

Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 06, 2019 | 10:00 AM

VCU East Engineering Hall | Room E3218 | Richmond, VA

Draft Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

The Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom DePonty at 10:00 A.M. EDT.

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Chairman Tom DePonty, Vice Chairman Gary Tepper, Sean Agnew, Ken Ball, Bill Briscoe, John Capps, Regina Carter, David Christian, Colleen Deegan, Rich Diddams, Gene Grecheck, Andrew Hutton, Woody Lawman, Michael Lempke, and Will Payne.

The following VNECA Board members were absent: Tim Stuller and Jack Lesko (due to dial-in-option failure).

The following non-members were present: Secretary Bob Bailey, April Wade (VNEC), Brandi Frazier Bestpitch (DMME), Barbara Simcoe (DMME), Erica Gray (Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter) and David Martin (Martin Images News).

INTRODUCTIONS:

After Chairman Tom DePonty's welcoming remarks, Authority Board members provided introductions.

VIRGINIA NUCLEAR ENERGY CONSORTIUM 11/29/18 Draft Meeting Minutes:

After brief review, Chairman Tom DePonty requested a motion be made to approve 11/29/18 meeting minutes. Gene Grecheck motioned, Andrew Hutton seconded.

2019 ANS STUDENT CONFERENCE AT VCU UPDATE:

ANS Student Conference Co-Chairs Daniell Tinchler & Sarah Morgan presented ANS Student Conference Theme "Nuclear is _____." The "blank" was intentionally left to be filled in by participants as to how they would define nuclear. Highlights of conference presentation:

- Conference will be held April 4-6, 2019 on VCU campus in Richmond
 - <http://studentconf.ans.org/>
- 100 Nuclear professionals expected to attend
- 100% Student Organized
- Global Representation

- Will include: workshops, poster sessions, tours, dinners, Nuclear Science Fair for High School Students*
 - *ANS Student co-chairs requested assistance from VNECA members to provide Inter-Active Displays for Nuclear Science Fair.

VNEC UPDATE- April Wade:

- VCU ANS Student 'Day on the Hill' to discuss Nuclear Legislation (Workforce Cluster)
- Briefing with State officials
- Membership Drive

VA 17th ENERGY CLUSTER <http://vaenergy17thcluster.org/> - Matt Kellam:

- VEWC - Virginia Energy Workforce Consortium (<http://www.vewc.org>) with CEWD – Center for Energy Workforce Development (<http://www.cewd.org>) work at state level to drive home activity and results
 - Create energy career awareness
 - Promote / implement energy awareness that would lead to careers
 - Currently 16 established career clusters, proposed 17th cluster focused on energy
 - 17th Energy Cluster Legislation already passed by the General Assembly, currently awaiting Governor's signature
- Energy Education Pathway
 - To prepare students for a career in energy
 - Define the workforce demand at State level –NAICS Code
 - Address all energy sectors- career pathways within the cluster; not just PhDs, but also address the need for skilled laborers
 - Course alignment with State Energy Plan
 - Must have industry leaders present at meetings

2018 NUCLEAR POLICY REVIEW – Chairman DePonty

- 2018 good year
 - extension of tax credit
 - FY18 appropriations up 20% in research and development
 - FY19 appropriations up 36% in research and development
 - Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act (NEICA)
 - Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act
 - This bill directs the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to modify the licensing process for commercial advanced nuclear reactor facilities.
- State Policy News- NJ (zero emission credit program), AZ (voters reject renewable energy mandate impacting Palo Verde Station), CT (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority found Millstone Power Station at risk of early retirement).

ENERGY ASSET INVENTORY:

- To be an ongoing agenda topic to maintain and keep up to date
 - Recommend continuous review and pass along changes to DMME staff (Brandi and Lynne)

VNECA MEMBERSHIP:

- Couple of seats coming up for renewal
- Appointment should be filled by July 1

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2019 Activities – Speaker List
 - Opened floor for additional speaker ideas/recruitment
 - Current speaker list determined to be robust, however, send any new speaker ideas to Tom and Brandi
- 2019 Meeting Schedule
 - Meeting months of May, September & November locked down. Launch doodle poll to fix days.
- Working to provide input to the Governor / administration officials- trying to schedule meeting with Governor Northam as early as April (after legislation is signed)
- Ms. Wade to draft letter of support to Virginia Delegation for ANS Member Rita Baranwal’s Nomination for DOE Assistant Secretary of Nuclear Energy

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Erica Gray representing the Sierra Club addressed the Authority with comments on energy cluster education.

ADJOURNMENT:

As all business was conducted for the day, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. EST.