



Western Cape

Umbrella Fire Protection Association



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

WCUFPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: 8th Nov 2017

Time: 13h00 – 16h30

Venue: The Wine Tasting Room, Lourensford Wine Estate, Somerset West

Representing	Organisation	Name	Abrev	Attend	Apologies	Contact Details
Chairperson	CPFPA / SANParks	Philip Prins	PP		√	philip.prins@sanparks.org
Vice-Chairperson	WFPA	Dale Nortje	DN	√		managerwfpa1@gmail.com
Treasurer	CPFPA	Pierre Gallagher	PGa	√		CPFPA.manager@sanparks.org
Member	GCFPA	Charl du Plessis	CdP	√		charl@cederbergfpa.co.za
Member	SCFPA / DAFF	Paul Gerber	PGe	√		paulge@daff.gov.za
Member	CapeNature	Tony Marshall	TM	√		tmarshall@capenature.co.za
Member	GCFPA	Bertus Senekal	BS	√		bsenekal@wcdm.co.za
Member	WCUFPA	Sue Gallagher	SG	√		sue@wcuropa.co.za
Member co-opted	WoF	Ray-yaan Majiet	RM	√		ray-yaan.majiet@wof.co.za
Member co-opted	DAFF	Mavila Manganyi	MM	√		mavilaM@daff.gov.za
Member	SCFPA / SANParks	Len du Plessis	LdP	√		len.duplessis@sanparks.org
Member	WFPA	Adrian Robertson	AR		√	adrian@echosa.com

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Member co-opted	WoF	Felicia Ngwasheng	FN		✓	felicia.ngwasheng@wofire.co.za
Member co-opted	DAFF	Thandeka Gwala	TG		✓	ThandekaG@daff.gov.za
Member	MTO Cape	Gideon van Lill	GvL		✓	Gideon@mto.co.za

1. FORMAL WCUFPA MEETING	ACTION
<p>1.1 Opening, welcome and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DN welcomed everybody and opened the meeting. • DN went through apologies as indicated above. DN noted that PP couldn't attend the meeting as Chairperson due to fire commitments. 	
<p>1.2 Additions to Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCUFPA website passwords – added by SG • WCUFPA AGM brief – added by SG • WCUFPA constitution amendment - added by SG 	
<p>1.3 Minutes of previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes presented by DN. • Proposed by CdP and seconded by TM 	
2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (28 Feb 2017)	
<p>2.1 CapeNature Conservation Managers Fire Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TM enquired if everyone was receiving the reports. It was agreed that this issue was resolved and can be removed from the agenda going forward. 	
<p>2.2 Training Database</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG informed everyone that this updated training database has been added to the private library on the WCUFPA. SG asked that everyone download the template and add any relevant training. This updated information should be emailed back to SG so that she can keep the document updated for future use and reference. 	EXCO
<p>2.3 DAFF Unmanaged Properties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG informed the committee that the WCUFPA had once again followed up with Masithandaze Falithenjwa but at this stage had received no response. SG asked PGe who should be contacted as a next resort and it was recommended that the next port of call be Thandeka Gwala. 	SG
<p>2.4 Peace Officer Training Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM said that she had raised this item but suggested that each FPA send DAFF a request 	FPA

