

# **VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE SPECIALISTS MEETING MINUTES**

Marriott City Center Newport News  
Grand Salon IV  
September 18, 2025

Called to order at 5:21PM – Jason Curtis, Chris Sadler, Steve Schrader, Joshua Grim, Kevin Kelly, Jim Graham, Jack Tolbert, Alan Brauer, Darrell Hudson, Denver Sampson, Jeremy Ramsey, Kevin Jones, Christopher Parrish, Ben Nuckols, Keran Tull, Todd Cannon, Brooke Strickland, Tom Jordan, Ryan Bass, Tjamal Robinson, Larry Logan, Paul Logan, LJ Logan, Todd Dyer, Bobby Lukhard, Rodney Gentry, Mike Christley, Kevin Pickeral, David Newell, Ben Zimmerman, John Simpson attending

## **Good and Welfare**

- 50/50 in honor of Greg Noll and Mike Hildebrand
- Approximately \$2200 donated to FFCSN in their honor

## **Approval of September 2024 meeting minutes**

- Motion to accept – Dyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lukhardt; Motion carries unanimously

## **Treasurer's Report**

## **Old Business:**

### **Conference Briefing**

- Conference is going very well – 308 attendees
- Already 2 sponsors and 4 vendors signed on for 2026
- Contract has been signed for 2026/27 with Founder's Inn in Virginia Beach
- Board voted tonight to redo Sara's contract as the conference planner

## **New Business**

- York County Training Facility Update
  - Old structures should be demo'd beginning October 20
  - New structures should arrive in January or early February and should be complete for spring training sessions
- Website/Social Media update
  - Sara working on website and has ideas for a new platform
    - We will be investigating this transfer and will likely move

## **Membership Report:**

- Vote on Life Memberships
  - Matt Kraft (Roanoke City); Membership granted unanimously
  - Kevin Totten (Salem); Membership granted unanimously
  - Clarence Ross (Harford County, MD); Membership granted unanimously
- Nomination of Life Members
  - Mike Christley (Salem)

- Rob Phillips (VDEM)
- Chris Wagner (EPA)
- Nomination of Honorary Members

#### Committee Reports:

- Legislative
  - OEMS changes are still under review at the state level
  - Annual stakeholders meeting to prep for upcoming general assembly session
    - HMO and DFP personnel retirement requested
- Scholarships and Grants
  - Need more people to apply. There were only two applications this year.
- Training
  - We want to do something in western VA for training
  - We need people to be willing to take the reins on initiatives like this
  - VDEM did 9 technician classes this year as well as local specialty classes
  - VDEM has trained over 200 new technicians in the last year
  - VDEM is working on IFSAC/Pro Board accreditation for the hazmat technician program
  - Discussion of lack of qualifications for DFP Hazmat Ops instructors

#### Officer and Trustee Elections

- President – David Newell only nomination; elected unanimously
- Vice President – Jason Curtis only nomination; elected unanimously
- Secretary – no nominations; Ben Zimmerman term extended
- Treasurer – no nominations; Josh Grim term extended
- Trustee (3 year term) – Todd Dyer only nomination; elected unanimously

#### Presidents Report

- Kevin Pickeral is stepping down as the conference chair. Wade Collins has been appointed the interim conference chair for 2026 until a permanent replacement can be found.

#### Open agenda

- Bylaw amendment for life membership
  - Amendment was presented in September 2024 and due for vote in February 2025 (no meeting)
  - Motion to accept bylaw amendment by Chris Sadler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Curtis; motion carries unanimously
- Mike Rowe Works grants available for housing and food related to hazmat training. Look at the website for information on how to apply
- Fire News is looking for articles. Send them info on any good hazmat calls or association news
- Tom thanked everyone for the award this week. Chris too.

Adjourned at 1824

Next meeting:

February 2026, Virginia Beach