



Meeting of the VEMA Board of Directors on August 13th, 2014, at the Executive Conference room of the VDEM Trade Court Facility in North Chesterfield, VA. Mark Penn, VEMA President, called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. In attendance were Mark Penn, Michelle Oblinsky, Walter English, Neal Turner, Carrie Speranza, Sara Ruch, Travis Lindsey, Benjamin Rupert, John Harkness, Jennifer Maul, Pokey Harris, Creig Moore, Robert Foresman, Jack Jones, Marc Barbieri, Jeff Fletcher, Jack King, Ruth Reich, Brittany Schaal, Curtis Brown, Jeff Stern, Alison Krugier, Gene Stewart, Bruce Sterling, Scott Hudson, Willie Richardson, Gene Wills, Bruce Keeney and Bo Keeney. Additionally special guest Jeff Stern (VDEM State Coordinator) and Jeff Powell (Captain with Henrico Fire) were in attendance.

Jeff Powell, Captain with Henrico County Fire, made a presentation on the MutualAid Net tool. Jeff asked the VEMA Board of Directors for an official endorsement of the tool to better assist the International Fire Chiefs Association in their quest to better communication between various counties/cities/towns/etc.

Motion Turner/Harris to endorse the IFCA MutualAid Net pilot program and any application they may submit. Motion passed unanimously.

Bo Keeney reminded the Board of Directors and invited guest of the VEMA Conflict of Interest policy and the anti-trust policy which was previously approved as policy by the VEMA Board of Directors. Mark Penn provided the VEMA President's report. He updated the board of directors that VEMA legislative committee chairman Curtis Brown resigned as chairman to assume his new role with VDEM. Mark is currently working to find his replacement. He additionally commented that VEMA would continue to hold their legislative day on the hill during the 2015 legislative session but at this time there are no legislative efforts in which VEMA is actively engaged. Finally Mr. Penn noted that the relationship between VEMA and VDEM has continued to grow and prosper over the last few months.

Under the 1st VP's report Michelle Oblinsky noted that most of her reports will be covered during committee reports and general discussions.

Under the 2nd VP's report Walter English noted that most of his reports will be covered during committee reports and general discussions.

Under the Treasurer's Report the following motions were presented in a block.

Motion Turner/English to:

- 1) approve the VEMA Financial Summary of Accounts as of June 30, 2014 as distributed.
- 2) approve the VEMA Financial Statement as of June 30, 2014 as distributed.

Motions considered in a block passed unanimously.

Under the Secretary's Report the following motions were presented in a block.

Motion Barbieri/Foresman to:

- 1) approve the VEMA Board of Directors minutes from the June 16th, 2014 meeting as previously distributed.
- 2) to accept the following as members of VEMA since February 3, 2014:

Individual Members:

William Anderson (Bristow, VA), John Bridges (Washington, DC), Joseph DiBisceglie (Washington, DC), Tanya Ferraro (Roanoke, VA), Walter Green (Glen Allen, VA), Kevin Johnson (Leesburg, VA), Mark Kennedy (Fort Belvoir, VA), Gail Kulisch (Reston, VA), Kelly Meyers (Leesburg, VA), Gregory Zebrowski (Fairfax, VA), Jack King (Richmond, VA), Ronnisha Quarles (Fairfax, VA), Jack King (Richmond, VA) and Ronnisha Quarles (Fairfax, VA), Erin Mohres (McLean, VA), and Richard Williams (Ft. Eustis, VA)

Student Members:

Trevor Holmes (Richmond, VA), Amanda Nicoll (Fairfax, VA), Josiah Jendrey (Smithfield, VA), Kevin Brooks (Richmond, VA), Karim Boukkari (Richmond, VA), and Justin Porter (Chester, VA)

Organizational Members:

