



Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2026
Board of Directors Meeting
 PlanRVa Richmond
 Virtual:

VEMA Board of Directors Members:

Voting Members:

Danielle Holmstrom (President)
 Will Drewery (1st VP)
 Bill Lawson (2nd VP)
 Peter McCann (Treasurer)
 Scott Maynard (Secretary)
 Jess Robison (Past President)
 Bobby Gelormine (2nd Past President)
 Bo Keeney (Executive Director) – Ex Officio
 Lauren Opett (acting VDEM)
 Felton Gilmore (Business/Industry)
 Leigh Ann Erdman (Federal Gov't)

Matt Majid (IHE)
 Vladimir Tamashiro-Loma (VOAD)
 Tiana Weatherly (Student Rep)
 Patrick Lamb (Region 3)
 Tracie Giles (Region 3)
 Anna McRay (Region 5)
 Daniel Murray (Region 6)
 Jeff Fletcher (Region 7)
 Courtney Arroyo (Region 7)

Alexa Boggs (CRC 2)
 Gene Stewart (CRC 3)
 Harrison Bresee (CRC 5)
 Rich Mortimer (Certification)
 Brian Misner (Legislative)
 Jared Hoernig (Legislative)
 Katie Moody (Scholarship)
 Stephanie Harris (VEMS)
 Sara Harrington
 Laura McHale (VEMS)

Non-Voting:

Amanda Weaver (Acting CRC 1)

Special Order of Business: VEMA Partner Presentations

- The Olson Group, Ltd. (Kyle Olsen)
- IEM (Bruce Lockwood)

The meeting was called to order by Danielle Holmstrom, President, at 11:19 AM. She noted a quorum was presented and asked for updates/corrections to the agenda. A new version of Financials as of December 2025 were presented. The board was reminded of the conflicts of Interest and Anti-Trust policies.

Motion Drewery/McCann to accept the consent agenda as presented; including

Motions

- to approve the VEMA Financial Summary of Accounts as December 31, 2025 as distributed.
- to approve the VEMA Financial Statement as December 31, 2025 as distributed.
- to accept the VEMA Board of Directors minutes from the December 10, 2025 meeting as previously distributed
- to accept the following as members of VEMA since December 10, 2025 as listed below.

**** Treasurers Report (McCann)**

- to approve the VEMA Financial Summary of Accounts as December 31, 2025, as distributed.
- to approve the VEMA Financial Statement as December 31, 2025 as distributed.

****Secretary's Report (Maynard)**

- to accept the VEMA Board of Directors minutes from the December 10, 2025, meeting as previously distributed.
- to accept the VEMA Executive Board meeting minutes from January 12, 2026
- to accept the following as members of VEMA since December 10, 2025:

Member Name	Member Type	Effective Date	City	Notes
Kevin L. Coleman	Individual	12/10/2025	Fredericksburg, VA	University of Mary Washington
CTEH, LLC	Affiliate	12/12/2025	North Little Rock, AR	Chad Smith (voting), David Watts
Jessica N. Martin	Individual	12/15/2025	Charlottesville, VA	University of Virginia
Mara Statie	Student	1/5/2026	Blacksburg, VA	Virginia Tech
Green Stream Technologies, Inc.	Affiliate	1/7/2026	Wake Forest, VA	Karen Lindquist (voting), Ruby Foley
Peter H. Barlow	Individual	1/7/2026	Weyers Cave, VA	PixFixerAI LLC