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in this regard.	Managers
<p>2.5 Fireline Safety Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PGa reported that although some people had completed the training (presented by Vulcan) it was currently on hold due to their involvement with the Knysna fires. It was noted that refresher courses should be done every year. • PGa went on to say that the training is targeted at anyone who would be on the line during a wildfire. 	
<p>2.6 Eskom Rates Western Cape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PGa said that Eskom Generation currently pay the CPFPA R11.23 excl. (12.80 incl.) per hectare for their land parcels within the CPFPA's jurisdiction. He reiterated that this is only for fixed properties and did not apply to Eskom Transmission lines. • PGa recommended that this rate be used across the board by all WCUFPA members. • PGe was of the opinion that any rate could be charged providing that it was not cheaper than the rate currently being paid. • It was agreed that it could be decided at a later stage as to whether this would be approached as a collective or as individuals. 	
3. AGENDA	
<p>3.1 DAFF General Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PGe mentioned that both MM and himself now report directly to Thandeka Gwala, who has filled the role which used to be held by Cobri Vermeulen. All applicable legislation falls under Thandeka. • PGe mentioned that Masti was now back in his old position and Tami is now in the position that was previously held by Susan Steyn. MM to send Tami's details to SG for future use. • PGe pointed out that it was becoming increasingly difficult to get things done due to the limited staff within the organisation. 	MM
<p>3.2 WoF General Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RM gave a feedback presentation on behalf of FN. • It was mentioned that recruitment is on hold at this stage and that any shortages would be filled from up country. In these cases an entire team would be moved as this seemed to work better than splitting teams up. • PGa asked about the WoF Helderberg team, and what would happen when the helitack trained firefighters left the base for the wildfire season to do standby at the Stellenbosch airfield. The Helderberg Team would be left with approximately 13 crew members. • RM responded saying that he would raise this matter with Shane. • WoF will only be in a position to begin recruiting again during the next financial year due to the back pay situation and subsequent financial constraints. • TM requested that if teams were moved to assist within other areas, that it preferably be teams who are familiar with the area. • RM mentioned that the Strand team may be available soon. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PGa suggested that the Strand team could perhaps back up the Helderberg team. • RM reported that although awareness had picked up a bit they were still behind due to fires. He pointed out that this could not be helped and would be an ongoing issue. • PGe agreed saying that WoF senior staff must acknowledge that there are outside issues and that it has been busy since October. • RM said that there had been 15 failures on yellow card training. • RM will let the WCUFPA know if there are any spaces available for upcoming ICS training. • PGe asked why driver training could not be split so that everyone is not off at the same time. • RM said he would look into this and asked PGe to communicate with him on this matter. • TM asked what amount of overtime could be worked. • RM said that a team can work for 12 hours, although there had been 2 situations where teams had been kept for 24 hours. • PGe asked to whom the Tsitsikamma team reported. • RM said that the team was run by Shane and RM would step in if needed. 	RM
<p>3.3 MTO General Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG mentioned that Phil Cox was no longer employed by MTO. PP had met with the new representative, Mr Gideon van Lill (GvL), who will be taking on the same responsibilities as Braam used to do. Although GvL is unable to attend the meeting, due to prior commitments, he said that he would attend the strategic meeting on the 9th of November in order to meet the committee members. • DN mentioned that there was a lot going on with regards to the exit strategy. The Vcon areas had not been given an extension and it was unclear what would happen at the end of December. Once the properties have been handed back to DAFF they will have no more responsibility. • PGe was of the opinion that an extension would be given. 	
<p>3.4 Directorship Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG mentioned that according to the WCUFPA constitution, the WCUFPA currently require a minimum of 4 directors. This has proved troublesome due to the constant changing of directors along with the red tape and paperwork that each change dictates. • SG therefore suggested that this be changed to a minimum of 3 directors as the current 3 directors are stable and seem to be constant within the association. • It was agreed by the whole committee that that this would be amended and going forward the required number of directors for the WCUFPA would be 3 (and no longer 4). • Each of the members signed a resolution accordingly. • SG will arrange that PC sign a letter of resignation. 	SG
<p>3.5 New logo and tagline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG reported back that it seemed unlikely that the branding company HERO (recommended by Johan Heine) would be willing to sponsor new branding for WCUFPA. • It has been agreed that we would like to keep the “bokkie” in the logo and member of 	

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<p>the committee were invited to submit any possible ideas for a new logo.</p> <p>3.6 Vulcan Key Experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PGe said he has concerns regarding legal repercussions should he speak to Vulcan with reference to Vulcan’s appointment through PDMC to provide a report on the Knysna wildfires. • LdP mentioned that this exact sentiment was shared by GdL. • PGe said that he had raised the issue to ask the committee as a collective whether it was a good idea to speak to them or not. • PGe said that he would speak to them but only regarding operational issues. He went on to say that FPAs could possibly benefit from this as the Premier may see that FPAs require more support. • BS stated that he was happy to give information but was not prepared to be interviewed on camera. • BS asked the question of what it was that they were hoping to achieve during these investigations. He went on to say that unless items were forced down to municipalities the results of the report will just sit on the shelf and gather dust. • BS also went on to question, why only Knysna? Why were no investigations of this nature conducted on the City of Cape Town, St Francis, Winelands? Although Knysna was indeed a huge incident there have also been others. • TM suggested that the inquisitions may be due to the two conflicting reports thus far. • LdP felt that it was necessary for all role players to sit together to discuss the incident. • TM felt that the process was more of a learning process and not a witch hunt as some people believed. • LdP stated that there had still been no official debrief and if each role player is spoken to separately the result would be many conflicted reports. He was of the opinion that if all role players were approached as a group a more uniformed response could be formed. • RM mentioned that Vulcan had discussed and reported on WoF even though they had not asked them directly for their opinion, despite having the opportunity to do so. • BS questioned the qualifications and experience behind Vulcan. He asked the question of how a company like Vulcan, with so little practical experience, were actually given this role. He went on to say that there are so many knowledgeable people; fire chiefs for example, who were not even consulted. • Many of the committee agreed with the above sentiment. • PGe felt that a debrief was necessary and also stated that all information should be available for Vulcan in the incident action plan. • DN said that the primary purpose of the report was a learning one and not to allocate blame. • BS said that it was important that all role players are able to scrutinise the report before it is finalised. • PGe agreed that he would speak to them but that discussions would be operational and there would be no opinions or politics included. He also stressed that he would be speaking on behalf of the SCFPA and not in his capacity as a DAFF employee. • PGe also felt that perhaps not speaking to them may be missing an opportunity to 	<p>EXCO</p>
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<p>highlight the role of FPAs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DN said that this was an opportunity to be heard and something may be missed if people do not speak up. • PGa mentioned that both he, DN and PP had recently been invited to a post Knysna Fire forum with SANTAM relating to insurance and what the future holds. Both he and PP pointed out at the meeting that the real experts, with years of hands-on experience, MUST be included in all of these discussion. • BS stated that as a Fire Chief he could not stress more that it was imperative for the municipal fire services to be involved in this forum. He felt that things are being done the wrong way around and that the people making and dictating the decisions need to be the same ones that have to enforce these decisions at the end of the day. He said that FPAs, who work with the landowner, are not a policing agent and should not be in the position where they carry the whip. Fire services are ultimately the ones responsible for enforcing legislation and BS felt it is unacceptable that they are not involved in discussions from the start. • BS also asked why a company such as Vulcan, with such limited experience or qualifications, are charging for this report when all of real experts in the field would have given information for free, if they were only asked. • DN stated that this was the start of a long process and many more people would be involved moving forward. • BS again stressed that asking key role players, such as Fire Chiefs, right at the end of the process was the wrong way to do things and stated that the process followed thus far has already got many people’s back up. • PGe felt that it was inappropriate for Vulcan to be charging for this. • TM agreed that they were speaking to the wrong people and felt that this message needed to be conveyed to PDMC. • PGe stated that FPAs are the main role players due to the fact that they are the direct link to the landowner. • DN pointed out that the main role of the report will be risk assessment and that there should be rewards for being a good citizen. • BS said that this must be done properly. He would like to know from Province what the purpose of the report is and would like to know when the tenders were put out etc. How did Vulcan get appointed, and what is the point of this report when someone like himself could have done it for free? 	
<p>3.7 SAWS FDI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG asked if everyone was receiving the FDI and it was agreed that everyone was indeed receiving them. • SG asked everyone to refrain from phoning for FDI’s before 10am as the information is only updated daily after 10am. The FDI for the previous day should be used up until that point. • TM asked what the plan was once the FDIs are no longer freely available. • PGe said that Philip Frost was currently in the process of trying to get AFIS approved through DAFF. In order to do this the minister would need to accept this as a credible 	

