**EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS ASSOCITION INC.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DFES 91 LEAKE ST BELMONT ON SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, 2016**

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

**APOLOGIES**: Marion Bom

**MINUTES:**

***MOTION***

***Moved: John Twaddle Seconded: Lynette Varris***

***That Minutes of January 18th Meeting, as distributed be accepted.***

***Motion: Carried***

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

**WEBSITE:** Doug has been looking into this and feel that upgrading to what we want is not going to be easy.

***MOTION***

***Moved: John Iffla Seconded: Vicki Quinlan***

***That Doug Bell investigate a new website for the Association.***

***Motion: Carried***

**CONFERENCE:** The planning for this year’s conference has commenced. Need to decide what we want for sessions. Keynote & Plenary speakers have been decided. Will be using a scanning system to register and as enter sessions. Proposed Schedule attached.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP BADGE:** John Twaddle & Vicki have decided on a design, will be getting quotes from Sheridans and another supplier. Once quotes in Assoc is to buy some and have on hand for Services to purchase from us.

**RULES & REGULATIONS:** These are now before DFES Command and awaiting sign of.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** Have been in discussions with AVBFB & SESVA regards the enquiry into Waroona fire. Michael, John Iffla & Merv are meeting with Euan Ferguson on Monday to discuss. They are then meeting with Mark McGowan, ALP Leader. The Association will be submitting a report into the enquiry. Michael thanked Merv for his efforts into this.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:** Busy doing Submission and visiting Kimberley Units.

12.30 hours broke for lunch.

13.10 hours meeting resumed.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

***MOTION:***

***Moved: Vicki Quinlan Seconded: John Twaddle***

***That report as presented be accepted.***

***Motion: Carried***

**HAS REPORT:** The committee is looking for a high profile figure to have as a Patron. We are looking for someone who could be proactive, not just a figure head. The suggestion of Michael Jeffry, former WA Governor and Aust Governor General.

**FUTURE FLEET:** John Twaddle will be attending a meeting on this next week and the Agenda item is Urban Tanker. John asked for thoughts on this vehicle. Much discussion. Have no rescue gear on Urban tanker. Michael suggested they need to start looking at alternative fire suppression methods, ie: compressed air foam suppression to counter not being able to put enough water on trucks. Needs to be a basic unit that can be used in Bushfire situations. Need to make sure it is understood that needs in the Rural area different from city.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**BUILDING FOOTPRINTS:** Happy with what is on DFES Intranet. This is a VAC issue.

**COMMITTEE/ VAC MEMBERS:** Need to concentrate on how to attract new members to both ESVA Committee and the FES VAC. Michael Breen has had to resign due to personal issues. We have offered a position on the Association to both the VFES SWORD and MAPS-WA. Much discussion held on how to attract and what we want in new members.

**PATHWAYS COMMITTEE:** We need to fill 7 positions on this. We have Doug Bell as VFPAG Rep. For the Firefighter Group so far we have Adrian Goh, Bullsbrook Captain. For the SES Group we have Lynette Varris & Troy Granville, York Lt. If we cannot fill all positions, will double up people.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** This needs to be signed off on. Carry over to next meeting. Doug mentioned that Plan could be good for new members to give them an overview of what is required as a committee member. George mentioned that we need to send an abridged copy of minutes to Services, to keep them informed of what we are doing. Due to work load Merv & Vicki not having the time to do. George to do this for us after receiving the Minutes.

**THANKS:** Michael thanked Doug for taking the onerous task of the Website. Lynette for catering and John Twaddle vehicles. Sharing the workload makes things more efficient and easier for everyone.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITIES:** Sheet as distributed was discussed. This can be used to inform people what is expected of them should they wish to join the Assoc.

***MOTION:***

***Moved: Michael Quinlan Seconded: Lynette Varris***

***That the Responsibilities Sheet be adopted and distributed.***

***Motion: Carried***

Doug queried what it was meant by developing a relationship with Regional Offices, this was explained to him, how by talking to RO you can also find out any issues they may be having that the Assoc can assist with.

**DOACS:** The general feeling is that DOACS are failing. Numbers attending are getting less. EO to get in touch with City of Swan in regards to getting Doug & Merv invites to attend the Swan DOAC’s.

**GUIDELINES FOR DELEGATES:** Need to do up a set of guidelines for Volunteer delegates attending meetings for us. Have received a copy of the SESVA guidelines for this, will adapt to suit our Association and send out.

**EO VISITS:** A sheet listing what we require from EO when he is visiting Services and DFES Personnel was supplied for people to review. Michael also requested EO provide a report on all meetings he has.

14.25 hours broke for afternoon tea

14.35 hours meeting resumed

**J. TWADDLE – WAROONA FIRE**

John presented a talk on recent Waroona/Yarloop fires.

14.40 hours Merv Austic left meeting

14.55 hours Merv Austic returned

**ID CARDS:** ID Cards are a must. Much discussion was held on these, Volunteer workshop request issued by A/C Fewster was read out. This would not be occurring if ID cards were scanned in and out of an incident. This issue to be raised at VAC level.

**VAC:** Everyone was reminded that Michael will be resigning from the position of VAC Chairman and John Iffla is taking the position.

Discussion was then held with regards to tomorrows VAC, to ensure meeting is efficient and expedient. Michael and John have been working together to determine what can be handled Association and what should be handled at VAC level.

One concern is Brigades reverting to VFRSA, when asked only reason given is “they will be better supported”, Northampton being the latest.

John read through his dot points of what will be raised tomorrow at VAC.

Northampton – was R to R model applied to this. DFES staff must be supporting this.

Will Assoc budget be reduced due to decrease in number of Brigades

Unit MOU have not progressed

We are DFES enhanced bushfire brigades, DFES want to bring more on line, but how is this going to work when staff are undermining our models.

