

**Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission**  
**Energy Ingenuity Committee Meeting**  
**Hilton Richmond Downtown**  
**501 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219**  
**Monday, January 6, 2025**  
**12:00 p.m.**

Commissioners Present

Delegate Thomas A. Garrett, Jr., Chair (Remote)  
Senator Lashrecse D. Aird, Vice-Chair (Remote)  
Delegate Jed Arnold  
Mr. Wayne Carter  
Ms. Amanda Cox  
Mr. Watt R. Foster, Jr. (Remote)  
Senator T. Travis Hackworth

Mr. Jay D. Jennings (Remote)  
Delegate Daniel Marshall, III (Remote)  
Secretary Caren Merrick  
Mr. Arthur “Dale” Moore  
Delegate James W. Morefield  
Delegate Israel D. O’Quinn

Commissioners Absent

Delegate Terry G. Kilgore

Staff

Honorable James Campos  
Mr. Stephen Versen  
Mr. Jordan Butler  
Ms. Sarah Capps  
Ms. Adrian Chapman  
Ms. Vicki Humphreys

Ms. Stephanie Kim  
Mr. Jerry Silva  
Ms. Roz Stein  
Ms. Emily Van Pelt  
Ms. Sara Williams

Counsel for the Commission

Ms. Elizabeth Myers, Assistant Attorney General

Guests

Mr. Eric Barger, Founder and Chairman, BargerTech (Remote)  
Bruce Maurhoff, Executive VP & COO, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative  
Gary Shanaberger, Town Manager, Town of Altavista  
Roy Vanderhyde, Vanderhyde Dairy (Remote)

Energy Ingenuity Committee Chair Garrett opened the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

**Commissioner Hackworth moved to approve the remote participation of Commissioners Garrett, Aird, Foster, Jennings, and Marshall; Commissioner Morefield seconded the motion; all members voted to approve the motion.**

Director Campos called roll and determined that a quorum was present. Due to difficulty hearing Garrett, Vice-Chair Aird took over running the meeting.

**Aird moved to approve the minutes from the previous Energy Committee meeting on September 25, 2024; Commissioner Hackworth seconded the motion; all members voted to approve the motion.**

The meeting was opened to public comment, and there was none.

Mr. Silva reviewed awards from the Energy Catalyst-Planning Grants, covering project numbers 4317, 4311, 4322, 4318, 4323, and 4320. Commissioner Merrick requested pulling project 4318 from the block for a separate discussion.

**Morefield moved that the Energy Committee accept the staff's recommendations for the Energy Catalyst-Planning Grants described on pages 9 through 20 of the Commission book and make the following awards: \$49,250 to GENEDGE Alliance for project number 4317; \$50,000 to Commonwealth Center for Advanced Logistics or CCALS for project number 4311; \$49,250 to CCALS for project number 4322; \$50,000 to Virginia Ed Strategies for project number 4323; and \$50,000 to Virginia's Gateway Region for project number 4320; Cox seconded; all members present voted to approve.**

Silva described project 4318, a planning grant proposal to explore strategies for economic and infrastructure development on abandoned coal mines. Merrick expressed her understanding that Virginia Energy is working with Energy DELTA Lab on this project and that Virginia Energy has the resources to move the project forward; Silva recommended tabling the project to look into this.

**Morefield moved to table project 4318; Jennings seconded; all members present voted to approve.**

Silva introduced Mr. Shanaberger, who spoke on behalf of the Town of Altavista's Energy Execution-Implementation Grant application for project #4312, Altavista Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

**Delegate Garrett moved to follow staff recommendation for project 4312 to approve a grant award of \$500,000 to the Town of Altavista and a referral for a \$250,000 loan from the Commission's Lending Partnership Program, contingent on a loan approval by the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority; Morefield seconded; all members present voted to approve.**

Silva introduced Mr. Maurhoff, who spoke on behalf of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative's Energy Execution-Implementation Grant application for project #4315, Appomattox Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project.

**Delegate Garrett moved to follow staff recommendation for project 4315 to approve a grant award of \$750,000 to Central Virginia Electric Cooperative and a referral for a \$750,000 loan from the Commission's Lending Partnership Program, contingent on a loan approval by the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority; Aird seconded; all members present voted to approve.**

Silva introduced Mr. Vanderhyde, who spoke about his dairy farm's relationship to BargerTech's project #4286, which will be started on his farm. At the time of this meeting, all agreements had been signed, and they were ready to proceed to the project's next step. Mr. Barger joined the meeting remotely and gave an update on the project.

Silva provided an update on grant funds, describing his analysis for speeding up the process of getting grant funds dispersed. At the time of this meeting, the energy fund had received 24 applications.

Deputy Director Versen confirmed that there was no other business.

Aird adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.