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<p>source.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BS said that currently only the Lowveld FDI would stand up in court. • SG will follow up with Philip Frost to see if there has been any progress in this regard. 	<p>SG</p>
<p>3.8 Wolwekloof Training Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG reported that PP, PGa, SC and SG had planned to go to Wolwekloof for a “look see” with Etienne du Toit. Unfortunately this trip was cancelled due to the fact that both Etienne and Shane were unable to attend. This trip will be rescheduled for 2018 when convenient for all parties. 	<p>SG, PP, PGa</p>
<p>3.9 Department of Land Reform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG and PGa updated the committee on the fact that the DRDLR were very keen to join the various FPAs, through the WCUFPA. The person being dealt with was unsure of which properties belonged to them geographically as they do not have any mapping available. They did, however, have a detailed spreadsheet indicating farm parcel numbers. • PGa requested each FPA to plot their own areas and send the information through as soon as possible. • It was agreed by all members that a starting rate of R11.00 per hectare should be used as a starting point. • TM argued this rate, stating that each area has their own fee structure and should stick to this. • CdP suggested each FPA use their own rate but the WCUFPA does the invoicing. • SG did not think this was an option as having different rates on one invoice would cause confusion and discontent from DRDLR and would then not validate the use of the WCUFPA as the facilitating agent. • DN pointed out that the department has huge tracts of land and the whole idea of invoicing via the umbrella FPA was to agree on one rate. • It was decided that the Exco would first work out the area we are dealing with and then collectively decide on a rate unless the department was happy with the R11 rate then this should be used. • It was agreed that the GOFPA would also be included in the negotiations if they were willing for the WCUFPA to do so. SG to facilitate. 	<p>FPA Managers</p> <p>SG</p>
<p>3.10 Professional Drone Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PGe mentioned that the SCFPA had joined the Ajubatus Foundation project and he believed it was a great initiative with little cost to the FPAs. • SG will forward the proposal letter and proposal to the committee. • LdP stated that they had used Ajubatus with very positive results. The drones were even used at night during the Knysna fires so that hot spots could be determined and targeted during daylight hours. • PGe felt that there were many applications that could be of benefit to the various FPAs. He pointed out that someone else carries the risk and the FPAs get the benefits. • BS asked how fast they would be able to react and PGe explained that there would 	<p>SG</p>

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<p>eventually be a dedicated pilot in each area to facilitate reaction times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed that PGe would invite Ajubatus to attend the next meeting to provide insight into their proposal. 	PGe
<p>3.11 Southern Cape Summer Season Launch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PGe mentioned that the SCFPA would be holding a summer season launch at the new air base in George on the 6th of December 2017 and said that everyone was welcome to attend. 	
<p>3.12 Website Passwords</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SG asked the committee to please visit the website and request a password via the site. It was agreed that each member would have one password only, as this would be the least complicated option. 	EXCO
<p>3.13 AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfortunately due to fire commitments the Chairperson (PP) was unable to attend and the AGM was thus cancelled. SG gave a brief rundown of the items scheduled for the AGM, inclusive of the Annual Report. It was agreed that the Annual Report would be loaded onto the library section of the website as to be available to all committee members. 	
4 Conclusion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date and Venue for next meeting: 22 Feb 2017 West Coast 	

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