

**Minutes of the VEMA Board of Directors meeting held August 14, 2019
at the VDEM Headquarters in Midlothian, VA**



The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by Robert Foresman (VEMA President) who presided. The roll call was conducted. The following members were in attendance: Robert Foresman, Jennifer Maul, Sherri Laffoon, Will Flagler, Bobby Gelormine, Walter English, Benjamin Ruppert (Region 1), Maribel Street (Region 3), Stephen Owen (Region 4), Danielle Progen (Region 5), Jeff Fletcher (Region 7), Kelly Myers (Region 7), Michelle Oblinsky (VDEM), Ruth Reich (Military Affairs), Linda Lippa (Business/Industry), Michael Mulhare (Colleges/Universities), Amanda Reidelbach (VOAD), Bo Keeney (Executive Director – Ex. Officio). Non-Voting Members not previous addressed: Allison Farole, Bill Lawson.

Bo Keeney reminded the VEMA Board of Directors of their conflict of interest, anti-trust, whistleblower and other association policies.

The VEMA President provided an oral report and commented that many of his activities would be covered under other committee reports.

The 1st and 2nd VP deferred their reports to other various committee reports.

Will Flagler provided the Treasurer’s Report. Motion Flagler/English to accept the following in a block:

- a) to approve the VEMA Financial Summary of Accounts as June 30, 2019 as distributed.
- b) to approve the VEMA Financial Statement as June 30, 2019 as distributed.

Motions considered in a block passed unanimously.

Bobby Gelormine provided the Secretary’s Report. Motion Gelormine/Oblinsky to accept the following in a block:

- a) to accept the VEMA Board of Directors minutes from the May 8, 2019 meeting as previously distributed.
- b) to accept the VEMA Board of Directors minutes from the June 6, 2019 meeting as previously distributed.
- c) to accept the following as members of VEMA since February 13, 2019:

• **Individual Members:**

Member Name	City	Organizational Members / Notes
John Frush	Norfolk, VA	Navy Region Mid Atlantic
Elizabeth Floro		RESIGNED: No longer in VA; formerly with Insight Technology Solutions Inc
Leigh Ann Erdman	Hampton, VA	Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Steven Herring	Richmond, VA	University of Richmond
William D Drewery	Suffolk, VA	Virginia Department of Health - Western Tidewater Health District
Nathaniel Moore	Fairfax, VA	Fairfax County Virginia & VA Army National Guard

• **Organizational:**

Member Name	City	Organizational Members / Notes
<i>Germana Community College</i>	Locust Grove, VA	<i>Removed Richard Williams & added Vincent Venum</i>
<i>UVAMC EM</i>	Charlottesville, VA	<i>Removed Allison Hope</i>
<i>UVA EM</i>	Charlottesville, VA	<i>Removed Hannah Coffey & added Allison Hope</i>
<i>University of Mary Washington</i>	Fredericksburg, VA	<i>Removed Ruth Lovelace & Takeria Green & added Jay Snipes</i>
<i>Sentara Careplex Hospital</i>	Hampton, VA	<i>Removed Rachel Hogmire</i>
Town of Chincoteague	Chincoteague, VA	Ernest B. Rush
<i>Radford University Office of Emergency Management</i>	Radford, VA	<i>No longer organizational members; Grady DeVilbiss is now Individual member</i>
Bristol Virginia Fire Department	Bristol, VA	Melanie Fleenor
<i>Hampton Roads Planning District Commission</i>	Hampton, VA	<i>added Danielle Spach</i>

Motions considered in a block passed unanimously.

Under the Executive Director's Report Bo Keeney commented on a variety of issues and topics; including but not limited to:

- a) General Membership Issues
- b) 2020 Convention
 - a. Planning underway: 15 proposals received to date. Sponsorship/exhibit solicitation starting soon
- c) New VEMA Membership Concepts
 - a. New VEMA Membership Category for Companies/Vendors – Affiliate Membership
 - b. New Sponsorship Opportunities
 - c. Vendor Hall tiered pricing
 - d. Dedicated social activities
- d) Monthly Board Briefs
 - a. Will continue to be published and provide monthly information to board members
- e) Financial Investment Policy
 - a. Now implemented with the VEMA financial advisor
- f) VEMA Newsletter
 - a. Being published August 15
- g) Membership Certificates
 - a. Will now be available after annual dues are collected

Various committee reports were presented in advance as distributed in the advance agenda.

