**EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION INC.**

Minutes of Teleconference held Monday 18th January, 2016.

President declared meeting open at 19.02 hours

**PRESENT:** President Michael Quinlan, Executive Officer Merv Austic, Michael Breen, John Twaddle, John Iffla, Lynette Varris, George Woolston, Doug Bell, Vicki Quinlan.

**APOLOGIES:** Nil

John Twaddle explained he is still involved with Waroona fires so may suddenly be called away.

**MINUTES:**

***MOTION:  
Moved: J. Twaddle Seconded: D. Bell***

***That Minutes from November 16th, 2015 as presented are a true and correct record.***

***Motion: Carried***

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

**Website:** Still waiting for input into new design for front page. Doug has been given access to Website. Has been in touch with Web designer about increasing level of access, as currently can only change basic text not layout in any way. The website was not set up as we requested, Doug, together with a volunteer from Bullsbrook VFES are willing to work on this. We have no contract with the Web designer so we can change if need be. Merv asked if we can monitor who and how many are accessing the website. At this stage we cannot, Doug to add this to list of what we need upgraded. Michael Q requested that Doug cc the Office email address in on all correspondence about this so Executive know what is happening.

**Conference:** Still need ideas for sessions at this years’ Conference. Have sent out email to all Services asking them, but have had nothing back. We have a meeting on 9th Feb and need to take something. Feeling was that session speakers need to have time limits on them, thus allowing more time for Q & A. One suggestion was Future Fleet – Where are we now?

**Life Membership Badge:** John Twaddle and Vicki to work on this.

**Rules & Regs:** Have received our draft back from DFES. Other that a couple of Contradictions, the use of OIC/Captain and a few typos’ they have not made too many changes. EO has meeting with DFES next Wednesday (27th), hopefully we can get these signed off on.

**Communications:** President expressed again the importance of all communications being cc’d to Office email address. This way everything is stored in a central location and there is a trail that is accessible if needed.

Michael advised quorum of the sudden passing of AVBFB President, Ross Fenwick. Highlighting the importance of having central files for ease of access by anyone.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** Michael advised that there had been an issue with DFES not recognising FES volunteers previous service with other Emergency Service Groups. This has been rectified now, so if anyone knows of a Service that has had medals knocked back please suggest they reapply.

At last Teleconference we had Greg Johnson, Captain of Metro VFES SWORD join us to explain issues the Group are having. A copy of this is attached. George asked if SWORD have a designated committee member, at the moment Michael Q, Vicki & Merv are regularly talking with them. We have offered them a position on the Association.

We are often getting calls from people in the Metro area wishing to volunteer with SWORD.

We have invited Gary Gifford to our Feb meeting to discuss SWORD with him.

Have spoken to Paul Carr with regards to PPC being issued in a timely manner, hopefully this has now been rectified.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT:** Merv gave an overview of his past 13 months with us expressing it has been busy and we have achieved a considerable amount. He feels our biggest challenges ahead are: The attraction of new members to Committee – New Services – Responses from DFES – Buildings and Capital works.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Vicki explained that a new report had not been done since the December there had been very few transactions.

***MOTION:***

***Moved: V. Quinlan Seconded: J. Twaddle***

***That Treasurers report as distributed for 14th December be accepted.***

***Motion: Carried***

**OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Nil

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**BUILDING FOOTPRINTS:** Merv to follow up on this.

**VAC RESPONSES:** The general feeling is that we need to be stronger with DFES in regards to getting the appropriate response from them in a more suitable timeframe. May need to look at going to Commissioner about our issues and concerns, instead of using the VAC. It is questionable as to whether the VAC is worth it.

**SHIRE UNITS**: Need to look at MOU’s

Need to look into why when a B/G/U wish to become a VFES the paperwork seems to take forever and yet as soon as a VFES wishes to go across to VFRS it is done instantaneously.

Bullsbrook are having issues with being part of the LG in regards to callouts etc. It is felt that the changes within DFES are not making some situations easy. Need to ensure when a B/G/U changes over to a VFES that fire districts are clearly determined and Comcen are notified.

Bullsbrook have been informed that Comcen are not allowed to ‘’cross over’’ services for an incident. Merv to follow this up with Comcen.

Merv to check with Services for Call out issues when visiting them.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** Merv has been working on this. Copy to be sent out to Committee for feedback.

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/TELECONFERENCES:** At the December teleconference meeting we had the embarrassing situation of having a guest on line and only the Executive and 1 other member also on the line. Only 1 apology had been submitted prior to meeting.

**BEREAVEMENTS:** Have recently had the situation with the passing of an inaugural member of Bullsbrook VFES and the AVBFB President. Where unsure of how to acknowledge these and future deaths. After discussion it was decided that we would send an email of condolence to the Service for them to pass on to family, also attaching the firefighter’s prayer.

**MITIGATION:** John Iffla advised that he had been in contact with the Media recently with regards to Mitigation. He feels there needs to be an Independent enquiry in to the Waroona fires. His suggestion would be someone of the ilk of Alistair Hope.

John Twaddle feels that DFES do not have the expertise or equipment on the ground to effectively run a large incident on the scale of current Waroona fires, these are fires are being managed by DPaW. The feeling is that DFES & DPaW emergency response should be one. There are no lessons being learned from previous large incidents and enquiries.

***MOTION:***

***Moved: J. Iffla Seconded: J. Twaddle***

***That we write a letter to Minister Francis requesting an Independent enquiry into recent fires.***

***Motion: Carried***

John Iffla requested we get AVBFB, SESVA & Farmers Federation to support this letter. He has also heard that Mick Curnow (brother of farmer killed in Esperance fires) is keen for an independent enquiry as well.

Terms of Reference for an Independent enquiry would have to be broad to ensure everything was covered.

There being no further business Michael thanked everyone for their time and declared meeting closed at 20.50 hours.