

VEMA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2020



Meeting of the Virginia Emergency Management Association held virtually via Zoom on November 5th, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by President Robert Foresman who presided. In attendance were the following members and guest: Voting Members: Robert Foresman, Jennifer Maul, Bobby Gelormine, Will Flagler, Walter English, Benjamin Ruppert (Region 1), Melissa Meador (Region 2), Michael Guditus (Region 2), Maribel Street (Region 3), Melanie Fleenor (Region 4), Stephen Owen (Region 4), Danielle Progen (Region 5) Willie Love (Region 5), Tim Duffer (Region 6), Matt Tatum (Region 6), Jeff Fletcher (Region 7), Michelle Oblinsky (VDEM), Ruth Reich (Military Affairs), Linda Lippa (Business/Industry), Andrew Marinik (Colleges/Universities), Johnathan Wheeler (Student Rep.) & Bo Keeney (Executive Director – Ex. Officio). Non-Voting Members: Donna Pletch, Gene Stewart, Tim Estes, Additional Committee Chairs not previously addressed: Bill Lawson, Michael Pruitt & Tanya Hockett. A quorum was noted.

Bo Keeney, VEMA Executive Director reviewed the association's anti-trust, conflict of interest, whistleblower, document destruction policies. He reminded all board members they are asked to annual sign that they've received the association 501c disclosure packet.

President Foresman provided an address and thanked members for their continued efforts, dedication and friendship during the unprecedented year. Most of his comments will be addressed under new business and committee reports.

Under the 1st VP's report Jennifer Maul commented on VEMS 2021 and deferred most of her comments to new business and committee reports. She did note that she's asked Bobby Gelormine and Will Flagler to step up in a more active role with VEMS 2021 as it is anticipated that she cannot serve as VEMS President as she's currently a VDEM employee.

Under the 2nd VP's Report. No Report

Under the Treasurer's Report Will Flagler presented the following: Motion Flagler/ English to approve the following in a block:

- a) to approve the VEMA Financial Summary of Accounts as September 30, 2020 as distributed.
- b) to approve the VEMA Financial Statement as September 30, 2020 as distributed.

Motions considered in a block passed unanimously.

Under the Secretary's Report, Bo Keeney Presented on behalf of the Secretary.

- Motion Lippa/Progen to accept the VEMA Executive Board of Directors minutes from the August 12, 2020 meeting as previously distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion Fletcher/Progen to drop the following members for non-payment of dues as amended.

[Name First]	[Name Last]	Member Type
Edwin	Allen, Jr.	Individual
Emily	Ashley	Individual
Linda	Botts	Individual
David	Calkins	Individual
Joseph	Carter	Individual
Chris	Corbin	Individual
Floyd	Davis	Individual
Keith	Dowler	Individual
Jeffrey	Driskill	Individual
Jenna	Dunn	Individual
Ronnie	Ellis	Individual
Harry	Fanning	Individual
Richard	Flannery	Individual
Elizabeth	Gallagher	Individual
Katie	Gamble	Individual
Mark	Gauthier	Individual

Jane	Gibbs	Individual
Paul	Griffin	Individual
Greg	Haugh	Individual
Eric	Hols	Individual
William	Jefferson	Individual
Laura	Katzif	Individual
Yusra	Kauppila	Individual
Patrick	Lewis	Individual
Colten	Lotts	Individual
William	MacKay	Individual
Jordan	Maddra	Individual
Larry	Markham	Individual
Michael	Marushia Sr., CPP	Individual
Anna	McRay	Individual
Robert	Millner	Individual
Patti	Montes	Individual
Nathaniel	Moore	Individual
A	Moore Jr.	Individual
Bradley	Muranko	Individual
Suzanne	Novak	Individual
Justin	Pierce	Individual
Lorenzo	Randazzo	Individual
Stephen	Rau	Individual
Victoria	Rowsey	Individual
Christopher	Rusk	Individual
Earl	Sharp	Individual
Barry	Shockley	Individual
Lauren	Shrader	Individual
Judith	Sibert	Individual
Stephen	Smith	Individual
James	Spicer	Individual
Roy	St. John	Individual
Kenneth	Sullivan	Individual
Kenton	Towner	Individual
Bryan	Wade	Individual
Michael	Wagner	Individual
Norman	Wrona	Individual
Jeffrey	Zupec	Individual
Russell	Dove	Organizational
Keith	Nguyen	Organizational
Thomas	Dawson	Organizational
Sandy	Alford	Organizational
Steven	Lambert	Organizational
Jimmy	Bowyer	Organizational
Bob	Berens	Organizational
Shannon	Walters	Organizational
LeeAnne	Barnes	Organizational

Kathleen Murphy Organizational

Haley Houchens Student

Johnathan Wheeler Student

Promise Wheeler Student

Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion Fletcher/Progen to accept the following as members of VEMA since August 12, 2020:

- **Individual Members:**

Member Name	City	Company Name / Organizational Members / Notes
Sherilyn Burris	Washington, DC	Deloitte
Michael Goodman	Glen Allen, VA	InfraMap
Christian J. Lamoureux	Alexandria, VA	Men's Health Network
<i>Thomas L. Carr</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>	<i>retired/resigned; no organization</i>
<i>Glenn Gloriso</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>	<i>RedCross</i>

- **Student**

Member Name	City	Company Name / Organizational Members / Notes
Kyle Kimmel	Albemarle, VA	Albemarle Office of Emergency Management – Emergency Communication Center
Nichole Matthews	Albemarle, VA	Albemarle County Office of Emergency Management

- **Affiliate**

Member Name	City	Company Name / Organizational Members / Notes
Chef Minute Meals	Piney Flats, TN	David A. Treffer
DRC Emergency Services, LLC	Metairie, LA	Kristy Fuentes
Fire Protection Equipment Company, Inc.	Richmond, VA	Robert Leahey
High Sierra Electronics, Inc.	Grass Valley, CA	Ray Bryan

Motion passed unanimously.

