

Meeting of the Virginia Emergency Management Association (VEMA) Board of Directors held virtually on August 12, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by President Robert Foresman who presided.



In attendance were the following members (**Voting Members**) Robert Foresman, Jennifer Maul, Bobby Gelormine, Anthony McLean (Region 1), Benjamin Ruppert (Region 1), Michael Guditus (Region 2), Melanie Fleenor (Region 4), Stephen Owen (Region 4), Danielle Progen (Region 5) Willie Love (Region 5), Tim Duffer (Region 6), Jeff Fletcher (Region 7), Ruth Reich (Military Affairs), Linda Lipa (Business/Industry) & Bo Keeney (Executive Director – Ex. Officio). **Non-Voting Members:** Donna Pletch, Gene Stewart, Tim Estes, Bruce Sterling, Jared Hoernig **Additional Committee Chairs not previous addressed:** Brian Misner, Bill Lawson.

Motion Foresman/Maul to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Bo Keeney reminded all VEMA Board members of the organizations anti-trust, conflict of interest, document destruction, and whistleblower policies that are in effect and available to all VEMA Board members.

Robert Foresman provided a president’s report and deferred the rest of his business until new business.

Jennifer Maul provided a 1<sup>st</sup> VP’s report and deferred the rest of her business until new business.

Bobby Gelormine provided a 2<sup>nd</sup> VP’s report and deferred the rest of his business until new business.

Under the Treasurer’s Report motion Gelormine/Fletcher to approve the following in a block:

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

Motion’s considered in a block passed unanimously.

Under the Secretary’s Report motion Gelormine/Fletcher to approve the following in a block:

- a) Motion (Topcznski) to accept the VEMA Executive Board of Directors minutes from the June 17, 2020 meeting as previously distributed.
- b) Motion (Topcznski) to accept the following as members of VEMA since June 17, 2020:

- **Individual Members:**

Member Name	Member Type	Effective Date	City	Organizational Members / Notes
Michael Whiteaker	Individual	6/25/2020	Duffield, VA	VDH
Joseph T. Wallace	Individual	6/30/2020	Lynchburg, VA	DMA - VDF
Matthew Aiken	Individual	7/2/2020	Hyattsville, MD	Kaiser Permanente - Mid Atlantic States
COL Russell E. McGuire	Individual	7/24/2020	Richmond, VA	91st Cyber Brigade, Virginia National Guard

- **Organizational:**

Member Name	Member Type	Effective Date	City	Organizational Members / Notes
City of Newport News OEM	organizational	6/30/2020	Newport News, VA	Replaced Dana Perry with Heather Brown

- **Student**

Member Name	Member Type	Effective Date	City	Organizational Members / Notes
Tihara A Richardson	Student	6/25/2020	Norfolk, VA	Old Dominion University

- **Affiliate**

Member Name	Member Type	Effective Date	City	Organizational Members / Notes
Innovative Emergency Management	Affiliate	7/8/2020	Morrisville, NC	Sales Rep: Michael Coen
Safeware Inc.	Affiliate	7/14/2020	Lanham, MD	Sales Rep: Brad Brown

Motion’s considered in a block passed unanimously.

Under the Executive Director’s report Bo Keeney commented on the status of the organization; including but not limited to membership numbers, a COVID-19 update, the Hotel Madison 2023 agreement and the status of the 2019 VEMA tax returns which have now been filed. He additionally encouraged the VEMA Board of Directors to make a determination on the in person v. virtual status of VEMS 2021 no later than the November board meeting.

Under Committee Reports the following were presented

- a) Conference Committee (Jennifer Maul)
  - a. Robert Foresman is scheduled to meet with Curtis Brown in the near future regarding the 2021 tasking agreement. The program and networking chairs have started working on VEMS 2021. The professional development committee is going to work with the VEMS committee about possible backups to an in person meeting.
- b) Legislative Committee (Brian Misner and Bill Lawson)
  - a. The committee has a new agreement with Hunton Andrews Kurth within the new budget constraints. The committee will hold monthly meetings to address the upcoming 2021 session. The committee is looking for an “easy” piece of legislation to introduce in the 2021 session.
- c) Audit Committee (Bobby Gelormine)
  - a. The committee has reviewed the April, May and June meeting financials and all association finances are in order.
- d) Constitution / By-Laws Committee (Jeff Fletcher)
  - a. No report at this time. No committee action under way
- e) Scholarship Committee (Benjamin Ruppert)
  - a. No report
- f) Membership & Marketing Committee (Danielle Progen)
  - a. The committee met in July to review strategy. They will hold another meeting in August to develop a marketing plan. The social media committee will operate as a new sub-committee of this M&M committee.
- g) Awards & Citations Committee (Tanya Hockett)