<i>Sustaining</i>				<i>Added: Henry Barnett, Zeta Coles, Sydney Gooder, Melania Hardin, Richard Kos & Darshan Parikh // REMOVED: Donna Pletch, April Branton, Nellie Capehart, Briana Cassatt, Megan Hall, Lyle Hornbaker, Edwin Hynson, Ami Patel, Christopher Walz</i>
VDEM		1/12/2026	Richmond, VA	
Canmore Company, LLC.	Organization	1/15/2026		Amy Rodgers
George Mason University	State Agency	1/16/2026	Fairfax, VA	Removed Gina Reistrup; Added Megan Neff-Boyle
Tiana Weatherly	Student	1/16/2026	Norfolk, VA	Old Dominion University - Office of Emergency Management
Robert S. Richards	Individual	1/20/2026		
Zac Brooks	Individual	1/21/2026	Richmond, VA	Dominion Energy
Leanne VanDerveer	Individual	1/28/2026	Arlington, VA	Accenture, Infrastructure & Capital Projects LLC
Jason T. Williams	Individual	1/28/2026	Hanover, VA	Hanover Fire-EMS Department
Tyler Kleinsasser	Student	1/30/2026	Daleville, VA	
Thomas Proctor	Individual	2/2/2026	Newport News, VA	Christopher Newport University
Brandy Buford	Individual	2/4/2026	Providence Forge, VA	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Monica McCullough	Individual	2/4/2026	Hillsville, VA	Carroll County, VA
John Cooke	Individual	2/4/2026	Richmond, VA	Virginia Department of Health
Monica Rolf	Individual	2/6/2026	Richmond, VA	Virginia Commonwealth University
Maygan Clary	Individual	2/9/2026	Lawrenceville, VA	Brunswick County Sheriff's Office
Devon Jackson	Individual	2/9/2026	Lawrenceville, VA	Brunswick County Sheriff's Office
Chaneka Perry	Individual	2/9/2026	Newport News, VA	Riverside Health System
Perla Santillan	Individual	2/9/2026	Richmond, VA	VA OCME
Gloucester County EM	Organizational	2/10/2026	Gloucester, VA	ADDED: Jim Pike
TekSynap	Organizational	2/10/2026	Reston, VA	Yas Wynn

Reinstated From October Drops:

Scottie Cassell	Individual	1/8/2026	Stuart, VA	Patrick County Emergency Management
Eric Lasky	Individual	1/20/2026	Front Royal, VA	ATCS, plc.
Kimberly Tempesco	Individual	2/4/2026	Virginia Beach, VA	Sentara Health System

Motion in consent agenda passed unanimously.

Under the Executive Director's Report Bo Keeney presented an update on the following:

- a) General Membership Overview
 - a. Membership Numbers
 - i. 757 Bodies and 403 Total Memberships
 - b. Recruitment Campaign
 - i. OEMS list for EMTs / Fire Departments from Victor is still pending; will need to remove current VEMA members once received.
- b) VEMS 26 Planning
 - a. Registration Numbers, Exhibits, Sponsors, Planning, Site Visit
 - i. Registration As of 2/1: 2026 - 148
 - ii. Registration As of 2/1: 2025 - 145
 - iii. Registration As of 2/1: 2024 – 169 As of 2/11: 248 attendees
 - b. Recommendation: January postcard mailing + QR codes to drive vendor/sponsor traffic.
 - c. VEMS Update
 - i. Registration: 248 attendees (up from 148 in 10 days).
 - ii. Vendors: Booths are completely sold out.
 - iii. Logistics: A/V planning is complete; the VEMS committee is building the event schedule.

- iv. VEMA App:
 - v. Live in app stores (search "Virginia Emergency Management Association").
 - vi. Uses member email for login; no password required.
 - vii. Vendor/sponsor lists and attendee registrations auto-import.
- viii. A full membership announcement will follow content population.
- ix. VEMS 2027 (Kalahari Resort):
 - x. The resort is opening early (Nov 2026) but is fully booked through Jan 2027.
 - xi. A site visit is planned for early Dec 2026.
- xii. VEMS 2030 Venue Strategy:
 - xiii. The Norfolk venue is being outgrown by attendee numbers.
 - xiv. VEMA is booked through 2029 (Kalahari '27, Norfolk '28, Kalahari '29).
 - xv. The Board will discuss the VEMS 2030 venue at the May meeting, pending 2026 attendance data.
 - xvi.
- c) Annual Business Meeting Notice – March 18 at 11:45 am – Please submit all reports, motions or items by September 20, 2026

