Municipal Electric Power Association of Virginia
Minutes
August 14, 2025
Moore Cabin, Lexington Virginia

Welcome
President Saffelle called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Attendance:
Dow Bowman, BVU Authority, Kevin Divers, Salem; Durwin Joyce, City of Martinsville; Chris Heggen, Town of Culpeper; Brian O'Dell, HEC; Tim Logwood, City of Radford; Greg Lunsford, Town of Elkton; Zach Nyce, HEC; Travis Petty, Town of Front Royal; Carey Saffelle, Front Royal; Caitlin Schlueter, City of Martinsville; Zach Wright, City of Franklin;

Sandra Harrington, MEPAV Executive Secretary/Treasurer and Thomas Dick, Legislative Consultant

Approval of the May 23, 2025 Minutes
Tom Dick provided an edit to the legislative report for the minutes.
Brian Odell made a motion to approve the May 23, 2025 as amended, seconded by Tim Logwood, the motion was unanimously approved.

Report of the President
President Saffelle stated that Alice Wolfe indicated they are still collecting line worker pay ranges and asked for people who have not completed the survey to please do so. He also indicated that the BRPA Fall Conference will be November 5-7, 2025 at the Mounting Lake Lodge, all MEPAV members are invited to attend.

JTS Transformer has reached out about a plant tour outside of Wytheville, after the E&O which would include lunch and a plant tour. Lisa Ellison is setting this up, would be on October 9th in the afternoon. Let Carey know if interested so we can get a headcount.

APPA dues will increase in FY27 but will stay the same for FY26

Line Worker Training Facility going up in Stephens City- Carey speaking tonight to provide information about what it's like to be a line worker; will be similar to Wytheville, Southside and Blue Ridge Tech School.

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer
Sandra Harrington provided financial information thru August 13, 2025.

Discussed the need to update the website, will bring back recommendations at the November meeting. Discussed options for future conferences in the Virginia Beach Oceanfront area to include possibly the Sheraton or the Embassy Suites, will schedule a site visit for May 2026.

Report of the Engineering and Operations Committee
Travis Petty provided an update on the E&O and reviewed the agenda

Don Bowman discussed some possible other activities and will send out to the group

Legislative Update
Tom Dick reported on his recently completed residential electric rates survey, which he distributed at the meeting. He noted Dominion's current rate of nearly $150 could increase to over $160 in 2026 depending on what the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) decides in Dominion's biennial rate review and their fuel factor proceeding. He said it was still possible the Office of the Virginia Attorney General would compile an "official" rate comparison like they did a few years ago. He noted that APCO had filed with the SCC to be able to recover costs associated with the development of small modular nuclear (SMR) and that that could raise their rates if approved.

He reported that the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation (CEUR) met in May and would be meeting monthly beginning in September. Among the issues to be considered by the CEUR would be municipal aggregation, retail electric competition, revisions to the IOU integrated resource plan requirements and the siting of utility scale solar. He also noted that with the increased demand for additional power necessary to serve new data centers, there would be an effort to amend the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA). He said PJM had recently begun a proceeding to establish rules dealing with adding data centers.

He noted that there continued to be consideration by legislators about holding a special session in September to deal with state budget issues caused by federal budget cuts. There will be statewide elections in November for Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General and for all 100 House of Delegates seats. There are currently 51 Democrats and 49 Republicans in the House. The Senate, not up for election in 2025, has 21 Democrats and 19 Republicans.

New Business
February Board meeting Feb 19, 2026 in Lexington

President Saffelle indicated MEPAV has been contacted by various providers wanting to partner he has just been sending to VMEA and BRPA.

Brian O'Dell discussed megawatt sites coming in to Virginia.

HEC got notification from the SCC that they were in violation for practice of locating secondaries for things they don't own- asked who else does that – there was discussion of the issue. SCC has a safety concern.

SEL training classes, BRPA is putting out SEL training. Carey also indicated that any training any of the MEPAV members have could be shared and would be beneficial to the group. Carey stated that VRSA has a lot of free training. Brian asked if the Fire Department had reached out for training on electric power line safety, looking to see if anyone has a canned presentation that can be shared.

Durwin asked about 3rd party PPA for solar. Local art museum, want to work out a deal where leasing paneling with option to buy – asking what is the difference between leasing vs PPA. Would be leasing from Tiger Solar, HEC allows leasing. Martinsville doesn't forbid it anywhere, HEC says in their territory they can only buy power from their service territory.

Martinsville is wanting to expand fiber network – what do others do when they find a violation (do you fix it or go back to whoever did the attachments). HEC – consensus we don't go back and replace for existing.

Old Business
Randy Asberry from BRPA is going around to colleges trying to recruit students for the utilities

Future Board and Meeting Dates
October 8-9, 2025, E&O Bristol
November 13, 2025, Board Meeting (Lexington)

Adjournment
Durwin Joyce made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Divers, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.