



Minutes June 10, 2026
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting to convene at 11:00 am at PlanRVa Richmond
Virtual: via Teams

VEMA Board of Directors Members:

Voting Members:

William Drewery VEMA President
William Lawson VEMA 1st VP
Peter McCann VEMA 2nd VP
Tracie Giles VEMA Treasurer
Amie Fuller VEMA Recording Secretary
Danielle Holmstrom Immediate Past President
Jessica Winter 2nd Past President
Lauren Opett VDEM
Bo Keeney VEMA Executive Director (ex officio)
Laura McHale VEMA Office (ex officio)
Robert Williams Region 1 (Local EM)
Melissa Meador Region 2 (Local EM)

Patrick Lam Region 3 (Local EM)
Monica McCullough Region 4 (Local EM)
Curtis Crawford Region 4 (Local EM)
Anna McRay Region 5 (Local EM)
Timothy Duffer Region 6 (Local EM)
Daniel Murray Region 6 (Local EM)
Courtney Arroyo Region 7 (Local EM)
Leigh Ann Erdman Federal Government
Matt Majid IHE Caucus
Vladimir Tamashiro-Loma VOAD

Non-Voting:

Amanda Weaver (Acting CRC 1)

Gene Stewart (CRC 3)
Robb Hoffower (acting CRC 7)
Rebecca Heins (DEI Liaison)
Victor Podbielski (Membership/Marketing)
Rich Mortimer (Certification)
Brian Misner (Legislative)
Jared Hoernig (Legislative)
Katie Moody (Scholarship)
Stephanie Harris (VEMS)
Will Drewery (Rep. EMS Advisory Council)
Danielle Holmstrom (Rep. IAEM Assoc. Caucus)

The meeting was called to order by William Drewery, President, at 11:04 AM. He noted a quorum was present and asked for updates/corrections to the agenda; there were none. The Board was reminded of the Conflicts of Interest and Anti-Trust policies.

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

- to approve the VEMA Financial Summary of Accounts as April 30, 2026, as distributed.
- to approve the VEMA Financial Statement as April 30, 2026, as distributed.
- to accept the VEMA Board of Directors minutes from the February 11, 2026, meeting as previously distributed
- to accept the following as members of VEMA since February 11, 2026, as listed below.

**** Treasurers Report (Giles)**

- a) to approve the VEMA Financial Summary of Accounts as April 30, 2026, as distributed.
- b) to approve the VEMA Financial Statement as April 30, 2026, as distributed.

****Secretary's Report (Fuller)**

- a) to accept the VEMA Board of Directors minutes from the February 11, 2026, meeting as previously distributed.
- b) to accept the following as members of VEMA since February 11, 2026:

Member Name	Member Type	Effective Date	City	Company Name / Organizational Members / Notes
Adam Kern	Individual	4/1/2026	Palmyra, VA	no longer employed by Fluvanna County; no personal email available
Akshay Birla	Individual	3/8/2026		Juvarre
Albemarle County OEM	Organizational	6/4/2026	Charlottesville, VA	Johnny Switzer (Voting), Emily Pelliccia, Trevor Henry
Amanda Hall	Individual	2/18/2026	Hampton, VA	US Department of the Interior <i>reinstated from Oct Drop</i>
Andreia C Merten	Student	5/22/2026	Chesterfield, VA	Chesterfield Fire and EMS Emergency Management Division
Andrew Chubb	Individual	5/1/2026	Springfield, VA	Amentum
Andrew Elahi	Individual	3/15/2026	Woodbridge, VA	Prince William County Police Department
Carli Hatch	Individual	2/15/2026		Ballad Health
Chad Riedlinger	Individual	5/11/2026	Virginia Beach, VA	First Atlantic Restoration
Christopher Patterson	Individual	2/23/2026	Richmond, VA	VCU Health System --reinstated
Christopher Sabo	Individual	3/25/2026	Williamsburg, VA	Department of the Air Force