- a. No report
- h) Certification Committee (Michael Pruitt)
  - a. No report
- i) Nominations Committee (Walter English)
  - a. No report
- j) VEMA Representative for National Weather Services' Storm Ready Board (Robert Foresman)
  - a. No movement on applications
- k) Professional Development (Ad-Hoc) (Kelly Myers)
  - a. The group will establish in the next few weeks. The group had previously been examining the possibility of lunch and learns prior to COVID-19
- l) Virginia Representative for EMS (Robert Foresman)
  - a. No report

Under regional committee reports the following were presented.

- 1) Anthony McLean and Benjamin Ruppert - Region 1 (State EM)
  - a. Day 76 of Civil unrest and protest. Continue to work on COVID-19 response
- 2) Michael Guditus and Woody Brown - Region 2 (State EM)
  - a. Working on COVID-19 response and back to school efforts
- 3) Maribel Street and Paul Helmuth - Region 3 (State EM)
  - a. No report
- 4) Stephen Owen & Melanie Fleenor -Region 4 (State EM)
  - a. No report
- 5) Danielle Progen & Willie Love - Region 5 (State EM)
  - a. Working on response from the Tornado's/Hurricane in Lancaster/Gloucester and the protest in Virginia Beach. They will examine a sheltering exercise in the near future.
- 6) Tim Duffer - Region 6 (State EM)
  - a. No new report
- 7) Jeff Fletcher and Kelly Myers - Region 7 (State EM)
  - a. Report in the upcoming newsletter and no other reports

Under Caucus/Other Reports the following were presented:

- 1) Institutions of Higher Education (Jared Hoerning)
  - a. IHE annual meeting was held July 8<sup>th</sup> with approximately 13 members in attendance. They discussed lessons learned from COVID-19. They are also looking at school reopening procedures.
- 2) Student Representative (Johnathan Wheeler)
  - a. No report
- 3) VOAD (Matthew Combee)
  - a. Took delivery of mask/sanitizer for VOAD volunteers. Multiple organizations organized after the recent hurricane. The VOAD group will also conduct a mass feeding exercise on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 4) Linda Lippa- Business/Industry
  - a. Many workers still have stay at home mandates in effect. Private organizations are watching COVID-19 closely for reopening procedures. Many organizations are still in response mode.
- 5) Nicholas Drauschak- Federal Government
  - a. No report
- 6) Ruth Reich- Military Affairs
  - a. COVID-19 restrictions are more stringent for the military sector.
- 7) Michelle Oblinsky- VDEM
  - a. Major changes coming to VDEM in the next 6 months, VDEM is working on COVID-19 response and the FEMA region 5 coordinator is currently touring Virginia.

Under Unfinished Business the VEMA Board reviewed the renewal of the Hunton Andrews Kurth lobbying agreement. The legislative committee noted that Hunton Andrew Kurth has agreed to work within the new budgetary constraints for VEMA.

Under New Business

- a) Robert Foresman reviewed the VEMA bi-monthly newsletter. He reminded all regional representatives and board members to submit articles in a timely fashion. Over the last few months there have been a few missed opportunities.
- b) Bo reminded the VEMA Board of the logistics required to host a VEMS conference. With COVID-19 proceeding he suggested that the VEMA Board make a final decision on virtual versus in-person for VEMS 2021 no later than the November board meeting. Robert Foresman established an ad-hoc committee who will make a recommendation on VEMS 2021 in October. The ad-hoc committee will be chaired by Bobby Gelormine and made up of the VEMA Executive Board members, Jeff Fletcher, Jared Hoerning, Melanie Fleenor, Danielle Progen and 2-3 additional regional coordinators.

Under Good and Order, the VEMA discussed moving the November 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting to another date as November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans day. Robert Foresman will get with the VEMA office to determine a new date.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 am.

Respectfully Submitted

David Topczynski