New Business

- a) Legislative
 - a. Session Update
 - i. Bill Status: The funding language was stripped from HB 169 and SB 98.
 - ii. Key Win: A budget amendment for a VDEM-led EM funding study is moving forward with \$130k–\$150k for contract support.
 - iii. VEMA's Role: A required stakeholder, along with VACO, VML, and VDEM.
 - iv. Report Due: October 2026.
 - v. Strategy Shift: The Fire/EMS legislative group's focus on its own bills suggests VEMA may need to pursue a more independent strategy or partner with law enforcement groups.
 - vi. Action: Post-session debrief with lobbyist Rob Huntin to refine future strategy.
 - vii. Member Support: VEMA will provide weekly bill tracking and talking points to help members advocate locally.
 - b. Lobby Day – Took place on 1/28 with approximately 7 individuals from VEMA who advocated on behalf of the profession and association.
 - c. New Administration and relevant updates
- b) Bylaws Amendment – Qualifications of Board Officers
 - a. Motion Holmstrom/Drewery to amend the VEMA bylaws and present to the membership for ratification
 - 1. Section 1. Qualifications (a) To be elected or appointed to office, a member shall meet the following requirements:
 - 1. Have been a voting member, in good standing, for a minimum of two (2) complete, consecutive years prior to seeking officer. ~~2. Served as a committee chair or an active member of a VEMA Caucus or the VEMA Board of Directors for two (2) complete, consecutive years~~
 - 2. *The VEMA Nominating Committee may set additional candidate parameters based upon the strategic needs and direction of the board.*
- c) Nomination Committee Update (Robison)
 - a. Another reminder email will be sent. Currently there are only a few candidates who have come forward.
- d) VEMS 20230 Location to be placed on the agenda for the May Board meeting.

Unfinished Business

- a) VEMA Technology Taskforce
- b) Strategic Plan Implementation
 - a. After the 2026 Business meeting and before the May 2026 Board meeting, the Old Board and New board will gather to review and analyze the VEMA strategic plan and set a path forward.
- c) Microsoft File Sharing Platform - How To Document (Misner)
 - a. How To Document will be shared with all committee chairs who have a "license" from Brian Misner
- d) Committee SOPs – reminder to submit all committee SOPs by the next board meeting.
- e) Private Sector Caucus – No report or action requested

Various Reports were presented:

Committee Reports (Only reports Submitted in Advance. No oral reports to be given under this section)

- a) Symposium Committee (Drewery)
 - a. Planning, Operations, & General Update
- b) Legislative Committee (Misner and Hoernig)
- c) Audit Committee (Lawson)
- d) Constitution / By-Laws Committee (Fletcher)
- e) Scholarship Committee (Flagler)
- f) Membership & Marketing Committee (Podbielski/Sullivan/Burkholder)
- g) Awards & Citations Committee (Hockett)
- h) Certification Committee (Rich Mortimer)
- i) Nominations Committee (Robison)
- j) VEMA Representative for National Weather Services' Storm Ready Board (Foresman)
- k) Virginia Representative for EM333S (Drewery)
- l) Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (Rebecca Heins)
- m) IAEM Assoc. Caucus (Holmstrom)

Regional Committee Reports (Only reports Submitted in Advance. No oral reports to be given under this section)

- a) **CRC's – Please report on Regional Efforts**
- b) **Regional Reps – Please report on locality specific topics**
 - o **Region 1:** Samuel Burnette & Robert Williams
 - o **Region 2:** Melissa Meador & Ethan Longenecker
 - o **Region 3:** Tracie Giles
 - o **Region 4:** Vacant & Curtis Crawford
 - o **Region 5:** Anna McRay & Jane Wenner
 - o **Region 6:** Timothy Duffer & Daniel Murray
 - o **Region 7:** Jeff Fletcher & Courtney Arroyo

Caucus/Other Reports (Only reports Submitted in Advance. No oral reports to be given under this section)

- a) Institutions of Higher Education (Majid)
- b) Faith Based Caucus (Whiteaker)
- c) Healthcare Caucus (Bryant)
- d) Student Representative (Weatherly)
- e) VOAD (Tamashiro-Loma)
- f) Business/Industry (Gilmore)
- g) Federal Government (Erdman)
- h) Military Affairs (Burrow)
- i) VDEM (Opett)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Scott Maynard, VEMA Secretary