

**Minutes of the VEMA Board of Directors meeting held**

**November 22nd 2021**

VEOC (7700 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond VA 23236)

***Members in attendance:***

Bobby Gelormine, Robert Foresman, Will Flagler, Danielle Progen, Jessica Robison, Josephn Dame, Paul Helmuth (Region 3), Maribel Street (Region 3). Stephen Owen (Region 4), Willie Love (Region 5), Matt Tatum (Region 6), Jeff Fletcher (Region 7) Michelle Oblinsky (VDEM), Keith Dowler (Business/Industry), Nicholas Drauschak (Federal Government), Andrew Marinik (Colleges/Universities), Matt Combee (VOAD), Alexander Hanna – (student rep) & Bo Keeney (Executive Director – Ex. Officio). **Non-Voting Members:** Donna Pletch, Mark Stone, Gene Stewart, Tim Estes, Any John, Todd Hubbard, Lauren Oppett, **Additional Committee Chairs not previously addressed**: Brian Misner, Kelly Myers, Bill Lawson, Danielle Spach, Sherri Laffoon Kelly Myers & Tanya Hockett, Walter English

The meeting was called to order by Bobby Gelormine who presided at 11:04 am.

Special order of business, presentation by Dillion (VDEM) who reported on technology renovations at the EOC, working with governor elect Youngkin’s transition team, following the Virginia general assembly’s transition with new party control in the House of Delegates. VDEM has entered 4 bill request for review for the 2022 session although none are approved to move forward yet. The budget package includes 2.3 million for vest funds that includes 10 general fund positions, DEI initiatives, PPE warehouse and more.

Under the President’s Report Bobby Gelormine reported that he’s been working with the legislative team to address transition issues with a new administration, he’s been having monthly meetings with VDEM to address any ongoing or pressing issues, and that they are working on the revised MOU for VEMS 2022.

Under the 1st VP’s Report Will Flagler reported on the VEMS 2022 conference; noting 66 + presentations received. He hopes to remain under budget and meet all of the goals of the meeting.

Under the 2nd VP’s Report, Danielle Progen reported on the audit committee and VEMS planning

Under the Treasurer’s Report, Motion Robison/Progen to

1. to approve the VEMA Financial Summary of Accounts as September 30, 2021 as distributed.
2. to approve the VEMA Financial Statement as September 30, 2021 as distributed.

Motions passed unanimously .

Under the Secretary’s Report, Motion Dame/Tatum:

1. to accept the VEMA Executive Board of Directors minutes from the August 18, 2021 meeting as previously distributed.
2. to drop the members in Appendix A for non-payment of their 2021-2022 dues.
3. to accept the following as members of VEMA since August 18, 2021:

* **INDIVIDUAL**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Member Name** | **City** | **Company Name / Organizational Members / Notes** |
| David Farmer | Fishersville, VA | Augusta Health |
| John Cervantes | Washington, DC | Department of Veterans Affairs |
| Joseph Corley | Virginia Beach, VA | City of Virginia Beach |
| Francesca Cavallaro | Leesburg, VA | Loudoun County OEM |
| Donald E. White | Ashland, VA | Virginia Public Safety Training Center |
| Alex J. Gurchinoff Schlebach | Norfolk, VA | US Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District |
| *Bryan Rock -- REINSTATED* | *Stafford, VA* | *Stafford County* |
| Jenn Welch | Henrico, VA | Henrico County EMWS |
| Erin Kubicki | Henrico, VA | Henrico County EMWS |
| Mary Beth Danuser | Henrico, VA | Henrico County EMWS |
| Joseph Williams | Bealton, VA | Culpeper County Emergency Services |

* **ORGANIZATIONAL**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Member Name** | **City** | **Company Name / Organizational Members / Notes** |
| *SunTrust / Truist* | *Richmond, VA* | *RESIGNED - Linda Lippa (voting), Paul Attanasio, Sarah Bogin* |
| Michael Teener | Williamsburg, VA | replaced Caroline Dunlap on James City County EM's membership |
| Lorna Trent, Amy Valdez, Tavish Valdez | Virginia Beach, VA | added to City of Virginia Beach Fire Department's membership |
| *Steve Lesinski* | *Virginia Beach, VA* | *retired & removed from City of Virginia Beach Fire Department's membership* |
| Enbridge | Eden Prairie, MD | Dan Munthe voting member |
| *Surry County -- REINSTATED* | *Surry, VA* | *Ray Phelps, Judson Smith, Ervin Jones* |
| David Dixon | Gloucester, VA | Replaced Brett Majors on Gloucester County EM’s membership; *removed Brent Fedors* |

* **STUDENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Member Name** | **City** | **Company Name / Organizational Members / Notes** |
| Alexander Hanna | Richmond, VA | VCU |
| Fuad Ali | Richmond, VA | VCU |
| Craig Schwinden | Fargo, ND | North Dakota State University |
| Alex Tran | Newport News, VA | Christopher Newport University |
| Allison N. Brady | Salem, VA | Liberty University |

Motions passed unanimously.

