

**WEMA Board Meeting Minutes**

**Portage County Courthouse Annex  
1462 Strongs Ave.  
Stevens Point, Wisconsin**

**Thursday, February 09, 2006  
10:00 A.M. – 12:26 P.M**

**Officers Present:**

Ben Schliesman, President	Kenosha County EM Director
Steve Braun, Vice President	Grant County EM Director
Mark Fritsche, Secretary	Dodge County EM Director
Cullen Peltier, Past President	Brown County EM Director

**Members present:**

Bruce Sims	Outagamie County EM Director
Fred Camacho	Ho-Chunk Nation EM Director
Carl Stenbol	Milwaukee County EM Director
Jeff Kirkey	Trempealeau County
Jennifer Lord-Kourichi	Clark County
Steve Kreuser	Wood County
John Elliot	Jackson County
Steve Haskell	Shawano County
Daniel King	Oneida Nation

**Others present:**

Eric Lowman	WEM Northeast Regional Director
Josh Maas	OJA – Homeland Security Division

**Quorum present.**

- 1. Call to Order:** President Schliesman called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda (Sims / Elliot). Motion carried.
- 3. Approval of Oct. 27, 2005 & Dec. 16, 2005 Minutes:** Motion to approve Minutes (Camacho / Kirkey). Motion Carried.
- 4. Treasurers Report:** Hucek distributed the Treasurers Report for review.

Balance of the checking account as of 12-16-05:	\$11,509.45
Deposits Added	\$ 1,400.00
Expenses Subtracted	\$ 1,813.45
Balance Forward	\$11,096.00
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$ 6,026.92</u>
<b>Total Balance:</b>	<b><u>\$17,122.92</u></b>

Currently there are 114 active members, 65 associate members and 15 sustaining members for a total of 194 members. Sims raised a question as to if we violate our non-profit status by going over the \$15,000 limit. Elliot asked if we could move some of the dollars into

another account to meet the requirement. Sims believed you could not do that. Kreuser the former WEMA Treasurer said he would talk to Hucek and look into the matter and bring an answer to the board by the next meeting. Motion (Elliot / Sims) to approve the Treasurers Report. Motion carried.

5. **EPCRA Program Funding:** The reason for the agenda item was to find out where the EPCRA Program stands financially. Schliesman read a letter from WEM which talked about the status of the EPCRA Program. Lowman said he will send out an electronic version of the letter. Stenbol talked about lost revenue in Milwaukee County when WI excluded petroleum fuel / gas stations from paying the Tier II's fees. Stenbol asked the question: Who has oversight over the EPCRA Program now that the SERB and LEPC Advisory Committee no longer exist.
6. **2006 Homeland Security State Application Process: Current and Future (WEM Staff):** Maas mentioned that the grants have been cut by 80% and that OJA/ Engle is putting together the final paperwork to be sent to DHS. The funds will be based on risk. Camacho talked about the NIMS Committee and that the state was looking at putting a 50% NIMS requirement for target audiences by March of 2007. Peltier brought up the question: Why are we setting a standard that exceeds the federal requirement? Fritsche said he felt this will hurt counties and the state for funding if we set a standard that exceeds the federal government. He brought up the example of "No Child Left Behind." Wisconsin set standards that exceeded the federal requirements and WI schools were not able to meet those higher standards. It cost WI federal dollars. States like Arkansas kept the same standards as the federal government and received more federal funding and was rated higher than WI. Fritsche wondered if we were "screwing" ourselves if we do this. Peltier brought up another question: Is the state doing this to receive more grant dollars for NIMS? Kreuser said we should not be setting standards that exceed the federal government's expectations. Elliot talked about a system to track individuals and their NIMS courses. Lord-Kourichi mentioned having WEM training officers to track NIMS personnel. Lowman said he did not believe that WEM had resources to do this. Lowman asked whether agencies can self-certify. Kirkey said he would not sign off that agencies have met all the requirements set for by NIMS. The discussion continued on why again is EM responsible for tracking who is NIMS compliant. It was also mentioned that OJA would need this information and that WEM is the oversight. Schliesman mentioned that the SEIC has to meet one more time before the 2005 Interop Comm. grant will be let out for competition. Camacho said to have your comments into OJA on the strategic plan by Feb. 15.
7. **Statutory and Ad-Hoc Committee Reports/Issues:**
  - Conference – Schliesman said him and Stenbol are looking at Waukesha for the location of the WEMA Conference.
  - Legislative
    - CERT Training to be administered by ARC – Camacho mentioned he had a meeting with Red Cross about doing CERT and though it was a good idea. Fritsche said he heard that the State Citizen Corps Council sent a recommendation to the Governor to rethink giving the CERT Program and funding to one agency and to look at concerns brought up in the SE Region and concerns brought up with the State Citizen Corps Council.
    - Bill to Create State Disaster Relief Fund – A discussion began whether this fund had to be exhausted before we would receive federal dollars and whether having this fund would hinder WI from receiving a Presidential Disaster declaration. Schliesman said he would talk to his counterparts at FEMA and get back to the board on the subject. Peltier said he and Johnnie Smith will be attending the NEMA Conference next week and they have one day set aside to talk to the WI Legislative delegation.
  - Membership & Information – Nothing to report