Virginia Commonwealth University (Adam Crowe (was Individual), Marissa Marklevitz, John Venuti, Chris Preuss), Stephen Aitcheson & John Kellas (Replace Joyce Doughty & Charles Forbes for Fairfax C. Solid Waste Mgmt Prgm.) Judith Davis (Replace Robert Ryalls for James City County EM), American Red Cross in the National Capital Region (Scott Wollek (was Individual), Paul Carden, David Chesler, Michael Cantagallo), City of Manassas Park, Fire & Rescue Department (David Dixon (was Individual), Mark Joyner, James Soaper, Joseph Neiberger), Old Dominion University (Jared Hoernig), Markel Corporation (Frankie Blevins), Roanoke Fire-EMS (Marci Stone & James Cady (were both Individual), Trevor Shannon, Stephen Curry), Kim Wilson (replaces Steven Basham on King George County's Organizational Membership), City of Richmond OEM (Anthony McLean (was Individual), Derek Andresen, Bonnie Snyder, Steve Pyle), Martinsville Fire & EMS (Robert Phillips, Teddy Anderson, Kenneth Draper, Kris Shrader), Lucy Carter Smith (no longer with Central VA Comm College - Russell Dove is now voting member)

- a) to accept the resignation of the following members from the VEMA membership as of

Student Member:

Nicholas Chocas of Virginia Beach, VA (no reason provided)

Organizational Member:

VHHA(RESIGNED - \$ not in the budget for 14-15 Membership)

Motions considered in a block passed unanimously.

Under the Executive Director's Report Bo Keeney updated the VEMA Board of Directors on membership issues, publication issues (including the newsletter, social media sites and the website), planning for the 2015 VEMS, planning for the 2016 VEMS, the Keeney Group Evaluation and the 2013-2014 VEMA Tax Returns. Overall he noted that VEMA remains financially sound, the membership is growing, committees are active and the leadership is strong.

Under Committee Reports the following were presented:

- a) Conference Committee (Michelle Oblinsky)
 - a. Michelle noted that the conference committee met yesterday. Additional committee members and volunteers have been added to the committee to help with planning and division of duties. She announced that we would be trying to keep all of the VEMS 2015 activities on one level rather than spread apart to better address exhibitor and attendee concerns. She announced that the committee is hopeful that they can publish a draft version of the program by October.
 - b. Under the planning committee portion Michelle noted that there would be 5 breakouts this year rather than 6. The game night will be moved to Wednesday evening as to not conflict with the awards banquet.
- b) Legislative Committee (Vacant)
 - a. No Report
- c) Audit Committee (Walter English)
 - a. The committee has reviewed the 1st and 2nd Quarter VEMA Books and found no discrepancies. The books and the VEMA financials are in good order. The next meeting will take place in September.
- d) Constitution / By-Laws Committee (Ashley Ehrhart)
 - a. It was noted that the open comment period will remain open until August 31st. After such time the VEMA Constitution and Bylaws committee will make recommendations for changes to the VEMA Board.
- e) Scholarship Committee (Scott Wollek)
 - a. Currently the committee is looking for additional committee members. They will be sending a solicitation for volunteers to the entire membership in the near future. Additionally they need help soliciting applications for the Tressler Symposium Scholarship.
- f) Membership & Marketing Committee (March Barbieri)
 - a. It was noted that VEMA is a diverse organization with a variety of membership types. However VEMA needs to continue to grow the membership and find new avenues to bring in the next generation of members. It was suggested that we add a "referred by" line item on the membership application. The committee also encouraged VEMA to continue to use social media.
- g) Awards & Citations Committee (Neal Turner)
 - a. No report
- h) Certification Committee (Brittany Schaal)
 - a. Most topics will be covered under new business. The committee did receive 3 PEM applications (1 approved) and 1 AEM application (approved).
- i) Technology Committee (Jeff Fletcher)
 - a. Thanked Matt Columbo (student intern) and Walter English for their help in getting the VEMA social media accounts up and running. The committee wants to look at the possibility of hosting a VEMA webinar in the near future as well.

- j) Nominations Committee (Sara Ruch)
 - a. No report
- k) VEMA Representative for National Weather Services' Storm Ready Board (Robert Foresman)
 - a. No report
- l) Rep. for VDEM/VFP Stakeholders Group (Ad-Hoc) (Corey Beazley)
 - a. No report
- m) Fire Programs (Ad-Hoc) (Cory Beazley)
 - a. No report
- n) Strategic Plan Review Committee (Justin Pierce)
 - a. No report

Jeff Stern, VDEM State Coordinator made a special presentation. He noted that the Federal government has stopped funding CERT programs and the state funding is running out as well. As such the funding of these programs is now going to be pushed to the localities. Additionally he noted that on September 9th there would be an all hands VDEM meeting at the EOC to examine the VDEM strategic vision for the state of Emergency management in Virginia.

