

WEMA Association Meeting at the Best Western Premier Oshkosh October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Called to order by President Joe Meagher @ 16:35

Minutes from March 2014 meeting – read by Secretary John Ennis.

Correction: Darren was not being considered for Executive Director.

Motion to accept minutes with change by Carl Stenbol, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Hall, MC

Treasures report was read and submitted by Bobbie Hicken . See attached.

Motion to accept treasures report *By Carl Stenbol, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keith Kessler, MC*

Amy Nehls made the motion to appoint the treasurer position to Bobbi Hicken, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keith Kessler, MC.

Joe Meagher Introduced Bobbie Hicken and gave a background on why she became our treasurer.

Bobbie reports that she met with a local accountant about our books and the possibility of an audit of our finances. The appointment took approximately one hour. The accountant looked over all books, and records.

After a review of the records, the accountant did not recommend an audit. The accountant recommend that we have them look over our accounts, clean up some of the issues the she observed and that would sufficient.

The accountant did advise that we cannot be a tax exempt organization because we take donations, however we could become a nonprofit organization.

It was discussed that we had talked about the non profit status in the past, that no one pursued the 501 3 (C).

Nick Flugaur inquired if there ever has been an audit in our past. Bobbie stated she did not believe there had been, based on her review of the treasurers records.

The cost for the audit and paperwork would be approximately \$750.00

Motion to spend the \$750 for the review of records and paperwork by Tom Hall and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Darin Gudgeon

There was a question and discussion about needing bids. Nick Flugaur stated that based on his knowledge of the bylaws, a bid would not be needed.

**Presidents Report:** President Meagher reports that he has little to report. President Meagher reports that one thing he had on his agenda was to look into some insurance for member's, however his schedule and busy personal life, he has had no time to follow up on that issue.

#### **Elections:**

##### **Vice President:**

Nomination for Nick Flugaur to remain as Vice President by Kaylynn Gresham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Carol Buck.

No other nominations were received, nominations closed and a motion to make a unanimous vote to keep Nick Flugaur as Vice President.

Vote called motion carried.

Unanimous ballot for Nick Flugaur was cast. Passed.

Treasurer:

Nomination by Matthew Marmor for Bobbie Hicken as treasurer.

Received no other nominations. Nominations closed.

Motion for Unanimous ballot by Nick Flugaur , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kaylan Gresham.

Motion passed unopposed.

President Meagher indicated we still needed to appoint a SW WEMA Rep.

President Meagher recognized Darin Gudgeon for his duties as the SW Rep and his dedication to WEM. President Meagher indicated he had received and accepted his resignation.

No one volunteered to fill the position. WEMA will begin looking to recruit someone to take his place as a SW WEMA REP.

Agreed to table.

**Website Administrator:**

Would like to find someone to take over for Cindy Struve . (Cindy is pretty loaded at work right now.)

Nick would like for us to think about a website subcommittee. Looking for some way to keep the website updated and maybe one way would be to have two people to share the task.

Roger Miller suggests a technical college student, or an intern to keep it updated.

**2015 WEMA CONFERENCE DATES:**

Dates: Same week of Columbus Day October 2015. October 14<sup>th</sup> 2015

Venue suggestions: Looking for suggestions.

This year stats: 142 registration, Increase in number of vendors over last year.

Discussion on locations:

It was suggested that it was better in center of the state. Nick stated that the board we did send out multiple RFP's , however venue's cannot handle the 150 people anticipate each year.

Update on the registration: The States Web Portal didn't automatically send out email addresses, which meant the State had to manually send us updates and email addresses so that we could email receipts to members.

One way to work around that situation would be to use the Paypal site to register, which would send us the necessary information on registrations. This would mean that we would not use the States Registration portal.

Recommend using Paypal to make it easier.

Conference ideas for 2015- President Meagher asked for any suggestions to improve the conference for 2015. Receiving none, he asked that any suggestions could be emailed to him.

President Meagher asked for volunteers for the conference committee. The following people volunteered. Conference committee: John Ennis, Carl Stenbold, Genene Hibbler.

Ideas for themes: None received at this time.

President Meagher stated that he would Email out evaluation forms:

Discussion about hospitality rooms, and ways to cut the cost of food and drinks. It was discussed that a lot of people left the first nights reception because the cost of alcohol was somewhat high and the bar had cheaper prices.

It was discussed that the State Fire Chiefs bring in their own beer.

9. 2015 POW

1. WEMA received a copy of plan, It was sent out to board members and they went over made some recommendations for changes.

It was discussed that WEMA was a little upset that they were given the POW late and only given a very short amount of time to look it over.

It was discussed that we as a group have a lot more knowledge and experience in what works and what don't. It would have been nice to have been included in the rewriting of the POW.

2. A Motion by Bill Stolte to recommend to WEM that we be included in the annual review and update on the annual plan of work and, ask that the State allow us to work with them this issue

Carl Stenbol 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Discussion:**

Carl Stenbol, indicated that in the past there was an "LEPC Work Group". This work group included members from both WEMA and WEM. Together WEMA and WEM staff worked on EPCRA and LEPC POW items.

It was highly recommended that this work group would be a great asset to both parties.

VOTE Called, All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion on Training changes: It was presented by WEM staff, Gary Wisczorek. Gary indicated that the changes were to help members better understand the requirements, clean up the language, and address issues on the responsibility to attend training.

Tort Liability was discussed:

It was very upsetting to many members that this came out just two days before the conference, and appears to have major changes on coverage. It limited who was covered and was not a given when applied for. There is a possibility on full scale exercises, must be preapproved, and requires several levels of approval.

Greg Engle – Who wrote the policy was asked to explain the changes.

Covers volunteers only, not emergency responders.

It was a heated conversation over the whole policy.

Concerns about timing of policy, changes in the policy that effect training, and mandatory exercise requirements and the impression it will change the insurance coverage.

Discussed E-Grants use for 2016. Working group at the State Level, not a lot of support from members based on past experience.

**Comments from Board Members:** None

**Comments from WEMA Members:** Need longer time to review paperwork and deadlines for comments. Request longer dates to use the grants that come out.

**Next Meeting Date March 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 at the Governors' Conference**

Motion to Adjourn: By many, approved at 6:23PM