- Public Affairs

- Community Television Production – Lord-Kourichi talked about the 4 counties working together to produce a public service announcement about Emergency Management and she thought it was something they wanted WEMA to be a part of. Elliot talked about doing a production and then presenting to WEMA. Peltier said WEMA does not do enough to promote themselves. Schliesman said he would support it 100%. Kirkey said we need to get it in front of the members. Fritsche asked: Is the \$300 the big hang-up? The way things are going with EM's across the state, if we do not do something soon, we might not have a WEMA in another year. Peltier made motion to allocate up to \$300 for pilot program to the 4 counties working on the production. Fritsche seconded it. Motion passed.

- Website

- Update – Elliot handed out a paper from Trina Rabina on the the status of the website. Elliot also handed out recommendations by the website committee to improve and make changes to the website. These changes included a legislative tab, removal and additions, links to county EM sites, new look to the site, and other changes. Elliot mentioned that meeting dates and other small items can go directly to Trina and do not have to go before the Website Committee. Elliot talked about the WEMA logo and that we might look at getting it digitized. Elliot also talked about whether we want to change the logo or not. Said we could do a contest. Fritsche said he would like just to see other ideas out there for the logo. Schliesman said it can't hurt. Elliot talked about the vendor contract and that changes needed to be made. He changed the contract for a regular contract from 2 to 1 year, one contract for a booth and one which did not include booth. Fritsche asked if WEMA ever hired an attorney to look at contracts or issues in the past. It was talked that WEMA has not. Elliot asked if anyone's Corps Council could review the contract. Fritsche said he could pass it by his Corps Council and see if they would do it.

Fritsche mentioned that WEMA needs more participation by its members on committees. Schliesman said he sent out an email to the WEMA members asking for participation on committees, but received a poor response on members wanting to be on the committees.

**8. Updates form Regional / State Committees:**

- Emergency Services Advisory Group- None

- WEM / WEMA Certification – Peltier said nothing new. Camacho asked if “Emergency Response & Recovery” could be moved to Level 1? He thought it was a Level 1 course.

- Others? Elliot asked: Where does the OJA / WEM Interface Committee stand?

Schliesman said it would be part of the Legislative Committee or a subcommittee.

**9. WEMA Survey: Review of Draft:** Camacho asked the “Tribal Gov.” be added to #4 in the survey. Schliesman said the board had until March 1 to suggest changes then it would go out to the WEMA Members. Fritsche asked Camacho if there was a site or map of where all the tribal governments were located and their territories in WI. Camacho said go to “GLITC” and click on the link to “Homeland Defense Group.”

**10. President's Report:** Nothing to report.

**11. Comments from Board Members:** Fritsche brought up the Watertown Fire Incident and that the Dodge County LEPC has gone as far as they can go with WI Statue Ch. 166 (Emergency Management). The local agencies are looking for over 1 million dollars in expenses. Fritsche said that Ch. 166 is incomplete in that you can bill the responsible party but that is as far as it goes. All we can do right now is send a bill every 30 days to the responsible party and tell them to pay. Chapter 166 does not force the responsible party to pay. After several meetings with DOJ, DOJ is looking at seeking criminal charges and reimbursement against the responsible party, but they will not seek reimbursement on

behalf of the local agencies, just state agencies like the DNR. If you don't know the history, DNR did not keep the tire facility in compliance and when on scene, told the Incident Commander to fight the fire. Fritsche mentioned that we should look at adding something in Ch 166, such as "upon failure of the responsible party to pay reimbursement within a certain timeframe that DOJ would seek criminal charges and reimbursement on behalf of the local agencies and communities." Camacho said this would be a good project for the Legislative Committee.

**12. Any other Business:** None

**13. Next Meeting Date:** April 3, 2006, Lake Geneva Grand Resort

**14. Adjournment:** Motion by Pelletier / Camacho. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:26 P.M.