

WEMA Annual Meeting

Best Western Hotel & Conference Center, Oshkosh

October 14, 2015 4:30PM

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Meeting Minutes

There are no minutes from the March 2015 meeting as Secretary Ennis' computer hard drive crashed. Forensic work is being done, and if the minutes can be recovered, they will be shared with the association.

4. Treasurers Report

WEMA is now again a 501(c)(6). Since we lost our tax exempt status, we are required to file tax returns on the years we were deficient. The accountant has charged us \$400 to this point, and would charge us an estimated \$600 more to verify the filings are done correctly. Motion made by Amy Nehls (Dodge), second by Dan Schreiner (Trempealeau) to pay the accountant up to \$750 to assist Bobbie with finishing the paperwork for prior year's tax return filings. **Motion Carried.** Joe said that he and Nick had met with Bobbi in September and audited the financial records and found them to be spotless and Bobbie has done an incredible job. Motion to approve treasurer's report by Tom Hurley (Eau Claire), second by John Ross (Clark). **Motion Carried.**

5. Presidents Report

Joe mentioned the Conference planning process, and some of the issues we've had with this year (shortage of rooms and state employees having to switch hotels). Amy Nehls mentioned the amount of work Joe had put into the conference for this year and he was given a round of applause.

6. Election of Officers: Two-year Term

A. President – Amy Nehls was nominated by Stacy Ofstad (Iron). After calling for nominations 3 times, Dan Schreiner (Trempealeau) made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Amy Nehls, second by Donna Haugom (Jefferson). **Motion carried.**

B. Secretary – John Ennis was nominated by Matthew Marmor (Calumet). After calling for nominations 3 times, Donna Haugom (Jefferson) made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for John Ennis, second by Nick Flugaur (Ho-Chunk) **Motion carried.**

7. 2016 WEMA Conference

Joe stated that the conference would remain the same as years prior, the Wednesday after Columbus Day – with pre-conference training starting October 10, 2016 (Columbus Day) and the conference on Wednesday October 12, 2016. We will be looking for additional sites in different locations, due to some issues that we had this year with the Best Western. Gary Wieczorke, WEM, brought up that with the RFP process, the hotel will need to agree to split payments three ways (WEM pre-conference, WEM All-Hands, and WEMA conference), and some venue's will not have the ability to do it. It was also mentioned that venues in Green Bay will be dependent on the Packers' schedule. Joe told the members that they should submit any venue suggestions to their Regional WEMA Representative or to the President. Joe said that registration was not an issue this year through EventZilla, which charges the association \$1.00 for each registration. Joe told the membership that conference ideas could be sent to any of the officers or board of directors. Additionally, if anyone is interested in helping plan next year's conference, contact an officer or a board member.

8. 2015 IAEM Conference

Joe mentioned that a lot of good ideas, including the featured speaker for this year, are brought back from the IAEM Conference. This year's IAEM conference will be November 14 – 18, 2015 at the Paris Hotel & Conference Center in Las Vegas, NV. In order to get the early discount, Joe has already booked hotel rooms and conference registration for two representatives of WEMA. Amy Nehls (Dodge) made a motion, second by Tom Hurley (Eau Claire) to send Joe Meagher and another WEMA board member (or member at large if no board members are interested) to this year's IAEM conference. **Motion Carried.**

9. 2016 Plan of Work

The needed changes were made by the work group and a Thank You was extended to the workgroup members from WEMA and WEM. The work group will continue to meet to start working on the 2017 Plan of Work.

10. Committee Reports

a. CEM Committee

Gary Wieczorke, WEM, stated this will be discussed in greater detail tomorrow at the All Hands meeting. The following members volunteered to be on the CEM Committee: Shena Kohler (Rock), Bill Stolte (Waukesha) and Darin Gudgeon (Richland) will be on the Committee. (ADDENDUM: Several of the courses on the certification have changed contact hours and/or no longer exist. WEM Training and Exercising Staff, along with this Committee will be meeting in the upcoming months.)

b. EPCRA Work Group

Carl Stenbol (Milwaukee) gave a report on the newly created EPCRA Advisory committee. He is the Chair of the Board, and reported out on membership, and the goals and accomplishments of the committee.

c. Website Agenda

Natalie Easterday (Shawano) reported out on the website and the needed changes. Several vendors gave her quotes in the \$10,000 range to make the website changes. We will continue to work with the existing vendor to make the needed updates. Maria Holl (Pepin) said that her county's tourism department, which reports to her, maybe able to assist with the WEMA website update.

d. Bylaws Reports

Nick Flugaur (Ho-Chunk) stated there was nothing to report. By-law committee members are: Nick Flugaur (Ho-Chunk), Darin Gudgeon (Richland) and Corinna Neeb (UW-Stevens Point).

e. Conference Committee

The conference had already been discussed in great detail, so another reminder to the membership that anyone interested in being on the conference committee should contact an officer or a board member.

11. Comments from Board Members

Tom Hall (Rusk) brought up the topic of having disbursements be a standing agenda item. While the WEMA Bylaws allow the board to handle the financial matters of the association, if fiscal matters are brought up at the semi-annual meetings, they should be stated clearly on the agenda and will be addressed amongst the membership.

Nick Flugaur (Ho-Chunk) brought up the idea of WEMA giving back to the EM community, due to the association's financial situation. There was discussion about saving some money in reserve for more expensive speakers, scholarships and other initiatives; if any members have suggestions on items contact an officer or board member. It isn't likely that any decisions will be made on the suggestions until the semi-annual March 2016 meeting.

12. Comments from WEMA members

Roger Miller (Stockbridge-Munsee) suggested that WEMA might want to have more meetings during the year and it might be possible to use a webinar or Go-To Meeting when it is not in conjunction with a conference. Shena Kohler (Rock) talked about getting the conference announcement and WEMA membership information out to municipal emergency management directors, private industry and other entities. This may be something the Membership and Information Committee could be involved in. Joe also reminded everyone that they should send the invite out to businesses, as the vendors support our conference and because of our loyal vendors we are able to keep our conference registration cost affordable to everyone.

13. General Discussion

Steve Hansel (Outagamie) suggested to WEM that they work with the National Weather Service (NWS) to hold a second tornado drill on the same day, the second drill would be during the evening hours, similar to Minnesota. Pat O'Connor, WEM, said they would

bring it up in their discussion with the NWS at the end of the week, as they are starting to plan for the 2016 tornado drill.

14. Next Meeting Date

The semi-annual meeting will be during the Governor's Conference on Wednesday, March 9, 2016.

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Donna Haugom (Jefferson), second by Amy Nehls (Dodge).
Meeting adjourned at 5:25PM.