<i>City of Richmond OEM</i>	<i>Organizational</i>	<i>2/26/2026</i>	<i>Richmond, VA</i>	<i>Added: Ed Portner</i>
ClearPath Solutions Group	Organizational	2/12/2026	Suffolk, VA	Jason Fawcett Voting
David Topczynski	Individual	2/19/2026	Virginia Beach, VA	Virginia Beach -- Reinstated
Donna Wilson	Individual	3/6/2026	Grimesland, NC	Diasorin
Dustin Kahler	Individual	3/3/2026	Lancaster, VA	Eastern VA CERT
Emily Breen	Individual	2/23/2026	Richmond, VA	Department of Conservation and Recreation
Fauquier County	Organizational	4/1/2026	Warrenton, VA	<i>removed Michael Potter</i>
Framatome	Organizational	2/11/2026	Lynchburg, VA	Joel Starnes Voting
<i>Greene County Office of Emergency Services</i>	<i>Organizational</i>	<i>2/19/2026</i>	<i>Standardsville, VA</i>	<i>Removed Donna Dunivan, added Kim Morris (voting)</i>
Hampden-Sydney College	Non-Profit Organizational	3/26/2026	Farmville, VA	Voting: Jennie Jenkins
Ian Pleet	Individual	3/6/2026	Reston, VA	Manassas Vol Fire Company
James L. Ariail	Individual	3/10/2026	Vienna, VA	JLA Recovery Solutions, LLC
Jerry Chapman	Student	2/20/2026	Spotsylvania, VA	United States Marine Corps
John Roberts	Individual	2/23/2026	Virginia Beach, VA	Virginia ARES / RACES -- reinstated
Joshua Barnes	Individual	5/13/2026	Hampton, VA	NASA
Joshua Perkins	Individual	3/13/2026	Richmond, VA	Taylor Sudden Service
Kaila McDonald	Student	3/27/2026	Lynchburg, VA	Liberty University
Katie Carpenter	Individual	4/24/2026	Stafford, VA	Stafford County Fire and Rescue
Kristy Shifflett	Individual	3/10/2026		County of Albemarle
Lindsay Mackey	Individual	2/16/2026	Henrico, VA	Dominion Energy
Maryann Killoran	Individual	3/9/2026	Charlotte, NC	APTIM
Matthew Cronin	Individual	3/5/2026	Alexandria, VA	Bent Ear Solutions, LLC
Meagan Doran-Walker	Individual	3/7/2026	Fairfax, VA	Northern Virginia Emergency Response System
Michael Brinkley	Student	2/20/2026	Suffolk, VA	City of Suffolk
Michael Goodale	Student	5/19/2026	Washington DC	KIKI
Michelle Cechowski	Individual	3/2/2026	Fairfax, VA	Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
Mike Falino	Individual	2/19/2026	Ashburn, VA	Grannys Alliance Holdings, Inc.
Nick Lazaris	Individual	3/3/2026		Peregrine
Patcharavadee Hong	Individual	3/6/2026	Norfolk, VA	CERT
Patrick Stoddart	Individual	3/10/2026	Washington DC	Vector Operations
Preston Wilson	Individual	3/12/2026	Temple Mills, MD	Resilience Solutions Consulting
<i>Prince William County</i>	<i>Organizational</i>	<i>2/11/2026</i>	<i>Prince William County, VA</i>	<i>Added Matt Smolsky</i>
Regent University Police Department	Non-Profit Organizational	3/5/2026	Virginia Beach, VA	Voting: Chris Mitchell
Rob Walls	Individual	3/4/2026	Conshohocken, PA	Peregrine
Ryan Campbell	Individual	3/2/2026	Danville, VA	Danville Fire Department
Sammy Bawab	Individual	2/19/2026	Glen Allen, VA	Dominion Energy
Sanjay Rajpal	Individual	2/25/2026	Springfield, VA	Consensus Solutions, LLC
<i>Southside VA Community College</i>	<i>Organizational</i>	<i>3/11/2026</i>	<i>Alberta, VA</i>	<i>Removed Jo Wollenberg & added Alefunzo Uzzle</i>
Tammy Brown	Individual	5/13/2026	Stafford, VA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
<i>Town of Warrenton</i>	<i>Organizational</i>	<i>5/18/2026</i>		<i>Removed: Johnny Switzer, added Tim Carter (voting) & Scott Arnold</i>
UpLift	Organizational	2/16/2026	Alexandria, VA	Kira Brooks voting

<i>VCU Medical Center</i>	<i>Organizational</i>	<i>5/1/2026</i>	<i>Richmond, VA</i>	<i>Added: Marius Olivier, Janine Owens, Christopher Patterson, Chandler Simms</i>
Veronica Ruffin	Individual	3/6/2026	Richmond, VA	Richmond Ambulance Authority
Wie Yusuf	Individual	2/20/2026	Norfolk, VA	Old Dominion University
William Johnson	Individual	5/27/2026	Stafford, VA	Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department
Patrick Nolan	Individual	6/5/2026	Midlothian, VA	IEM, Inc.
Norman Wrona	Individual	6/5/2026	Fredericksburg, VA	The Red Gate Group (reinstated)
Ben Coffman	Individual	6/9/2026	Frederick, VA	Frederick County Fire & Rescue Department

Motion in consent agenda passed unanimously.

