



Western Cape Umbrella Fire Protection Association NPC
Newlands Forest, Union Avenue, Newlands, 7700 | Tel: 021 689-7438/9 | Fax: 021 685-5944

WCUFPA MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAR 2017

MEMBERS:

1. Southern Cape Fire Protection Association (SCFPA)
2. Greater Cederberg Fire Protection Association (GCFPA)
3. Cape Peninsula Fire Protection Association (CPFPA)
4. Winelands Fire Protection Association (WFPA)
5. MTO Cape
6. CapeNature

ACTIVITY REPORT:

GOFPA / SANRAL update:

There has still been no official response from the GOFPA. As per the decision made at the last EXCO meeting Philip and Dale will endeavour to engage with the GOFPA Chairperson, Dr Paul Cluver, in an attempt to re-establish the relationship moving forward.

Eskom Transmission update:

As previously mentioned the WCUFPA is waiting to hear what the verdict at the Appeal Court was with regards to the current definition of a landowner. Jean is of the opinion that once there is more clarity in this regard, we will have a much stronger case against Eskom. Currently the law would seem to be on Eskom's side with regards to the argument that not controlling land renders Eskom not liable for FPA membership fees. Jean suggested we contact him at the end of March, which has been done. We currently await his response and will hopefully be in a better position to continue with this matter should the judgement be in our favour.

Transnet Freight Rail update:

We continue to work towards a result with Transnet and hope that we can reach an agreement soonest.



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DAFF Funding Request:

This item was addressed at the recent EXCO meeting where all input received thus far was presented. All requested staff requirements, resources and training requirements were discussed. SG will tabulate the information collected so far and continue working on this document.

Finances:

We are currently closing off the books for the financial year which ended on 31 March 2017. A meeting was held at the office of AJM to finalise all outstanding items and the final tasks should be completed within the next week or two.

We are still awaiting the 2015/2016 Annual Financial Statements; the MIS and completed books have been submitted for auditing and SARS purposes.

The WCUFPA Business account stands at R 97 309.40 on the 7th March 2017.

WCUFPA – WoF MOA

The draft MOA has been completed and sent to Shane who confirmed that this is under review and should be sent back to us with comment shortly.

State Compliance Letter

Although the letter was to be made available by 31 January 2017, upon follow-up, we were informed that it had to be returned to the office due to a change in the Deputy Director General. Although assured that this would be processed soonest there is at this stage no sign of the updated document. We will continue to follow-up on a regular basis.

DAFF unmanaged properties

As per the suggestion by Paul this matter will be addressed with Susan Leseke. We are in the process of gathering all the necessary information and this will be brought to her attention by Philip and Dale at the next National Veld and Forest Fire Working Group Meeting. Should she be unable to personally assist us we will enquire from her who we should be raising this matter with moving forward.



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WCUFPA NPO application

We have followed up with Krushenthen Pillay (NPO directorate) with regards to our application and will hopefully achieve a positive result with this soonest.

WCUFPA Directorship Change

As agreed at the last EXCO meeting Philip Cox will replace Braam in the role of director. The necessary documents have been requested from AJM Financial Services and once signed these will be submitted to the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission and Department of Social Development.

WoF Eastern Cape Delegates visit

The WCUFPA gave a presentation on the 28th of March 2017 to Shane Christian (WoF) and his delegates from the Eastern Cape who were on a learning and sharing visit. A short presentation and discussion on the relevant WCUFPA functions was given to the EC delegation who are looking to adopt many of the Western Cape strategies.

AFIS

As discussed at the last EXCO meeting we have been in touch with Philip Frost with regards to AFIS. It came to light that the offer extended to the VWS volunteers is a dashboard only and unfortunately at this stage CSIR are unable to offer any compensation to the WCUFPA and their members. In discussions Philip (Frost) did however recommend that we contact Etienne and Rodney from PDMC who are in the process of developing a SLA with CSIR Meraka. He felt that the WCUFPA could perhaps benefit from a collaboration with them going forward. We have since spoken with Rodney who is of the opinion that PDMC could easily include all the FPAs into this agreement under the PDMC banner. According to him, Philip Frost would actually prefer this sort of agreement and method so as to limit the various agreements and payments. This agreement will include access to the full version (AFIS premium) with the ability to receive burn scar mapping, etc. We will keep everyone updated on the progress of these discussions going forward.

WCUFPA Website

As decided at the last EXCO meeting research would be done to see if it were a viable option to make the NUFPA website the official WCUFPA website. We have since met with Norman from Red Hot Designs and have been working on the necessary changes in this regard. This project is almost



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complete and more detail will follow within the next few days via email. Training has also been completed to enable us to manage the site going forward ensuring that we keep it dynamic and use it to the best of its ability.

Wildfire Updates for the season per FPA

Please send all of your information through for our records. Please use the template attached and list only major the fires in which each FPA was directly involved.

WoF co-funding cuts

As per the notification from Nerien van Heerden the Department of Environmental Affairs have received reduced funding from the National Treasury. This dictates a significant reduction to the 2017/18 WoF allocation. Nerien requested that the WCUFPA submit a motivation and justification letter which was composed and sent accordingly. We await clarification on the decisions made going forward and how these will affect the FPAs.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 25th April 2017 - National Veld and Forest Fire Working Group Meeting.
- 24th May – Strategic Planning Session – SCFPA Hosts
- 25th May – EXCO Meeting – SCFPA Hosts
- 30th Aug – EXCO Meeting – WFPA Hosts
- 8th Nov or 9th Nov - EXCO Meeting – Hosts TBA