

VFMA Membership Meeting
Held on March 8, 2011, at 7:00 a.m. in Richmond, VA

Attendees

John Paine, VFMA President
Jeff Sparrow, VFMA Vice President
Dave Preusch, VFMA Treasurer
Jeff Smith, VFMA Secretary
Doug Moseley, VFMA Corporate Director
Dale Lehnig, VFMA Director
Tariq Makhdoom, VFMA Director
Marlene Tomaszewicz, VFMA Director
Don Rissmeyer, VFMA Training Committee

Shane Parson, VFMA Past President
Ed Beadenkopf, VFMA Member
Scott Blossom, VFMA Member
John Matusik, VFMA Member
Jim Rakestraw, VFMA Member
Tom Roberts, VFMA Member
Mark Slauter, VFMA Member

1. Welcome, Introductions, President's Report (John Paine)

- A quorum of directors are present, for voting purposes.
- VFMA has approximately 150 members; we need to work on improving membership!
- VFMA will try a flat membership fee of \$25 this year (*correction in notes from stated \$35*). Database and future on-line payment options should make management of the membership list easier. Shane Parson and Marlene Tomaszewicz are coordinating regarding this.
- This year's Virginia Water Conference has seen the largest attendance in the event's history.

2. Vice President's Report (Jeff Sparrow)

- The annual ASFPF conference during the week of May 13, 2011, in Louisville, KY, represents a great opportunity to network with other floodplain managers and participate in related technical presentations.
- ASFPF continues to work with FEMA regarding the transition from Map Mod to Risk MAP.
- The ASFPF executive office is hosting webinars focused on "Floodplain Management 101." This is part of an outreach strategy to make the case to Congress that FEMA's funding, cut drastically in 2012 (approximately 35%), should be restored.
- John Paine suggested that VFMA should consider leveraging the webinar concept to deliver workshops to the Commonwealth; Jeff Sparrow suggested that we coordinate with the ASFPF executive office to discuss just how they have done this for their national webinars.

3. Treasurer's Report (David Preusch)

- See financial report.
- Our account balance, at approximately \$32,000, is at a record level; compare this to an account balance of about \$3,000 when about 8 to 10 years ago. VFMA's goal is not to maximize its treasury, but to use the funds to promote floodplain management, etc., consistent with the VFMA mission.
- Regarding VLWA
 - VLWA was in the red this year due to a webpage revamp and scholarships that ran about \$9,000 each. Suggest that VFMA consider a scholarship program.

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- VLWA increased its individual member rate from \$15 to \$20 this year, so VFMA's membership fee structure appears to be reasonable. It was noted that VLWA includes membership as part of the Virginia Water Conference registration fee; it was suggested that VFMA investigate whether such an arrangement is possible for VFMA.
- There has been prior discussion of paying ConstantContact an extra monthly fee for the ability to conduct surveys. This may require further discussion and a vote.
- Related to a question of discrepancies between the reported number of members at 150 and the number of member fees paid per the Treasurer's Report, the existence of multi-member categories (Government and Corporate) results in more members than number of applications (as one application may contain up to six members). Under our new fee structure, multi-member applications will no longer be entertained and this issue will not exist in future years.

4. Secretary Report & Membership Update (Jeff Smith)

- Regarding membership:
 - See earlier discussion of numbers.
 - For 2011, membership year will run with the calendar year but requests for members will be made in March (coincident or near to the annual Virginia Water Conference).
 - Marlene Tomaszewicz reported on VFMA investigation into upgrading its website to include member's only content, networking, etc. A member survey will be sent out within the next month to see what members and prospective members might want to see on the website.
- Regarding CFM reviews and exams, the Virginia DCR as well been offering review and exams during the past year on a roughly semiannual basis. If VFMA wishes to reinvigorate its CFM efforts, it might join or merely look to the state efforts. Some of FEMA's technical contractors in northern Virginia are also conducting similar reviews and exams.

5. Elections (John)

- Slate for nominees presented, seconded, and passed. Welcome to the new Directors! The Board of VFMA Directors will need to meet in the immediate future a select new executive officers.

6. Upcoming Items, Events, and Issues (Open Discussion)

- There will be a VFMA leadership call on Thursday. Amongst other things, we will discuss an ASFPM request, etc.
- Preparation and distribution of the VFMA newsletter is mechanically easy now; getting input and content for the newsletter is the difficult part. Connie Bennett and Catherine Weily have been doing a great job managing the newsletter and getting it out periodically, but the need support from the group to find appropriate content. The new Board might consider adding additional support to this task to help with content gathering.
- Regarding the VFMA Treasury, it is not VFMA's intent to build up funds and sit on them; while the organization needs funds to be healthy, VFMA needs to use it funds per the organization's mission. We should consider scholarships, etc. VFMA should be relatively revenue neutral/slightly increase in funds annually now.

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- Event planning:
 - Annual Virginia Water Conference. Relationship with VLWA continues to be well and it is a good venue for the organization.
 - Jim Rakestraw and Don Rissmeyer pulled together a workshop in Stafford last fall and it was successful. We need to start planning another now if we want to use the same facility. Jim and Don will start coordinating now to secure the facility and plan, with the intent of “getting the word out” much sooner so as to build on last year’s success.
 - VFMA needs to fully investigate webinars, as noted earlier in the meeting.
- Robert Bennett became the new VA DCR Dam Safety and Floodplain Management director in August 2010. Coming into the role, he had relatively little exposure to floodplain management but has since learned much and even become a CFM. He is very pro-integrated floodplain management. He is also pro-training; VFMA might coordinate with Rob for future collaboration on training opportunities. Just this past Sunday, the group held dam training with approximately 100 participants (mostly dam owners).

Minutes taken by Jeff Smith, VFMA Outgoing Secretary.