

**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, 22 FEBRUARY 2019 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], Tarron Dry (TD) [Biodiversity Conservation Manager: Overstrand Municipality], Glynis van Rooyen (GvR), Lee Burman (LB), Linda Griffiths (LG), Anthony van Hoogstraten (AvH), Kari Brice (KB) [Councillor], Grant Gillion (GG) [Law Enforcement: Overstrand Municipality]

Apologies: Nicolette Lloyd (NL), Muthama Muasya (MM), Heloise Fortune (HF) [Environmental Secretary: Overstrand Municipality], Andrae Marais (AM) [Cape Nature], Liezl de Villiers (LdV) [Environmental Manager: Overstrand Municipality]

Welcome: DH opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

AvH nominated Pat Miller for the position of Vice Chairperson on the board. The FAB fully supports this nomination. TD will take this matter further and discuss the FAB's nomination with EMS. If EMS also supports the nomination he will start the appointment process. TD mentioned that Jan Cilliers of the CPMG group was nominated to be the representative on the FAB, but he declined the nomination.

ACTION: TD to start the process of the recommended appointment of Pat Miller to the FAB. It was requested that the process should be dealt with as soon as possible so that if Pat Miller accepts the position, she will be able to attend the next meeting.

2. Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of the FAB held on 23 Nov 2018

HF

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes and Public Availability

The minutes were accepted by the FAB.

The minutes were made available to the public.

2.2 Comments from Council on the FAB Minutes dated 23 Nov 2018.

KB

No comments received.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Amendment of Bylaws relating to the FNR and the FAB/Re-declaration of the FNR:

TD/DH

TD noted that the FAB By-law amendments recommended by the working group (TD and DH) [these were explained in summary at the meeting] have been submitted to the municipal legal department for scrutiny. TD is still waiting on feedback from the legal department on the legal technical aspects and he will provide feedback at the next meeting.

The amendments in the main dealt with aligning the By-law with the requirements of the Provincial Ordinance as well as new background requirements for FAB members to ensure that individual board members have relevant experiential knowledge and/or professional expertise covering most elements of Fernkloof Nature Reserve management.

3.2 Provincial By-Pass Road

TD

DH reported that WCC had lodged a complaint that the EIA process was not dealt with professionally by SRK Consulting.

DEA&DP had also required many more investigations – should the proposal proceed.

DH noted that he read in a newspaper article where one of the Provincial Ministers was quoted to say that they are not in favour of the By-Pass Road.

KB reported that in a Meeting held on the previous Monday, Council stated that they do not support the By-Pass Road. AvH noted that the public should be informed about Council's decision as there is a group called "Hands Off Fernkloof" of about 15 000 people who had signed a petition against the By-Pass Road and who should know that Council is not supporting the By-Pass Road as well.

4. Administration

4.1 FNR Protected Areas Management Plan (PAMP)

TD reported that Liezl and Tamzyn are busy making the adjustments to the PAMP as were discussed at the two Special FAB meetings. The draft will be distributed again shortly. **LdV**

TD noted that he will put in a request for a company on tender to survey the entire FNR according to the proclamation. The boundaries will be marked out with permanent poles as described in the draft management plan. **TD**

DH noted that the draft PAMP will hopefully go out to PPP within the next month or so. He also mentioned that this time round, the FAB can say that they are happy with the process being followed with regard to the involvement of the FAB.

4.2 FNR Riparian Zone damage – River Maintenance Management Plan

TD reported that he did not make any progress on the Riparian zone River Maintenance Management Plan since the last meeting. **TD**

TD and the field rangers had a walk through the Mossel River. The Mossel River will be added to the control burn plan. Not all the trees will be removed. The trees that will not be removed will become part of an environmental education walk. The trees will be identified with signage indicating the type of tree and where they originate from etc. Currently, there is not a timeframe for the Mossel River project. **TD**

4.3 FNR 2018/19 Budget & Management Reports

TD reported as follows: **TD**

Firebreaks: The FNR firebreaks budget for this financial year has been spent. The bakkie sakkies & radios will be upgraded. A meeting with the Fire Department will be held to discuss prescribe burns and firebreaks. TD requested 1.2 million for firebreaks. These firebreaks will be on the edge of development. No more Firebreaks will be done in the reserve.

Invasive Alien Vegetation (IAV) Control: The IAV clearing tender for the 2018-2019 financial year for R200 000.00 has been submitted to SCM. It has to go through the tender process. TD requested R800 000.00 for the next financial year, but he cannot say that the request will be approved.

Maintenance of Unspecified Assets: This refers to maintenance of footpaths, boardwalks, etc. About R200 000.00 has been spent for maintenance work. Only R37 000.00 is left on the 2018/2019 budget. The field rangers will be requested to prioritise tasks required to ensure that the budget left is spent appropriately.

Overstrand Administration: TD noted that he requested that FNR be added as a 4th administration with regards to the budget to show exactly the total budget allocated/spent towards FNR.