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

- a) General Membership Overview
 - i. Membership Numbers - Increase of 66 people / 49 memberships since February Board Meeting.
 - 1. 823 people and 452 total memberships
 - ii. Recruitment Campaign
 - 1. Currently running a "One Month Free" campaign for previous members / prospects that attended VEMS where they receive the month of June for free, as the membership cycle begins July 1. Have received 5 new members so far!
 - 2. OEMS list for EMTs / Fire Departments from Victor is still pending; will need to remove current VEMA members once received.
 - a) Plan to highlight the new Membership Categories (New Professional & Non-Profit Organizational Membership) in the campaign as well.
- b) VEMS
 - i. 2026 – Draft of the Final Report should be available by the end of the month, pending receipt of A/V bill from Hotel and a few other items.
 - ii. 2027 Site Visit, Exhibit/Sponsor Solicitation, Schedule
 - 1. Conference Services Manager has been assigned and we hope to get a site visit at Kalahari on the books for November / early December.
 - 2. Kalahari is holding some potential future contracts for VEMS past 2029, but they will expire at some point. Other hotels are beginning to feel the strain of the "new hot place" and are also offering deals.
 - 3. 2026-2027 Sponsorship Plan draft to be distributed to Executive Board by the end of this week for implementation July 1.

New Business

- a) OMB proposed Rule "regulation of Federal Financial Assistance"
 - i. Discussion and decision to send information and talking points to the membership prior to submission deadline of July 13th.
 - ii. Will Drewery will submit comments on behalf of VEMA.
- b) Cancellation of VEMS Contract @ Norfolk Marriott 2028
 - i. Motion Majid/Lam to send cancellation letter as amended. Motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. Motion Erdman/Lawson to move forward with VEMA paying a cancellation penalty up to \$20,000 for the 2028 conference, should the Norfolk Waterside Marriott not let us out of the agreement after sending the letter. Motion passed unanimously.
 - iii. Replacement location ideas were discussed. Would like to remain in Region 5. Keeney Group to do some research on the best options and present them at the August Board meeting.
 - iv. Will Drewery to draft an email for the membership regarding the cancellation of the contract and relocation of VEMS28.
- c) Legislative Agenda 2027 Session & Lobby Day
 - i. Discussion of different studies and what to support in 2027 General Assembly session.
 - ii. Discussion of holistic study of what emergency management looks like in the Commonwealth, managed through the Secretary's office, and state of preparedness-type issues, led by VDEM.
 - 1. These two will not be combined but each project plan is in the works.
- d) VEMA 2026-2027 Operating Budget

- i. Staff draft budget presented with all committee requests fully funded. Net profit of \$16,450 projected for 2025/2026 year end. 2026/2027 Budget as presented shows net loss of \$31,375.
 1. Discussion regarding VOAD budget request. Vladimir Tamashiro-Loma requested to rescind his funding request.
 2. Brian Misner requested to drop the Legislative Committee request down to \$31,500.
 3. William Drewery requested to lower the Executive Board line to \$5,000.
- ii. Budget with changes now shows a net loss of \$23,000 for 2026/2027.
- iii. Motion Lam/Lawson to approve the 2026/2027 Budget with changes and no transfer to reserves. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- a) VEMS 2030 Meeting Location
- b) Strategic Plan Implementation
 - i. 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.
 - ii. There are very measurable goals in the strategic plan, so as committees are developing their work for the year, refer to the strategic plan.
 - iii. Board Reports from Committees should include/show goals completed from the Strategic Plan.

Various Reports were presented:

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

- a) Symposium Committee (Lawson)
 - a. Planning
 - b. Operations
 - c. General Update
- b) Legislative Committee (Misner & Hoernig)
- c) Audit Committee (McCann)
- d) Constitution / By-Laws Committee (Fletcher & Helmuth)
- e) Scholarship Committee (Flagler)
- f) Membership & Marketing Committee (Podbielski/Sullivan/Burkholder)
- g) Awards & Citations Committee (Hockett)
- h) Certification Committee (Rich Mortimer)
- i) Nominations Committee (Holmstrom)
- 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 (Drewery)

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:** Patrick Lam & Vacant
 - o **Region 4:** Curtis Crawford & Monica McCullough
 - 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 (Shannon)
- c) Healthcare Caucus (Bryant)
- d) NextGen Caucus (Heins)
- e) Student Representative (Weatherly)
- f) VOAD (Tamashiro-Loma)
- g) Business/Industry (Gilmore)

- h) Federal Government (Erdman)
- i) Military Affairs (Burrow)
- j) VDEM (Opett)

Additional Items & Discussion Items

- VEMS26 Evaluations – Discussion regarding two of the questions that were removed from the VEMS26 Evaluation and decided to be sent out towards the end of the year/prior to VEMS27 planning.
 - Decision to send these two survey questions as a separate email to the membership for their feedback, and also include a Save the Date since VEMS27 is a week earlier than usual.
- Membership & Marketing Committee would like to host a Town Hall in the Fall “Why didn’t you renew your membership?” as part of their Strategic Plan goals. Would also like to add a feedback form to the website, in the members’ only section.
- Will Drewery presented his community impact project at VEMS and has now been asked to present this around the Commonwealth as a traveling road show this summer.
- Laura McHale named as new Executive Director for VEMA. Bo Keeney will continue in a supervisory role as President of The Keeney Group and no changes are required to the contract agreement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amie Fuller, VEMA Secretary