Need to question, again, why WAVFRSA Executives are, with DFES staff members, meeting with VFES’s.

Need for DFES to make a decision whether they are going to fully support VFES, or keep on undermining us. With the current structures in place and with what is going on, should we be encouraging BFB’s to come across to DFES. There is currently no system in place to support these brigades becoming VFES.

Committee feels there should only be 1 overarching Fire Authority.

DFES are requiring more and more from the Assoc. DFES no longer communicate with Volunteers, everything is sent through the Association.

There being no further business meeting was declared closed at 16.25 hours to reconvene at 08.30 hours Sunday.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION INC.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DFES, 91 LEAKE ST BELMONT ON SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY, 2016**

Meeting reconvened at 08.35 hours

George had previously sent through a list of queries and ideas. This was distributed to members for discussion. George was happy with answers and outcomes.

**MEETINGS:** Our next Perth meeting is on the weekend 11& 12th June. This is not suitable for a few members. It was decided to move to last weekend of July (30th & 31st), will have Christmas in July theme again. Will change the June meeting to a Teleconference on Monday June 20th and cancel July 18th Teleconference.

**AFAC:** This year’s theme is Mitigation, Response & Recovery. Getting the balance right and will be held in Brisbane on 30th August – 2nd September.

***MOTION:***

***Moved: John Twaddle Seconded Lynette Varris***

***That the Association delegates for this year be Michael & Vicki.***

***Motion: Carried***

**CONFERENCE:** VFES delegates are staying at Hilton this year. It was suggested that delegates park at Convention centre for weekend. It was requested that the charge to delegates credit cards be highlighted on the website, not just on registration site. Not using Carson Wagonlit this year for bookings, using Cevent, so hopefully might not have some of the issues.

09.00 hours Brynn Weir, District Officer DFES Bushfire & Driving joined meeting.

Michael thanked Brynn for giving his time to discuss the Driver training simulator and training.

Paul Barker went to France to review the Simulator, when he got there he was told it was a done deal. The logistics of how the simulators are getting around the state are yet to be worked out. Actually getting 2. 1 based on the Scania and the other based on smaller vehicle. Once arrived, hoping to get them out to the whole state within 12 months of delivery. The intent of the simulator is to give the volunteer some sense of emergency driving prior to getting into the real thing. Simulator can be programmed to whatever and under whatever conditions. Links to driving course have not yet been worked out, but will probably be supplementary to the course.

Driving course are not under any sort of review, unfortunately DFES is very thin on ground for qualified Driver Instructors. Trying to get more Trainer Assessors.

There is no longer a person assigned to do TRK’s for vehicles being built and delivered. This is causing big issues.

Much discussion was held on driver training, much of it emphasising that there is no reason why anyone with the appropriate licence class cannot drive a fire truck, it is just whether they can drive under lights and sirens, however, it is unknown what would happen if there was an accident and the volunteer hadn’t done driver training, where he would stand with the Coroner.

Michael thanked Brynn for his time.

09.55 hours Broke for morning tea

10.05 hours Reconvened

10.05 hours Gary Gifford, Assistant Commissioner, Operations Capability joined meeting to discuss SWORD (State Wide Operation Response Division).

The following questions on notice was provided to A/C Gifford, prior to meeting;

What is DFES’s expectations from SWORD VFES?

Primarily involved in Bushfire response. SWORD will not impinge on regional resources. SWORD is supposed to be a ready resource that can be sent in when rosters are light on. Have not been given much of a budget for this.

Where is SWORD going?

Keen to establish profiles for B/G/U’s coming across to SWORD

What is happening about resourcing?

Concept paper put to CLT when first developed never allowed for permanent appliances. There are opportunities through the high season fleet for vehicles to be provided. Looking at getting some vehicles transferred across to SWORD. Meeting with Frank Pascale next week in regards to this. Have 4 FTE positions. Have filled 1 with a Station Officer, but not other 3.

What is happening about facilities?

Facilities are not ideal. Safety is a bit of an issue. The development of the HUB is not in Gary’s folio. SWORD is a stakeholder to the HUB. Recently Lancelin Volunteer Marine Rescue has built a new building consisting a concrete shell that they have then put up prefabricated rooms. M. Jose keen on this concept.

The concept of the SWORD has been the growth of a division created when DFES closed Guildford & Bassendean VFRS, hence the formation of Metro VFRS

They were getting numerous phone calls from Metro persons wishing to volunteer, most of these came after a big event. Most other volunteer groups, SES & BFB within metro area are full.

The concept of the SWORD has grown too quickly for management structures to be properly put in place.

Metro VFRS are totally different to SWORD.

At the beginning there was never any thought of the BFB being part of the SWORD

John Twaddle asked why SWORD couldn’t be transported to Waroona to assist with incidents occurring down there over the last 6 weeks. Harvey & Murray shire are having same issue. SWORD’s intention is not to be first strike, they have been used to assist with mopping and blacking out. Answer: Control & Command are responsible for this and should have been communicated to SWORD that they were needed. This would have been the perfect opportunity for SWORD Volunteers to keep their interest up.

Communication needs to be a 2-way street and DFES should have been aware that Volunteers would be getting tired after 6 weeks. Need to make sure VFES SWORD have vehicles to train on so we know they have the correct competencies to go out assist.

Could SWORD have been used instead of flying in volunteers from Northwest.

Gary feels VFES at SWORD needs to marketed better within DFES, so staff know they are there to help.

Have had an issue where SWORD VFES have turned up to train only to find Career FRS have taken their Lt’s. Not very encouraging for a volunteer.

Michael thanked Gary for joining us.

There being no further business President declared meeting closed at 11.00 hours.