**SENATE COMMISSION TO STUDY OFFSHORE WIND & PORT DEVELOPMENT**

***Meeting Minutes***

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021

**Meeting Start Time:** 4:03pm

**Meeting End Time:** 5:48pm

*Commission Members present:*

* State Senator David Watters, Chair
* Cheri Patterson, NH Fish & Game Department
* Diane Foster, University of New Hampshire
* Geno Marconi, Pease Development Authority
* State Representative Jane Beaulieu
* Patrick Anderson for Jim Titone
* Mark Sanborn, Office of Strategic Initiatives
* Brianna Fiorillo, Clean Energy NH (Secretary)
* Sean Clancy, Community College System of NH
* Tony Giunta, Business & Industry Association
* Ward Byrne
* Michael Behrmann, NH Business Finance Authority (Vice Chair)
* State Representative Doug Thomas
* State Representative Michael Harrington
1. **Reading of public meeting access statement** *by Senator David Watters*
2. **Approval of February 2021 Meeting Minutes**
	1. Motion to approve made Michael Behrmann
	2. Motion seconded by Tony Giunta
	3. Minutes approved unanimously (12 voting yes, 0 voting no, 0 abstentions)
3. **Presentations:**
	1. **Kris Ohleth,** *University of Delaware Special Initiative for Offshore Wind (SIOSW)*
		1. Topic: Offshore Wind Supply Chains
			1. SIOSW has conducted various studies including an offshore wind cost reduction in New York and an offshore wind future cost study in Massachusetts, among other activities (learn more here: <https://sites.udel.edu/ceoe-siow/>)
			2. Some main points of the presentation focused on a 2019 supply chain contracting forecast: <https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/sites.udel.edu/dist/e/10028/files/2020/01/SIOW-White-Paper-Supply-Chain-Contracting-Forecast-for-US-Offshore-Wind-Power-FINAL.pdf>
				1. Estimated $70 billion utility scale build out of offshore wind by 2030 (CAPEX only)
				2. Costs increase to developers to keep a certain percentage of jobs/benefits in-state
				3. Important points:

Costs are lower now than several years ago because of technological development that has resulted in larger, more productive turbines

Extensive experience in the European market will translate to the U.S.

The U.S. has established a solid project pipeline, which assures payoff for supply chain investments

* + - * 1. SIOSW recommends competitive bidding, which proved useful for New York & Massachusetts
			1. Overall recommendations:
				1. Be realistic about timelines & long lead times; learn about the industry’s high safety standards, established in Europe; educate the supply chain on their place in the industry hierarchy; be deliberate about state policies & tradeoffs between low price of energy versus high local content; identify adjacent industries who could participate with minor adjustments to current operations
	1. **Jeff Tingley**, *Xodus Group*
		1. Topic: Offshore Wind Supply Chains & Experience from Europe & Block Island
			1. Local supply chains need to be established for projects in 2024 & beyond (due to long BOEM process)
			2. Taxonomy: defining the offshore wind supply chain
				1. Tiers 1 & 2: Focuses on the OSW supply chain landscape (examples including project management, leasing, financing)
				2. Tier 3: Focuses on operations, maintenance, and service
			3. Important to identify supply chain strengths and gaps as well as workforce opportunities and pathways
			4. Partnerships are very valuable
			5. Timing is very important because the supply chain development should follow BOEM’s wind farm development process
			6. Diversity in workforce is very important
				1. See example from Massachusetts Clean Energy Center’s recent RFP for diversity training & inclusion program directed to offshore wind: <https://www.masscec.com/request-proposals-massachusetts-2020-offshore-wind-workforce-training-and-development>
				2. Leading developer Orsted has committed to investing $15 million in New Jersey: <https://nawindpower.com/orsted-trust-fund-supports-burgeoning-new-jersey-offshore-wind-industry>
			7. Overall takeaways:
				1. A common forum for developers and local workforce to engage is essential
				2. Developers want to engage with the local supply chain
				3. The local supply chain wants to connect but needs guidance
				4. Recommendations:

Understand the state of play and how assets/companies align

Define scope of work

Establish a roadmap

Determine appetite and willingness of supply chain to engage

* 1. **Sean Clancy,** *Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH)*
		1. CCSNH has a long history of effective partnerships between NH companies and workforce training
			1. An example is the 20 year relationship between Great Bay Community College with the nearby Portsmouth Naval Shipyard; this is also a natural connection for offshore wind related topics
		2. 95% of CCSNH students are New Hampshire residents that want to remain in the state
		3. CCSNH has a track record of success attracting grants for apprenticeship programs; view ApprenticeshipNH for more details: <https://apprenticeshipnh.com/>
		4. Key takeaways:
			1. The CCSNH can play an important role in workforce development in a variety of sectors, including some training programs that are already in-effect (for example, welding)
1. **Presentation of Subcommittees**
	1. Michael Behrmann presented the idea to establish four subcommittees focusing on the following topics:
		1. Fisheries & Environment
		2. Transmission & Interconnection
		3. Supply Chain & Workforce
		4. Ports & Port Development
	2. The goals of the subcommittees are to provide an opportunity for non-Commission members to participate and to meet between Commission meetings to bring together concepts, ideas, and goals to present to the full Commission and, eventually, the legislature and/or Governor
	3. The Commission Steering Committee (Senator Watters, Representative Harrington, Michael Behrmann, and Brianna Fiorillo) will discuss establishing the subcommittees prior to the next meeting
	4. Ward Byrne expressed concern that the fishing industry needs to be heard and invited for active participation in subcommittees because he is very concerned over the impacts of offshore wind development on the NH fishing industry
2. **Announcements & Other Business**
	1. Senator Watters announced funding has been approved from The Nature Conservancy to host a graduate student from the UNH Sustainability Institute program; three candidates are being interviewed for the position on March 24, 2021
	2. SB151 (relative to clean energy procurement) was amended in several ways including giving the Governor more authority over the process, an extended process to protect ratepayers, and language highlighting benefits to New Hampshire; the bill passed the full Senate last week
		1. Updated language can be found here: <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?sy=2021&txtFormat=html&v=SA&id=853>
3. **Adjournment**
	1. Motion to adjourn: Senator Watters
	2. Motion seconded by: Representative Jane Beaulieu
	3. Motion approved unanimously