manufacturing that may be expanded to new nuclear innovation
  - More guidance forthcoming but IRA potentially significant opportunity for the Commonwealth
- Q4 meeting will be scheduled for early November. Agenda items for the Q4 meeting will include:
  - Deeper dive on VEP content post October 3 roll out
  - Finalization and approval of the 2022 Annual Report prior to the November 15 transmittal deadline
  - VNEC updates on VINH and SMR WG
- Guest Speaker, [Jeremy Harrell](#), Chief Strategy Officer at [Clear Path](#), provided the board an overview of the current nuclear energy landscape in congress including the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and other important policies/programs focused on nuclear. Copy of his presentation will be available on the [VNECA website](#).

#### **Public Comments:**

The Board heard public comment from Erica Gray, Sierra Club.

#### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 PM.