**VEMA Legislative Committee Meeting**

**August 29, 2016**

**9:30AM**

**Minutes**

**In attendance:** **Not Present:**  **Liaisons:**

Allison Farole Robb Braidwood Walter English

Terry McGregor Venner Milewski Judy Cooling

Erin Sutton Robin Milewski

Harrison Bresee Ben Rupert

Donald Hunter Anna McRay (appointed after this meeting)

Eric Tyree

Ken Rudnicki

Jason Pagan

**VEMA Meeting – Legislative Update in Conjunction with V400 EM Fall Forum**

* September 28th – 10AM to 11:45AM – Fredericksburg, VA
  + Members who will be in attendance: Hui-Shan Walker, Ken Rudnicki, & Jason Pagan
* October 19th – 10AM to 11:45AM – Blacksburg, VA
  + Members who will be in attendance: Terry McGregor, Allison Farole, Eric Tyree, Harrison Bresee
* Discussion on agenda ideas
  + Ask Marilyn Harris, VDEM, to see if she could come present a “Legislative 101” for about 20 minutes to kick off the session
  + Update on the Legislative Issues we are working on
  + Solicit Input from members on their legislative priorities

**Legislative Package Items**

* **Dedicated Funding Stream for Emergency Management**
  + Ken Rudnicki gave an overview and we discussed a speaking bullets paper that was drafted last year. We are looking to see if we can create a dedicated funding stream like Florida and Washington State for their EM programs. This is a priority legislative issue for VDEM too and we should look to partner with them.
  + Terry McGregor mentioned the Department of Fire Programs was also asking for a similar increase. They were working on how to best present it to legislators.
  + There was discussion to work on a stronger white paper with stories to help paint the picture and the need.
  + A small working group was established to work on refining the white paper – Ken Rudnicki, Terry McGregor, Jason Pagan
* **Auxiliary Power Sources for assisted living & nursing homes** (Needs enforcement capability)
  + A discussion about the recommendations in the Report to the State Health Commissioner which included the need for generators.
  + How do we enforce this? State Fire Code?
  + A small working group was established to work on developing a white paper – Hui-Shan Walker, Anna McRay, Eric Tyree, Judy Cooling (liaison with VDH)
* **Local EMs reviewing Care Facility Emergency plans** - matrix done a few years ago
  + Ken Rudnicki gave an overview. There was a HB 698 introduced a few years ago that did not move forward out of committee. The proposal gives the option to localities to charge a fee to review these emergency facility plans. This issue was moved to committee and then back to a Joint Long Term Care Resiliency Workgroup comprised of VDH and VDSS.
  + We have the report from VDH that came from this Joint Long Term Care Resiliency Workgroup but not from VDSS. It was recommended we get a copy of the report sent to VDSS to review.
  + A small working group was established to work on revising the legislation and developing a white paper – Ken Rudnicki, Erin Sutton, Allison Farole, Judy Cooling (liaison with VDH)
* **Exemption to the Virginia Information Secrecy Statute** ([VA Code § 58.1-3 (2015)](http://law.justia.com/citations.html) for information requested emergency planning purposes
  + This was brought to us by a VEMA member. We discussed the issue. The committee would like follow-up to the Commissioner of Revenue Association to get an opinion from the professional association. This would answer if it was an interpretation of one locality or if it is throughout the state. Second, to survey the member localities to ask where this is an issue or concern.

**VDEM’s Top Legislative Items were presented to the Legislative Committee**

* Dedicated funding for EM statewide (locals and state)
* A new state EOC / HQ
* Hazmat training center in Yorktown

**Next Steps & Next Meeting Date**

* Next meeting September 19th at 9am
* Set-up regular Meeting date and time
* Legislative Day – Start to work on identifying a day