Under the Executive Director’s Report Bo Keeney reported on the VEMS 2022 including planning and operations. Everything is underway and planning is going well. He additionally reported on general membership issues include membership numbers, dropped percentages, a financial review and audit processes.

Under Committee Reports the following were presented (See attachement)

1. Symposium Committee (Flagler)
   1. 60+ presentations received thus far, question of whether or not to have a general session each day. Committee will determine final format and proceed with planning
2. Legislative Committee (Misner and Lawson)
   1. Committee has met with HAK to examine possible areas of interest for the 2022 session. VEMA will continue to coordinate with VDEM on legislative issues as may be appropriate, committee is switching up meeting schedule to better align with the legislative session, working with Virginia fire services counsil
3. Audit Committee (Progen)
   1. No concerns or questions raised. Committee just received a great lesson on the audit process from Keeney and will develop a SOP for future use.
4. Constitution / By-Laws Committee (Fletcher)
   1. No additional report
5. Scholarship Committee (Ruppert)
   1. No additional report
6. Membership & Marketing Committee (Spach)
   1. Membership was surveyed. Will create a 1 pager for reference of the results. Working on networking, professional development, lunchNLearns and more. Planning a December 9th holiday social.
7. Awards & Citations Committee (Hockett)
   1. No additional report
8. Certification Committee Hubbard)
9. Nominations Committee (Foresman)
   1. Working on getting this information out.
10. VEMA Representative for National Weather Services’ Storm Ready Board (Foresman)
    1. Looking to gather information so each community knows the benefits and process for becoming storm ready
11. Professional Development (Ad-Hoc) (Myers)
    1. Kelly Myers is stepping down from chair. Maribel will step in to serve as new chair
12. Virginia Representative for EMS (Gelormine)
    1. No additional report
13. Social Media (Sub-Membership Comm) (Crawford)
    1. No additional report
14. Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (English)
    1. Committee wants to meet with Sable Kay to examine new DEI efforts. Committee will look to gather DEI information from VEMA membership after they finalize the VEMA DEI taskforce.

Various Regional Committee Reports were presented. See Attachment

Under Caucus/Other Reports

Caucus/Other Reports

1. Institutions of Higher Education (Marinik)
   1. Working with VDEM on required training provisions as listed under executive order 41
2. Student Representative (Haan)
   1. Jim Keck retiring, Brian Morgan taking his position. Looking for speakers for a student engagement/networking group.
3. VOAD (Matthew Combee)
   1. Still assisting with refugee efforts, looking for additional assistance/resoruces.
4. Business/Industry- (Dowler)
   1. Grateful to the VEMA Office for sharing the private sector members. A quick assessment.
      1. 75% EM-vendors
      2. 25% Non-vendors/CIKRs
      3. We recognize there are potentially different goals between these types of members, the association, and the agency.
      4. Note that I'll request a supplement of the organizational members, as well.
   2. Goals/actions:
      1. Understand the position of VDEM via a conversation with the PSL.
      2. Amplify, expand, and partner (as appropriate) to ensure all private sector members have access to the influence and information desired.
      3. Volume up on the quality of the relationships (not just memberships).
      4. Provide individual outreach after the holidays.
5. Federal Government - (Drauschak)
   1. House passed 2 bills dealing with EM’s. (HELP ACT), GAO looking at adjusting flood maps, 2 new climate change initiatives
6. Military Affairs – (Reich)
   1. No report
7. VDEM – (Oblinsky)
   1. No additional report

Under Unfinished business the following items were discussed:

1. Faith Based Caucus
   1. Bylaws written, working on a survey to look at capacity assessment tools, looking at various toolkits for EM’s
2. Healthcare Caucus
   1. No new report

Under New Business the following items were discussed and motions presented.

a) VEMS App – The committee will work with an app for VEMS 2022. To address the budgetary items no printed program will be offered this year.

b) VEMS 2025 Location (2022Norfolk Marriott – 2023 Hotel Madison – 2024 – Marriott Newport News) – The group requested VEMA staff look at RFP’s from the Hotel Roanoke, Richmond Marriott, Lansdowne, Gaylord hotels

c) Proposal from Northfield Medical Manufacturing – No action taken. VEMA does not wish to enter into an agreement at this time,

d) Transition within the Governor’s Administration – VEMA continues to stand ready to help with transition if called upon

e) Letter to CMO’s, CAO’s and Delegates -

f) Fire and EMS Summit – Legislative Agenda Items – working collaboratively to put something together for the 2022 session.

g) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – VEMA and VDEM – taskforce will work on developing committee members and an agenda

h) Website Updates – Taskforce – committee will look at ways to improve the website to become a better resource for members. Possibly need to survey membership to find a volunteer to head up this review.

i) Volunteer Caucus – looking to bring all volunteer organizations together.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Joe Dame, VEMA Secretary