Under Regional Committee Reports

- 1) Gene Wills Region 1 (State EM)
 - a. Region 1 is 100% compliant on EOC. They will hold an exercise on October 28th. They are busy with in season hurricane review.
- 2) Scott Hudson Region 2 (State EM)
 - a. They are 100% compliant for EOP and LCAR. They had a successful North Anna Nuclear Power plant exercise on July 8th. They will hold an active shooter exercise on November 13th.
- 3) Gene Stewart Region 3 (State EM)
 - a. The Campbell county exercise was very well received. On August 6-7 they held a full scale active shooter exercise that had 300+ attendees
- 4) Willie Richardson Region 4 (State EM)
 - a. Full scale exercise on October 8th at the airport. No other report
- 5) Wallace Twigg Region 5 (State EM)
 - a. They are busy with in season hurricane plan review. They are currently wrapping up the 2014 Regional catastrophic planning grant.
- 6) Mike Guzo Region 6 (State EM)
 - a. They are 100% EOC compliant. Held regional exercises recently that were very well received.
- 7) Virgil Gray Region 7 (State EM)
 - a. 100% EOC and LCAR compliant. Exercises of note: GMU state sheltering exercise is coming up. They are working towards the world police and fire games event.

Under Caucus Reports

Brittany Schaal reported on behalf of the Intuitions of Higher Education Caucus, noting that they recently held their first webinar. Additionally they noted that they have been in communication with University of Tennessee (Chattanooga) regarding the possibility of hosting a "Best Practice" workshop in Virginia in the coming year.

Under Old Business Bo Keeney reminded the board that the open comment period for suggested changes to the constitution and bylaws would remain open until the end of the month. After such time the committee will meet to discuss options and recommendations.

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

Marc Barbieri discussed general membership issues; including the development of VEMA marketing and recruitment material, attendance at various events throughout the commonwealth to conduct recruitment and partnering with the technology and symposium committees to better promote VEMA. Overall Marc encouraged the board to remain progressive towards membership recruitment and engagement. It's a constant job that needs the full attention of the board and membership. With a budget of \$2000 per year the membership committee wants to make sure it uses its assets to the best of its ability.

Motion Moore/Barbieri to select the Newport News Marriott as the official site for the 2016 VEMS pending favorable contract negotiations. Additionally if the Marriott is able to extend a better offer for a 2 year agreement then the Executive Director is authorized to proceed with additional negotiations. Motion passed unanimously

Motion Oblinsky/Barbieri to amend the VEMA certification and recertification criteria matrix as amended by the VEMA Certification Committee. Motion passed unanimously. (New criteria matrix to be posted to the VEMA website and the membership is to be notified).

Bo Keeney and Michelle Oblinsky announced that the VEMA/VDEM 2015 Tasking agreement has now been completed and signed off on by all parties.

Walter English engaged the group on a discussion regarding the establishment of an early career emergency manager group within VEMA. The board liked the idea and suggested that a forum be created on the website for the group and that they be given space to meet at VEMS 2015.

Motion Moore/Barbieri to extend the association management agreement with the Keeney Group, Inc. for an additional year and that the VEMA president be authorized to sign the new agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

Additionally it was discussed whether or not VEMA should make a presentation at any future state coordinators briefings. Michelle Oblinsky offered to make a report on behalf of VEMA and to promote membership and certification. Furthermore it was announced that VEMA participated in the VDEM strategic planning conference call earlier this month. VDEM has requested that VEMA assist with the VDEM strategic plan. Michelle confirmed with Curtis that any board members that participate would do so as representatives of their locality and / or region.

Under Good and Welfare Mark Penn announced that he would not be seeking a 2nd term as President at the end of the year as he would be retiring to South Carolina in 2015.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm,

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Speranza
Secretary