

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
FERNKLOOF NATURE RESERVE (FNR) ADVISORY BOARD (FAB)
HELD AT THE ELECTRICAL BOARDROOM
(TOP END MOLTENO ROAD – BELOW R43)
ONRUS RIVER, HERMANUS
ON FRIDAY, 24 AUGUST 2018 at 09:00**

*Please refer to the last page for acronyms used in the minutes

1. Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

Present: Duncan Heard (DH) [in the Chair], David Beattie (DB), Tarron Dry (TD) [Biodiversity Conservation Manager: Overstrand Municipality], Nicolette Lloyd (NL), Muthama Muasya (MM), Penelope Aplon (PA) [Environmental Officer: Overstrand Municipality], Glynis van Rooyen (GvR), Lee Burman (LB), Heloise Fortune (HF) [Environmental Secretary: Overstrand Municipality], Andrae Marais (AM) [Cape Nature], Charel Bruwer (CB) [Enviro Africa Overberg]

Apologies: Linda Griffiths (LG), Liezl de Villiers (LdV) [Environmental Manager: Overstrand Municipality], Anthony van Hoogstraten (AvH), Kari Brice (KB) [Councillor]

No Apologies: [Law Enforcement: Overstrand Municipality]

Welcome: DH opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He extended a special welcome to Charel Bruwer of Enviro Africa who will be doing a presentation on the Grotto East Parking Amendment.

2. Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of the FAB held on 25 May 2018. H.F

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes and Public Availability

The minutes were made available to the public.

2.2 Comments from Council on FAB Minutes dated 25 May 2018. K.B

No comments received.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Amendment of Bylaws relating to FNR and FAB/Re-declaration of FNR: T.D

ACTION: TD to set up a meeting to finalize the by-laws.

3.2 Provincial By-Pass Road T.D

TD reported that the status quo remains. DEA&DP and SRK Consulting are not moving forward at this point.

4. Administration

4.1 FNR Integrated Management Plan (IMP) deliberation

DH reported that LdV provided feedback on the IMP via email on 17/8/18.

"Morning All

Kari and I had a telephonic discussion and some of the information could have got lost in translation, although most sounds like what we discussed. Let me make it clear, in writing for all to take note of.

1) The draft IMP Plan should be complete by end September, if no other projects/tenders keep me so busy that I cannot meet this deadline.

2) The draft will be discussed and forwarded to both FAB and CapeNature. I made a commitment at a FAB meeting that I would discuss the changes with FAB and give reasons for every change that I make. I will stay with this commitment. Anthony, please refrain from making unfounded statements if you have not even discussed it with me first, I do not appreciate this, you know you can pick up the phone and ask me if the information is correct or not. This causes conflict between FAB, BotSoc and

other members of the community and we should not be dealing with the IMP matter in such a manner. I thought we all agreed on this.

3) If between ourselves and FAB and CapeNature we feel that another Public Participation Process is required due to the changes in the document, this will happen. I think it will be a necessity.

4) I have had much discussion with CapeNature about the format of the IMP and feel it necessary to ensure a document that is aligned with the Protected Area Management Plans of CapeNature. They are after all the custodians of the NEMPAA and will be advising the Minister on the approval of the IMP and therefore if they request me personally to please look at the format and provide me with the information in order to bring the IMP in line with the PAMP process, then it must be considered. I know Duncan does not support the PAMP format of CapeNature but I am confident that if he sees the outcome of the product that he will not be disappointed, I am trying to "marry" the two formats as much as possible in order to find an accepted way forward for all.

AvH's email on the IMP;

"The fact that the process has taken this long highlights once again that the Overstrand Municipality needs an environmental directorate, free and independent of the planning directorate, who are clearly way out of their depth and have little regard for environmental issues.

DH commented that AvH's email was not meant as an attack on the Environmental Section the comment was rather meant to empower the Environmental Section with regards to having its own Directorate.

DH further stated that LdV's door is always open to discuss any uncertainties.

4.1.1 Damage done to Riparian Zone at entrance

T.D

TD reported that the Riparian Zone and the Mossel River both require rehabilitation plans. The budget has already been allocated and he will put in the request for the maintenance plans within the next few months.

ACTION: TD to circulate the specifications for the plans to FAB.

4.2 FNR 2018/19 Budget

T.D

ACTION: TD to give FAB a report on the budget pertaining to FNR only.

ACTION: LB to give reasons on why the pine trees in Hermanus Heights behind Boskou should not be felled.

4.3 FNR Management Reports

T.D

TD reported that the fence at Piet se Bos has been replaced.

TD reported that a meeting was held with BotSoc regarding events in the garden. The amendment to their agreement entails that they will be taking over some of the Buildings in FNR including Galpin Hut and the Visitors Centre. It was discussed that events for example wedding ceremonies in the garden must be registered with BotSoc whereby a fee will be charged. Random events will not be taking place anymore. This is to ensure control over events in the gardens.

4.4 World Heritage Expansion

D.H

ACTION: MM looking for a student to run with this project.

5. Standing Items

5.1 Enforcement

T.D

EMS was informed that Andre Lucas is the new FAB representative but he was not present at the meeting.

ACTION: TD will follow up again with Johan du Toit with regards to representation at the FAB meetings.

ACTION: TD will also speak to Johan du Toit to get the FNR Security Forum Meetings up and running again.

ACTION: DH will follow up on the access gate on Rotary Drive/Hamilton Russell as this is a security issue.

5.1.1 Encroachments

CPMG will assist EMS in identifying encroachments. DB & TD will discuss this point at the next CPMG meeting.

