VOW UPDATE

VOWDA MEETING – 28 January 2015

- The VOW By-law and membership model restructuring have been completed. The restructuring has brought in additional members and a broader asset group which is encouraged to enhance the overall view and direction of VOW. In addition VOW has restructured and enhanced its IT platforms and social media presence.

- Regarding VOW’s Legislative Agenda, VOW will continue to support efforts which further the advancement of Offshore Wind Energy in Virginia. In addition, VOW will continue to support the same at all levels of government. As an ever evolving industry, VOW also is ever evolving. In the past years VOW has engaged professional lobbyist to support the interest of the industry. As the leases are in order and the VOWTAP Project underway, VOW has restructured itself to now focus on the supply chain and the base industries which will be involved in everything from advanced engineering to operations and maintenance for the commercial fields. As such, VOW has not engaged a professional lobbying firm on a going forward basis. The VOW Board has the necessary "horsepower" and access to the political and legislative process and will be involved as necessary and appropriate.

- VOW Executive Committee Members lead the Hampton Roads Community Foundation Industry Clusters Report, specifically the “Coastal Energy Cluster”. The report further highlights the benefits of the potential offshore wind industry for the Hampton Roads region.
  - The Report further recognized new information technology which has the ability to upload businesses into a platform for the supply chain and connect these companies to the various business opportunities with Offshore Wind projects.

- October 2014 – VOW Executive Committee members attended the AWEA conference in Atlantic City organizing several meetings with logistics, insurance, financial, manufacturers and developers. In addition, attended the Virginia Economic Development Partnership dinner.

- October 2014 - VOW hosted an event in Hampton Roads with German OSW logistics company, BLG along with Mr. Jens Eckhoff, president of the German Offshore Foundation, prior Chairman of the CDU in the State Parliament Bremen, prior Senator for Construction, Environment and Transport of the State of Bremen, prior Member of the State Parliament, Bremen.
  - The event consisted of an open forum meeting with VOW Board Members and guests followed by a waterborne tour of the port.

- October 2014 – VOW attends and participates in a Danish Delegation event sponsored by the City of Norfolk.
November 2014 - VOW attends and participates in a Danish Delegation event sponsored by Dominion.

November 2014 – VOW and Old Dominion University agree to coordinate on the “State of the Commonwealth” report to be released in the fall of 2015.

November 2014 – VOW formalizes the coordination agreement with the Virginia Shiprepairers Association adding a new layer of companies now coordinating on offshore wind energy and supply chain. This coordination is recognized by both Boards as a significant event in the creation of the new economic growth engine for the maritime industry.

November 2014 – VOW continues to speak at various municipal economic development events thus moving the educational factors forward as the industry develops.

November 2014 – VOW coordinates with Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) to support HEREDA’s trade mission to the UK regarding offshore wind energy and business development.


January 2015 – VOW is in the process of coordinating a trade mission with German offshore wind energy companies to take place in late February and early March in Hampton Roads and Richmond.

January 2015 – VOW is in the process of coordinating an “Industry Day”, putting local companies together with many of the possible upstream companies and contractors regarding offshore wind energy. In addition it will give potential vendors the concept of expected criteria to do work in the field of offshore wind energy.

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