- a) Conference Committee (Jennifer Maul)
 - a. Theme set. 15 proposals in as of 8/14/19, schedule will feature 45 min presentations, etc.
- b) Legislative Committee (Allison Farole and Bill Lawson)
 - a. Conference calls with EM taskforce. Developing long term and short term goals. Waiting on the signed contract with the VEMA lobbyist.
- c) Audit Committee (Sherri Laffoon)
 - a. No additional report. All audits remain clean and in good standing
- d) Constitution / By-Laws Committee (Jeff Fletcher)
 - a. Committee stands by ready to assist
- e) Scholarship Committee (Benjamin Ruppert)
 - a. No additional report
- f) Membership & Marketing Committee (Danielle Progen)
 - a. Attended 2 sponsored events so far this year to increase visibility. They have developed a membership/marketing plan. As a part of that plan they want to incorporate control of the social media accounts.
- g) Awards & Citations Committee (Jonathan Simmons)
 - a. No additional report
- h) Certification Committee (Michael Pruitt)
 - a. No additional report
- i) Nominations Committee (Walter English)
 - a. No additional report
- j) VEMA Representative for National Weather Services' Storm Ready Board (Robert Foresman)
 - a. No additional report
- k) Professional Development (Ad-Hoc) (TBD)
 - a. No additional report
- l) Virginia Representative for EMS (Robert Foresman)
 - a. No additional report

Under the regional committee reports various committee reports were presented and distributed in advance.

- 1) Anthony McLean and Benjamin Ruppert - Region 1 (State EM)
 - a. 1st annual mass care symposium event. 1 new EM in Sussex. 1 new EM in Henrico. 1 vacancy in chesterfield
- 2) Matt Embrey and Woody Brown - Region 2 (State EM)
 - a. No additional report
- 3) Maribel Street and Paul Helmuth - Region 3 (State EM)
 - a. EMS continuing education. EOC training will continue. Allison Farole leaving.
- 4) Jenna Dunn and Stephen Owen-Region 4 (State EM)
 - a. No additional report.
- 5) Danielle Progen and Steven Pyle- Region 5 (State EM)

- a. Lots of regional conferences, the hurricane evacuation study is currently in process. Recent events include the Something in the water concert and the Virginia Beach active shooter event.
- 6) Neal Turner and David Eagle - Region 6 (State EM)
 - a. No additional report
- 7) Jeff Fletcher and Kelly Myers - Region 7 (State EM)
 - a. Early July Flooding, SBA is now available. Water contamination work continues.

Various Caucus reports and other committees:

Caucus/Other Reports

- 1) Institutions of Higher Education (Jared Hoernig)
 - a. Radford is the new newest EM member. GWU hired a new EM position showing great progress within the profession.
- 2) Student Representative (Johnathan Wheeler)
 - a. No report
- 3) VOAD (Amanda Reidelbach)
 - a. No report
- 4) Linda Lippa- Business/Industry
 - a. Linda is looking to assist VEMA with a location for the next board meeting at the Suntrust Business Center.
- 5) Nicholas Drauschak- Federal Government
 - a. No report
- 6) Ruth Reich- Military Affairs
 - a. No report
- 7) Michelle Oblinsky- VDEM
 - a. VDEM is moving their offices by the fall of 2019. Exercises coming up for cyber/power outage events. Also VDH October exercises for a pandemic scenario.

Under Unfinished business the board discussed the region 4 letter and potential avenues to increase membership from region 4.

Under New Business the Board of Directors discussed a variety of issues and presented the following motions:

- A. Motion English/Progen to approve the 2020 tasking agreement as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Motion Lawson/Laffoon to authorize sponsors of \$2500 or more to present for 3-5 minutes during VEMS general sessions. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Motion Maul/Ruppert to offer tiered pricing at the VEMS 2020 vendor hall. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. The VEMA Board asked the VEMA Bylaws committee to look at additional affiliate membership categories for vendors/sponsors and to report back at the next board meeting
- E. The VEMA Board asked the VEMA Bylaws committee to look at the Bylaws to update the annual membership meeting to include periodic meetings of the membership.
- F. Motion English/Oblinsky to provide honorary membership to Allison Farole. Motion passed unanimously.

Under Good and Welfare Bo Keeney reminded the VEMA Board that their next meeting will take place on 13th at 10:00 am at the SunTrust Business Center located at 11011 W. Broad Street, Glen Allen VA in the conference room.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at

12:04 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Bobby Gelormine
VEMA Secretary