

Meeting of the VEMA Board of Directors held virtually via Zoom on June 17th, 2020. The meeting was called to order by President Robert Foresman at 10:06 am. In attendance were the following members:



Voting Members: 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) Willie Love (Region 5), Tim Duffer (Region 6), Kelly Myers (Region 7), Ruth Reich (Military Affairs), Linda Lippa (Business/Industry), Matt Combee (VOAD), Bo Keeney (Executive Director – Ex. Officio). **Non-Voting Members:** Tim Estes, Jared Hoernig **Additional Committee Chairs not previous addressed:** Bill Lawson & Tonya Hockett & Dave Topczynski and Curtis Brown.

Bo Keeney, VEMA Executive Director, reminded all attendees of the VEMA conflict of interest, anti-trust, document destruction, whistleblower and other VEMA policies as may be appropriate.

Robert Foresman provided the President’s address in which he thanked all members for their continued support and friendship during his recent medical setbacks. He’s slowly working towards re-engaging in all aspects of work and VEMA but is available to help as needed and required. He additionally thanked members for their dedication and work during COVID-19 and the periods of civil unrest.

Under the 1st VP report Jennifer Maul thanked the members for their support, diligence, perseverance and dedication during the recent periods of civil unrest and COVID-19 response. She mentioned how she was amazed at home the membership and emergency managers continue to "roll with the punches"

Under the 2nd VP Report Sherri Laffoon thanked all of the members for allowing her to serve on the VEMA Board of Directors.

Motion Flagler/Maul to accept the following in a block:

- a) to approve the VEMA Financial Summary of Accounts as April 31, 2020 as distributed.
- b) to approve the VEMA Financial Statement as April 31, 2020 as distributed.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion Gelormine/Lafoon to accept the following in a block:

- a) to accept the VEMA Executive Board of Directors minutes from the February 12, 2020 meeting as previously distributed.
- b) to accept the following as members of VEMA since February 12, 2020:

- **Individual Members:**

Member Name	Member Type	City	Organizational Members / Notes
Curtis W. Crawford	Individual	Wytheville, VA	Wythe County Emergency Services
Elizabeth T Gallagher	Individual	Roanoke, VA	City of Roanoke Public Libraries
Hayley Holmes	Individual	Centreville, VA	Celebrate Fairfax INC
Jane Gibbs	Individual	Fredericksburg, VA	City of Fredericksburg Fire Department
John Turner	Individual	Martinsville, VA	City of Martinsville
Larry J. Laws	Individual	Woodbridge, VA	First Home Alliance Inc
Lauren E. Shrader	Individual	Richmond, VA	Dominion Resources, Inc.
Mary W. Morton	Individual	Chesapeake, VA	Eastern Virginia Healthcare Coalition
Oscar Sotomayor	Individual	Hampton, VA	Sentara Healthcare CarePlex Hospital
Ryan Whytlaw	Individual	Richmond, VA	VDOT
Stephen M. Smith	Individual	West Point, VA	Lancaster County Emergency Services

Lawrence J. Mason	Individual	Chesapeake, VA	Chesapeake CERT
Ashley Morris	Individual	Fairfax, VA	Fairfax County OEM
Gary R. Rowley	Individual	Henrico, VA	Henrico County OEM

- **Organizational:**

Member Name	Member Type	City	Organizational Members / Notes
<i>City of Lexington</i>	<i>Organizational</i>	<i>Lexington, VA</i>	<i>Removed Noah Simon and added Jim Halasz</i>
<i>City of Poquoson</i>	<i>Organizational</i>	<i>Poquoson, VA</i>	<i>Removed Cliff Bowen & Randy Wheeler and added Ty Farrington & Kelly Waddell</i>
Liberty University	Organizational	Lynchburg, VA	Gregory Bennett (voting) & Chris Chambers
<i>Roanoke County Fire and Rescue</i>	<i>Organizational</i>	<i>Roanoke, VA</i>	<i>added Chris Dean & Regan Underwood</i>
<i>Sentara Careplex Hospital</i>	<i>Organizational</i>	<i>Hampton, VA</i>	<i>added Edward Walker & Donna Gagnon</i>
Surry County	Organizational	Surry, VA	Removed Tyrone Franklin and added Judson Smit

- **Student**

Member Name	Member Type	City	Organizational Members / Notes
Jason J. Stone	Student	Chesterfield, VA	Chesterfield County Virginia
Michael W. Potter	Student	Warrenton, VA	Town of Warrenton

Motion passed unanimously.

Under the Executive Director’s report Bo Keeney commented on the suspension of VEMS 2020 and it’s implications to sponsors, vendors and attendees. He commented on the additional work that staff and the board put in to address this issue. Additionally he noted the VEMA COVID-19 response effort through email and social media communications. He asked the Board to let staff know if there are any additional areas where they need information. Furthermore he noted VEMA continues to push out a bi-monthly newsletter and weekly social media post to increase the presence of the association and the profession of emergency management. Finally he thanked all members for their guidance and dedication during the COVID-19 response and civil unrest occurring across the commonwealth.

