

Offshore Wind Industry Workforce Training Center Committee

Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

222 International Drive, Suite 175, Room A, Portsmouth, NH

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Committee Members Present:

- Brian Groth, BEA, Chair
- Jeffrey Beard, CTE, Secretary
- Nicole Levesque, Education
- Tom Barrasso, Dir. Offshore Wind
- Myles Greenway, NH Port Authority
- Cheryl Lesser, Great Bay CC
- Ben VanCamp, Portsmouth Chamber
- John Garrigan, Labor
- Robert Atwood, Fish & Game
- Ben D'Antonio, Eversource
- Samantha Walcott, Eversource
- Erik Chapman, UNH Sea Grant

Others in Attendance:

- State Senator David Watters
- Katy Bland, UNH Sea Grant

I. Call to Order

Groth called the meeting to order at 1:36pm.

II. Welcome & Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves and agency represented.

III. Designation of Secretary

Beard volunteered to serve as Committee Secretary

IV. Review of Meeting Protocol subject to RSA 91-A.

Groth described the public meeting requirements prescribed by RSA 91-A.

V. Overview of Offshore Wind Development Timeline: Katy Bland, Engagement and Research Manager, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, NH Sea Grant.

Bland spoke about progression and development of offshore wind energy in the region.

- 2 separate processes in Gulf of Maine 1.) State of Maine Research Lease, 2.) Commercial Process
- Timeline runs from 2022 to approx. end of the 2020s, when construction would begin.
- 3 phases: planning/analysis/leasing phase, site assessment, construction and operations
- Lease auction will occur at end of October 2024.
- 8 lease areas open in October in Gulf of Maine
- Bureau of Ocean Management (BOEM) overseeing, this is a Federal entity.
- Walcott asked about power density (range of 3 to 4 megawatts per hour)
- Barrasso asked about 2 rounds of auctions- 2024 and 2028. Katy B. responded that leases in 2028 would likely remain in the perimeter outlined in green
- All wind turbines would be floating.

Discussion:

- Examine workforce needs/make recommendations on workforce training Study need for offshore wind industry workforce training
- Study criteria for agreements of partners and use of funding

VI. Open Discussion of Committee's Roles & Responsibilities

- D'Antonio suggested looking at other states/regions. CT infrastructure funding using Federal funds to prepare grid for additional offshore load. Partnership with UConn to develop offshore wind certification at postsecondary level.
- Lesser noted Bristol Community College in CT also has similar cert program.
- VanCamp asked what New Hampshire's role would be and acknowledged need to build the workforce, while noting limitations.
- Sen. Watters noted the potential for two locations in NH.
- Barrasso mentioned the operations and management side and suggested the group focus on that aspect.
- Groth suggested collecting an inventory of existing programs, elsewhere. Also, identifying adjacent programming.
- Beard suggested asset mapping of existing programs, mapping occupations to existing training programs. Lesser noted that CCSNH programs would be essential.
- Walcott noted importance of community connections. Base of operations important. (Port/Harbor Master) Memorial Bridge in Portsmouth could be a limitation, and 25+ acres needed for "lay down". Offshore living noted.
- Chapman suggested study how roll-out/development has gone for other communities. Difference between preparing people for jobs anywhere vs. for jobs in NH.
- VanCamp asked if there is the possibility of multi-state work.
- Sen. Watters noted that if the auctions are successful, to invite prospective builders. Groth said that bidding credits, including contributions to workforce development and training are part of process; asked how to bring wind

developers. Barrasso suggested reaching out to PR people from prospective employers.

- Greenway noted MassHire has a section of website with opportunities in Salem listed. OffshoreWindDrinks is an initiative with evening cruises for meet and greet for representatives of industry. October 8 will be the next event, in Providence. VanCamp offered to look into hosting an event.
- Sen. Watters mentioned NH Offshore Wind Conference sponsored by NH Environmental Business Association on October 16.
- Sen. Watters and Brian G. discussed possibility of NH joining Oceantic, a trade association for offshore wind.
- Groth brought conversation back to role of NH and suggesting advantages NH would have. Barrasso suggested reviewing the Normandeau Report would be a good start, and Chapman suggested having one of the authors/researchers attend a future meeting to present on the findings.
- Chapman suggested asking how secondary CTE/CCSNH/UNH and University System could partner.
- Bland asked if offshore wind could displace other industries.
- Barrasso asked about large incubators. Jeff B. suggested ARMI/BIOFAB as a possible thought partner for incubator model.
- Sen. Watters spoke about fund the Senate Bill set up. He suggested possibility of BEA applying for a Federal grant to fund some of the work for the committee, recommended reaching out to Senator Shaheen's office for more information about Federal funding. Sen. Watters suggested that should the group develop the idea for a training facility, that Federal funds could be earmarked for such a facility. Sen. Watters mentioned that State of New Hampshire funds might be a possibility for funds as well.
- Groth suggested a quarterly meeting schedule.

VII. Action Items & Next Steps

- Next meeting early 2025.
- Circulate Normandeau report.
- Upcoming report Groth will prepare first one for this upcoming Nov.

VIII. Adjournment

Lesser moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Barrasso. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm.