**COMMISSION TO STUDY OFFSHORE WIND AND PORT DEVELOPMENT**

**MINUTES – Dec. 21, 2020 \*\*\*DRAFT\*\*\***

**Commission members present:** Sen. David Watters (Chair); Michael Behrmann (Clean Energy NH – Vice Chair); Mark Laliberte (BEA alternate – Clerk); Rep. Jane Beaulieu; Rep. Cathryn Harvey; Rep. Peter Somssich; Ted Diers (DES); Chris Williams (DES alternate); Cheri Patterson (Fish and Game); Geno Marconi (PDA – NH Ports and Harbors); Diane Foster (UNH); Sean Clancy (CCSNH – GBCC); Jim Titone (commercial fishing industry); Tony Giunta (BIANH); Glenn Brackett (AFL-CIO); Vandan Divatia (Eversource).

**Also present:** John Dalton, President – Power Advisory, LLC.

**NOTE: The meeting of the Commission to Study Offshore Wind and Port Development will take place via conference call or by virtual methods; details will be included in meeting announcements.**

*Meeting commenced at 3:03 p.m. by Sen. David Watters. Sen. Watters also read the COVID-19 statement regarding electronic meetings pursuant by the Governor’s Emergency Order.*

**Minutes for Nov. 16, 2020, meeting:** Approved *(first – Titone; second – Divatia)*

Sen. Watters gave a brief update on OSW status OSW in NH. Liked that Block Island project picked GE to manufacture turbines (U.S. company). Also, there is significant funding for renewable energy in the budget as well as commitments from the incoming presidential administration for more funding.

**Presentation Focus Area 1: Introduction to Offshore Wind Port Infrastructure (continued)**

**Geno Marconi, Director – NH Ports and Harbors (Pease Development Authority):** Gave a brief overview of the agency from its founding in 1957 and its administrative merger with the Pease Development Authority in 2001. The agency is responsible for the management, maintenance, operation, and maritime security of the deep-water Port of NH (Market Street Marine Terminal). Beyond general cargo, the Port is providing construction support and equipment assembly for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Marconi said the Port has done wind project in the past (onshore projects); 145-foot turbines in 2011. It also did towers and nacelles for the Antrim project.

Marconi discussed three projects it is working on: 1. Functional replacement of the 200 feet of barge dock lost from the new Sarah Long Bridge. The result would be, amongst other changes, an 800-foot-long burr, a floating dock relocation, and an emergency boat dock relocation; 2. Rehabilitation and modification of the Port, which will also provide open access to the ships, salt piles, and the main gate. 3. Turning basin expansion (included in pending federal legislation). This would create a 1,200-foot turning basin (up from 1,000 feet currently).

Rep. Somssich asked Marconi what infrastructure we would need to be attractive to the OSW industry. Marconi said we still need to educate ourselves on the Port side on what we need to do. There is a lot of information out there. We also have the Ports and Harbors advisory committee, which is very interested in OSW. We know we fit somewhere in this puzzle, but this commission will be looking at that as well.

Foster asked about dredging; since there is cabling underground, how much dredging should be done and what changes are needed. Marconi said most of area is kept clean from the swift tidal currents. However, there is a place near Tyco in Newington that is a challenge (“Simplex Shoals”). There is a maintenance drudge done there every five-seven years. There is also maintenance dredging by property owners. There is hard-packed glacial sand up the river, but there has been no erosion there.

Sen. Watters asked if there was a way to connect the rail line to Pease. Marconi said is not sure of the answer and would defer to PDA staff. He also asked about Jones Act-compliant vessels that could be accommodate at the Port. Marconi said he is looking at this closely.

There was a question from Jeffrey Dickinson (public) that asked about the live load at the Port. Marconi said it is 1,000 lb. per square foot. However, it has handled transformers that weighed 365 tons.

**Presentation Focus Area 2: Offshore Wind State Procurements**

**John Dalton, President – Power Advisory, LLC:** In the US, procurement has gone from nearly no megawatts purchased in 2014 to more than 10,000 MW in 2020. By 2028, it is estimated to be 25,000 MW of cumulative capacity. It that time, there estimates to be $100 billion in OSW investment. It is important to source turbines and other parts locally (U.S.) and this is an opportunity for states. There are three OSW drivers: power supply, ED, and environmental benefits. OSW projects require major investment, which means they demand revenue certainty. They typically seek contract terms of 20 years and a known price. The local utility will purchase the energy and the renewable energy certificates (RECS). This is a common structure. OSW procurement goals vary by state (from 430 MW procured in RI to 9,000 MW in New York; 3,200 MW in Mass). For NH, it must consider timing, project location, cost effectiveness, and the state’s ED goals. It must also determine the right size: one large enough to be cost-effectiveness, while small enough to fit the state’s procurement needs and portfolio.

Dickinson asked if other states work together on port development or do states work on their own. Dalton said there is less cooperation and more competition amongst states. He said there is a need for cooperation. There is some in the mid-Atlantic states; less so in the Northeast. Watters said the BOEM process is structured for the Gulf of Maine project to be cooperative. Rep. Somssich added that OSW has a zero-dollar fuel price, which means prices will be steady year-round. Sen. Watters also asked about ED within the leasing phase. Dalton said there is naturally ED benefits that come from this, even without mandates. He said Massachusetts has been hands-off and letting the benefits develop organically. Behrmann said the Commonwealth created a network for OSW to thrive, including investing in the Port of New Bedford. Rep. Somssich also said the marine industry has interesting workforce opportunities here. He then asked about battery storage; could that push the 70 percent utilization; Dalton said the capacity for the Gulf of Maine is higher and the turbines are becoming more efficient. Susan Muller (public) asked the COSW commission to look at what the State of NY is proposing regarding procurement. Giunta asked what will happen to electricity cost. Dalton has the potential to lowering cost in the long-term.

**LSR 2021-0862 Relative to Renewable Energy Procurement (Sen. Watters)**

Sen. Watters is proposing legislation to give the state the capacity to do renewable energy procurement (OLS is working on a draft). Committee hearings start in February and will be worked on for six weeks before it gets voted on and sent to the House. Overall, the bill offers definition for procurement and the process that goes through the Renewable Energy Procurement Committee. This also includes other renewable opportunities (i.e. hydro, biomass, solar). He also proposed 800 MW as a number that is a good middle-ground for now (and can be adjusted as needed). The draft bill looked at the structure of a procurement organization, PUC evaluation criteria, renewable energy credits, the establishment of the Renewable Energy Procurement Committee (REPC), and an energy and capacity requirement report. Behrmann says this is a “stake in the ground” for potential bidders.

Foster asked about Maine’s procurement efforts there. Do we need to be mindful to their efforts? Behrmann said that he is hoping new monies will come through the new administration; Aquaventus received $100 million (UMaine) as a pilot project. They are spearheading process; in this bill, we have avoided any level of separation and allows us to do cooperative partnerships. Watters said what Maine is doing is specific to them. Patterson wanted to make sure transit lanes are address (areas where fishing boats do not have to go too far around areas near turbines).

**Public Comment**

Muller said we need to think about how much more expensive OSW is in deep water. Raphael H. ask when the next meeting of the commission would be.

**Next Meeting (Date TBD)**

*Meeting adjourned by Sen. Watters at 5:07 p.m.*