5.2 Hoy's Koppie

TD reported that the stairs on Hoy's Koppie are being upgraded and one boardwalk has been surfaced.

ACTION: TD to contact ADT to follow up on Cave Alarm.

5.2.1 Extension of Hoy's Koppie

TD reported that the soil has been removed. The area will remain a green corridor and will not be developed. Post and rails have been erected.

Suggestions for the area were as follows:

Use certain section as a dog park.

Put up benches where people can sit and relax.

6. Ecological Issues

K.B

6.1.1 Baboon Virtual Fence / Baboon Electric Fence

TD noted that there is nothing new to report on the virtual fence.

ACTION: TD to give a short motivation to FAB on why the electric fence should be moved.

6.1.2 Burning of Coastal Corridors

T.D

DH reported that MM informed FAB at the previous meeting that the Cowling Report is still relevant today. FAB also made a recommendation to Council on the burning of coastal corridors at the previous meeting.

6.1.3 Event Applications

T.D

TD requested that he required the comments on events from FAB to be factual and not emotional.

MM suggested that a scoring system should be used when evaluating events to eliminate the emotion. This will make the commenting much more objective.

Example:

Disagree - 0

Neutral - 1

Agree -2

The scoring system was supported and accepted by FAB.

6.2 Research

T.D

6.2.1 Research Applications

TD reported that no research applications were received.

6.3 Klein River Estuary Management

T.D

There is nothing new to report. At present the mouth is still closed.

6.4 Reports from Hermanus Botanical Society (BOTSOC)

L.G

LG circulated the report to FAB.

6.5 Reports from Cliff Path Management Group (CPMG)

D.B

DB reported that;

All paths have been upgraded all the way to Piet se bos.

The bench numbering project is underway. He showed an example to the board.

The toilet at Die Gang has been moved to a new site.

CPMG received hacking permits from EMS.

The new whale signs have been received; these will replace the vandalised ones. Michael Henn will assist with the erection of the signs.

NL noted that building has been taking place at 11th Avenue Voelklip and that the street is extremely eroded. The adjacent owner wants to take out the kikuyu grass and replace it with buffalo grass. This will expand into the fynbos area. TD requested that the information be sent to him directly.

ACTION: TD has to speak to Jean de Villiers with regards to the Rietfontein boardwalk. Will have to get a design for the boardwalk and there is a tender for that.

ACTION: NL to forward info on 11th Avenue Voelklip to TD.

7. General

7.1 Dogs in FNR

T.D

As seen in other reserves it was suggested that dog owners apply for a permit whereby a fee will be charged and they will also have to sign an agreement stating that they will abide by the rules.

DH asked all to apply their minds to this suggestion for discussion at the next meeting.

7.2 Trail Maintenance

T.D

TD reported that Giorgio is done with the maintenance of the Zig Zag trail. Giorgio has also been working on the Jeep Track.

TD noted that EMS will buy the maintenance material in bulk and BotSoc will pay for the labour.

TD asked for suggestions on a long term solution to replace the water barriers. He suggested that gabions should be used.

7.3 Proposed Amendment of Environmental Authorisation – Grotto East Parking

CB

DH asked CB to give some background on the decision of the original environmental authorisation and what led to the amendment thereof.

CB noted that with the first environmental authorisation there were 4 options;

1. Parking area bank rehabilitation by means of rock stabilisation (non-preffered)
2. Parking area bank rehabilitation by means of sandbags (non-preffered)
3. Parking area rehabilitation by means of concrete stabilisation (non-preffered)
4. Cut the face and slope it down so that it is safer (preffered)

The option to slope it down was approved and it was also the cheapest alternative. There were two occasions where the water scoured the parking area. People are unaware although this was stated in the report, that if you remove the parking area you will lose the coastal road. If you lose the coastal road you will never get it back again with the environmental legislation being what it is today. When the water scours the parking area it takes out the lighter bricks and it ends up on Grotto Beach according to Jean de Villiers. Grotto Beach is a blue flag beach so they do not want bricks there and thus one of the reasons for the municipality requesting an amendment. The option of coastal retreat will also be environmentally and aesthetically more pleasing. Council indicated that they will still leave some of the braai areas but they want to cut back a section of the area. The new option is to move the original line that was applied for back by 20 meters inland. The embankment will be sloped and stabilized with gravel. The intent is further to encourage the formation of a natural dune. There is a contractor that will remove the building rubble free of charge providing he can use the material. The Department requested that all the original registered interested and affected parties as well as the immediate neighbours be informed. The letters were distributed at the end of June 2018. The commenting period ended 30 July 2018. He only received 4 comments in that 30 day period. From the moment that he submits the application to DEA&DP he has 90 days within which he must submit the final amendment report. The amendment report has to go out to the interested and affected parties for a 30 day commenting period. If you do not register within the 30 day period the Act says you can disregard anyone who wants to register after that. He will be distributing the report within the next day or two to the registered interested and affected parties. The report must be submitted to DEA&DP by end of September 2018.

8. Date of Next Meeting: 23 Nov 2018

Acronyms:

AVM – Alien Vegetation Management

BAR – Basic Assessment Report in terms of the national Environmental Management Act Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014 – as amended)

BOTSOC – Hermanus Botanical Society

CPMG – Cliff Path Management Group

DEA&DP – Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning

EMS – OSM Environmental Management Section

FAB – Fernkloof Advisory Board

FNR – Fernkloof Nature Reserve

IMP – Integrated Management Plan

OSM – Overstrand Municipality

PAMP – Protected Area Management Plan

PPP – Public Participation Process