Under the Executive Directors report Bo Keeney commented on the historical numbers of dropped members for non-payment of dues, highlighting that this year's numbers are no different than years in the past. He additionally reviewed the efforts the VEMA staff, leadership and membership committee have undertaken in an effort to retain members. Additionally he commented on the association's current membership numbers that are sent out on a monthly basis through the "board brief" email. He also provided the board an updated VEMS 2021 draft operating budgeting should the board decide to move to a virtual platform. Lastly he reminded everyone of the upcoming VEMA newsletter deadline of December 1 for the December 15th publication.

Under Committee Reports the following were presented:

- the Symposium Committee the following was presented:
 - a. Program committee has met multiple times to review the 49 presentations which they have all ranked accordingly. The committee has developed a generic possible outline for a virtual VEMS which includes the possibility of a live opening ceremony and various breakouts. The presentations would take place over 3 days from approximately 8:30-12:30 each day. Additionally there's the possibility of adding additional presentations to be viewed on a monthly/quarterly basis. The committee could also possibly highlight speakers in the newsletter. The committee is also examining the possibility of hosting promotional presentations in between each lecture.
 - b. Motion Reich/Gelormine for VEMA to shift the VEMS 2021 annual conference from an in-person meeting to a virtual conference. Additionally the VEMA Executive Director shall be authorized to either cancel the hotel contract or shift the dates to the next available opening (2024). Motion passed with one abstention.

- c. The committee shall meet again in the next few weeks and present a strategic plan to the VEMA Executive Board of a Virtual VEMS 2021 on or about December 15, 2020.
- Legislative Committee (Brian Misner and Bill Lawson)
 - d. The committee has had monthly meetings and is examining possible “softball” legislation for the 2021 session. The committee is also currently examining other states funding sources for emergency management to see if it’d be possible to do something similar in Virginia. The committee would also like to see a representative or appointee on the 911 board if possible.
- Audit Committee (Bobby Gelormine)
 - a. The committee has reviewed all available VEMA financials and the books are all in good shape with no issues.
- Constitution / By-Laws Committee (Jeff Fletcher)
 - a. No report
- Scholarship Committee (Benjamin Ruppert)
 - a. No report
- Membership & Marketing Committee (Danielle Progen)
 - a. The committee is looking at various options to engage social media and increase the marketing opportunities for VEMA. The committee will meet with the executive board on November 24th at 10:00 am.
- Awards & Citations Committee (Tanya Hockett)
 - a. Committee will meet next week and start looking at a timeline for submissions. They’ll also review any adjustment to selection criteria.
- Certification Committee (Michael Pruitt)
 - a. No report
- Nominations Committee (Walter English)
 - a. No report
- VEMA Representative for National Weather Services’ Storm Ready Board (Robert Foresman)
 - a. No report
- Professional Development (Ad-Hoc) (Kelly Myers)
 - a. They are developing 5-6 strategies for professional development including lunch ‘n learns. They’ll use the newsletter to distribute information.
- Virginia Representative for EMS (Robert Foresman)

Under Regional Committee reports the following were presented.

- 1) Anthony McLean and Benjamin Ruppert - Region 1 (State EM)
 - a. New regional planner. Current vacancy in King William
- 2) Melissa Meador and Michael Guditus - Region 2 (State EM)
 - a. No report
- 3) Maribel Street and Paul Helmuth - Region 3 (State EM)
 - a. Written report provided in advance. Additionally noted CCTA virtual table top exhibit in the future. ICS 300 class in December.
- 4) Stephen Owen & Melanie Fleenor -Region 4 (State EM)
 - a. No Report
- 5) Danielle Progen & Willie Love - Region 5 (State EM)
 - a. Few open positions. No other updates
- 6) Tim Duffer and Matt Tatum - Region 6 (State EM)
 - a. Equity program in Danville. Roanoke county train derailment, increased COVID-19 numbers
- 7) Jeff Fletcher and Kelly Myers - Region 7 (State EM)
 - a. Election planning, inauguration planning, received state homeland security grant for family assistance.

Under Caucus and Other Reports

- 1) Institutions of Higher Education (Andrew Marinik)
 - a. Colleges/Universities still looking to deal with COVID in the spring and summer of 2021
- 2) Student Representative (Johnathan Wheeler)
 - a. No report
- 3) VOAD (Matthew Combee)
 - a. No report
- 4) Business/Industry- Linda Lippa
 - a. Keeping an eye on the results of the 2020 election and possible cyber issues that may affect businesses.
- 5) Federal Government - Nicholas Drauschak
 - a. No report
- 6) Military Affairs - Ruth Reich

- a. Planning for response to cyber issues should they arise.
- 7) VDEM - Michelle Oblinsky
 - a. Congratulating Erin Sutton on her appointment as the state's new Chief Deputy. 2 open concurrent incidents (COVID and Civil Unrest). They just also completed a strategic roundup for the next 1.5 years that will be shared with everyone very soon.

Under for the Good of the Order – Everyone on the VEMS planning committee was reminded to meet and develop recommendations prior to December 15th where they are tasked with presenting the VEMA Executive Board with recommendations on a Virtual VEMS option.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Bo Keeney, VEMA Executive Director
On behalf of VEMS Secretary, David Topczynski