Under Committee Reports the following were presented:

- a) Conference Committee (Jennifer Maul)
 - a. The committee has reached out to VHHA about working together on future conferences. The call for papers has not yet gone out as the committee is still looking at whether or not they should use VEMS 2020 speakers. Additionally they are looking at making some changes with the tasking agreement.
- b) Legislative Committee (Brian Misner and Bill Lawson)
 - a. The committee continues to work with Hunton Andrews and Kurth. They are looking at some ways to move forward. They are currently reviewing the proposal to renew services and possibly looking at legislation in 2021. The committee will begin work on the 2021 lobby day in the near future.
- c) Audit Committee (Sherri Laffoon)
 - a. All items are in good order. The Committee has reviewed all documents through March and will do April/May soon.
- d) Constitution / By-Laws Committee (Jeff Fletcher)
 - a. No additional report.
- e) Scholarship Committee (Benjamin Ruppert)
 - a. Budget request submitted and they’ll look at ways to make scholarships more accessible by reviewing the criteria.
- f) Membership & Marketing Committee (Danielle Progen)
 - a. The committee is still looking at the possibility of participating in some events later this year such as the hazmat conference. They’ll take the necessary precautions in lite of COVID-19.
- g) Awards & Citations Committee (Tanya Hockett)
 - a. No report
- h) Certification Committee (Michael Pruitt)
 - a. No Report

- i) Nominations Committee (Walter English)
 - a. The committee has submitted everything for the year and will stand by to take care of next year's nominations when called upon.
- j) VEMA Representative for National Weather Services' Storm Ready Board (Robert Foresman)
 - a. No Report
- k) Professional Development (Ad-Hoc) (Kelly Myers)
 - a. No Report
- l) Virginia Representative for EMS (Robert Foresman)
 - a. No Report

Under the Regional Committee Reports the following were presented.

- 1) Anthony McLean and Benjamin Ruppert - Region 1 (State EM)
 - a. A few vacancies. Chesterfield's Jess Robinson was promoted to Deputy Coordinator
- 2) Matt Embrey and Woody Brown - Region 2 (State EM)
 - a. No Report
- 3) Maribel Street and Paul Helmuth - Region 3 (State EM)
 - a. PPE warehouse distribution continues. Fire chief resigned
- 4) Stephen Owen-Region 4 (State EM)
 - a. Training postponed. New River Valley will meet virtually
- 5) Danielle Progren & Willie Love - Region 5 (State EM)
 - a. Civil unrest/protest management. Shifting focus to hurricane season and sheltering concerns.
- 6) Tim Duffer - Region 6 (State EM)
 - a. Dealing with civil unrest / protest concerns.
- 7) Jeff Fletcher and Kelly Myers - Region 7 (State EM)
 - a. COVID-19 testing events. Fairfax County office won an award. Deputy Coordinator Retired.

Under Caucus and Other reports the following were presented:

- 1) Institutions of Higher Education (Jared Hoernig)
 - a. The committee will hold a virtual meeting on July 8th at 2:00 pm to update bylaws and update their strategic plan.
- 2) Student Representative (Johnathan Wheeler)
 - a. No report.
- 3) VOAD (Matthew Combee)
 - a. Organization is trying to figure out how to help with COVID response and protest / civil unrest/
- 4) Linda Lippa- Business/Industry
 - a. No report. Thank you for the continued support.
- 5) Nicholas Drauschak- Federal Government
 - a. No Report
- 6) Ruth Reich- Military Affairs
 - a. No Report
- 7) Michelle Oblinsky- VDEM
 - a. No Report

Under Unfinished Business the VEMA Board of Directors reviewed bids for the VEMA VEMS 2023 conference from the Doubletree Williamsburg Hotel, the Madison in Harrisonburg and the Richmond Marriott. Motion Maul/Flagler for the VEMA staff to proceed with negotiations with the Hotel Madison for VEMS 2023 pending favorable negotiations. Motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business the following items and motions were presented.

- a) VEMA 2020-2021 Operating Budget (Motion required to approve 2020-2021 general fund operating budget)
 - i) Motion Gelormine/Love to accept the 2020-2021 general fund operating budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) Motion to extend the Keeney Group Association Management Agreement for 1 additional year as authorized in the current agreement with no changes or additional increases.
 - i) Motion Flagler/Love to extend the Keeney Group Association Management agreement for 1 additional year with no additional changes. Motion passed unanimously.
- c) Motion to approve associate membership for Allison Farole for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
 - i) Motion Maul/Gelormine to approve Allison Farole for associate membership for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Motion passed unanimously.
- d) VEMA Certifications – Extension of Deadlines
 - i) Motion English/Ruppert to extend the certification deadlines by an additional 12 months as a result of COVID-19. Motion passed unanimously.

Under the Good of the Order the VEMA staff reminded all attendees that the VEMA Annual Business meeting will take place on July 1, 2020 at 12:00 noon. Robert Foresman also thanked all the board members for their well wishes. Additionally Curtis Brown, State Coordinator sworn in the new VEMA officers and provided an overview of activities from a VDEM perspective.

Motion Love/Gelormine to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobby Gelormine
VEMA Secretary