

FINAL

MINUTES
VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION (VOF)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 24, 2016

Attendees:

Trustees

Tom Slater, Committee Chair
Childs Burden
Steph Ridder
John Richardson
Beth Obenshain
Peter Bance

Guests

Charles Burke, easement owner
Grace Terry Easement Owner
Lindsey Hesch, Nextra Energy resources
Lester & Cynthia Bright, prospective easement owners
Heather Richards
Anne Bryan, interested citizen
Joe Murray, interested citizen
Pete Glubiak, Attorney
Robert Bish, Dominion Resources Services, Inc.
Robert Hare, Dominion Resources
Denise Neas, Pilot Environmental Inc (PEI)
Nan Mahone, Conservation Partners
Faye Cooper, VCC and interested citizen,
Rex Linville, Piedmont Environmental Council

Staff:

Brett Glymph, Executive Director
Sara Brooks, Human Resources Manager
Sherry Buttrick, Assistant Director Easements
Bobbie Cabibbo, Executive Assistant
Anna Chisholm, Director of Administration
Brian Fuller, Assistant Director, Stewardship
Leslie Grayson, Deputy Director, Policy & Acquisitions
Harry Hibbits, Assistant Director, Stewardship
Neal Kilgore, Easement Manager
Martha Little, Deputy Director - Stewardship
Jason McGarvey, Communications & Outreach Manager
Dave Morton, IT Manager
Amanda Scheps, Owned Lands Manager
Bruce Stewart, Staff Attorney
Laura Thurman, Easement Manager
Tamara Vance, Deputy Director of Easements

Mr. Slater opened the meeting at 10:10 am

Ms. Ridder moved that we adopt the minutes from the November 2015 meeting; Mr. Burden seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Martha Little reported on real time updates for the ACP and other public infrastructure projects in the meeting materials. She reported that the staff has instituted a team-based environmental review process that includes the integration of GIS, tracking sheets, interagency collaboration and the centralization of communication through the introduction of the ImpactReview@vofonline.org email address. She stated that VOF has expanded the review zone to include an area of 1.5 miles from a proposed project and to include projects that may fall within a Special Project Area.

Mr. Slater reminded us that for a pipeline project buried underground a 1.5 mile impact analysis may be fine but for a 500 foot wind turbine we may want to increase that impact area. He asked that we consider taking the project specifics in to consideration when deciding the “affected” area. Mr. Richardson agreed we should not be bound to a 1.5 miles standard. Brett suggested we keep in mind regional topography.

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Ms. Ridder urged us to be careful, otherwise VOF resources will be stretched too thin, and our efficacy for other work commitments will be affected.

Brett reported that Delegate Minchew's House Bill 908 (included in board preparation materials) will have a study group. VOF will participate in these coordinated reviews. Mr. Slater asked if we could expand the protection area of this bill and the input to include VOF and VDHR. He believes that VOF has a responsibility to ensure we are heard at the SCC. Mr. Bance shared his concerns that the bill's language might not be strong enough with all the competing interests. Brett said that those interested will be mediated at the General Assembly and we will be there to have our voice heard.

Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) has submitted a portion of their applications to VOF for two potential 1704 conversions diversions. One is for permanent easement for the pipeline and the other is for a permanent access road.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) has a new route, which proposes to cross 10 VOF easements. According to ACP, this new route was necessary to avoid impacts to the sensitive habitat in federal forestland. VOF is urging ACP to avoid these easements. ACP has amended their application with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to have an additional public comment period. Martha passed out a draft letter she proposes to send to FERC.

Martha reported that we were not given an opportunity to participate in the review of the Windy Forge Project. An easement owner called and shared that she has concerns about water quality problems on their easement property from the construction activity on the ridge top. Brett pointed out that Department Environmental Quality (DEQ), Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are responsible for the review and they are responsible for the impacts on water resources. The local Board of Supervisors has approved the project of 25 turbines at 500 – 550 feet high spread along the ridge of North Mountain. The process has been going on for over a year. Anne Bryan was recognized and spoke about the impacts of the wind turbines.

Mr. Slater recommended VOF send a letter of concern to DEQ from **the Board** to urge them to take into consideration the environmental impact of the Windy Forge project.

Motion made by Mr. Richardson to ask staff to draft a letter for Ms. Ridder to send to DEQ; motion seconded by Mr. Burden and passed unanimously.

Martha continued her report with the Remington - Gordonsville. Dominion is waiting to hear feedback from the SCC regarding the alternative lines and then they will meet with affected landowners.

Martha reviewed the resolution in the package. Mr. Slater asked that in the sentence "VOF urges SCC when determining ..." that we add "or upgrades or replacement lines". In addition, also add to the "1.5 miles" a phrase such as " at least 1.5 miles or greater depending on the circumstances".

Mr. Burden asked what action was taken on Mr. Ammonette's request from the last meeting with respect to the Lexington – Dooms transmission line. The Chair took it under advisement and sent a letter to the SCC in his support but the Chair made a decision to not authorize a lawsuit, as an additional party or co-plaintiff. The letter is included in the meeting preparation materials.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.