4.4 World Heritage Expansion Motivation Compilation

MM had made this opportunity known at UCT. He registered the topic for consideration for prospective Honours students projects for 2019. Students make their choice by April 2019. **MM/DH**

5. Standing Items

5.1 Enforcement:

DH requested GG to follow up with Director Neville Michaels with regard to continuing with the FNR Security Forum Meetings that for the past year have not been held. DH noted that in the past the security meetings had often proceeded without the reserve manager being present. This must not happen again as the reserve manager is the key person and can facilitate & support many of the co-ordinated actions by the participating enforcement agencies assisting with pro-active patrols and law enforcement actions. **GG/TD**

GG noted that currently their manpower is very restricted but that apparently this will change, and their capacity will be increased over the next financial year. This will assist in normalising their operations to promote effective enforcement and pro-active patrols. Hopefully with more people on the ground some of them will be placed in Fernkloof. He will definitely report on this at the next FAB meeting. **GG**

TD noted that the field rangers are also Peace Officers and are authorised to issue fines. GG will speak to Johan du Toit to setup a session with the field rangers to inform them of how the fine system works and he will also provide them with copies of the bylaws as well as the fine lists. It is also important that TD be fully informed on this in order to effectively supervise the field rangers **GG/TD**

ACTION: GG to follow up with Director Neville Michaels with regards to the continuation of the FNR Security Forum Meetings.

TD Reported that the old fence at Kammabaai was removed and replaced with a 1.8m fence.

5.2 Hoy's Koppie

DH noted that he is concerned about the area since HPP will not be operating anymore. People are abusing the area as well as the cave. GG noted that some of HPP will be integrated with Protection Services. He will table the concerns of the FAB at their next meeting. **GG**

6. Ecological Management Issues

6.1.1 Baboon Virtual Fence / Baboon Electric Fence

TD/KB

TD reported that the Voëlklip electric fence will be moved down to the FNR boundary.

KB reported that the Municipality needs the mandate to continue with the virtual fence.

6.1.2 Burning of Coastal Corridors

TD

This item will be removed from the agenda.

6.1.3 Event Applications

TD

- TD received an application for a one-day film shoot on 8 March for an Audi advertisement at the view point on the eastern side of the towers. TD noted that he indicated that they must appoint an ECO. DH noted that the ECO must be briefed by TD.
- TD saw an event advertised on Facebook which will happen in August in the FNR gardens where wine will be sold; music will be played, etc. He contacted the organisers and they informed him that it was never a problem in the past. He asked them to reconsider as times have changed.
- TD noted that they still have problems with functions in the gardens where people park their vehicles where they are not supposed to, and this blocks emergency vehicles. GG noted that the area should be clearly demarcated with signage. If this happens, and people are still parking there illegally a traffic official can issue a fine.

6.2 Research

TD

6.2.1 Research Applications

TD reported that he received a research application from Stellenbosch University to collect samples of a specific plant. He received the Cape Nature permit as well. He will forward the information to the FAB.

6.3 Klein River Estuary Management**TD**

TD noted that he cannot report on this item as he is not on the forum but will in future check with Liezl if there is anything to report on.

6.4 Reports from Hermanus Botanical Society (BOTSOC)**LG**

LG had circulated the latest report to the FAB.

DH raised a few points from LG's report;

- Maintenance works are being done in FNR on boardwalks, paths, etc by Jim Sweet, Giorgio Lombardi and Frank Woodvine. TD requested that BotSoc informs him of maintenance work as a path was re-established that was purposely closed off due to flood damage and they will have to close the path again now.
- The Co-Management Agreement and Lease Agreement between BotSoc and OSM are being revisited and worked on.
- The LED Tourism Rangers have done an outstanding job but unfortunately 3 of them have resigned since they have found permanent positions elsewhere. BotSoc wrote a motivation to OSM to have the positions refilled.
- LG reported that last week Thursday the 3 persons in uniform were very loud and did not bother to approach the visitors. TD will look into this and will bring it under Dean's attention.
- BotSoc remains opposed to the construction of the Hermanus Astronomy Centre as well as the Hermanus By-Pass Road.
- LG reported that Pierre de Villiers presented a proposal at the last ward 3 meeting to establish an astronomy educational viewing centre at Gearing's Point.

6.5 Reports from Cliff Path Management Group (CPMG)

TD reported that he has asked the field rangers to step up with regards to the functions that the CPMG used to provide. EMS will take over all these functions with regards to, patrols, maintenance, signage, etc on the cliff path.

7. General**7.1 Dogs in FNR****TD**

TD noted that the field rangers are currently doing a blitz operation with regards to dog's on leads and people being in the reserve too late. Currently TD and the field rangers must still receive training on the issuing of fines but will be issuing warnings.

The Botanical Society will send a formal request with regards to the dogs in FNR.

7.2 Stanford Trunk Road**LdV**

DH reported that last week Liezl de Villiers was on her way from Stanford and noticed bulldozers working on the FNR boundaries next to the R43. She then contacted the FAB Chairperson, Cape Nature & DEA&DP to inform them the contractors were starting to shave part of the road new road reserve into across FNR boundaries. The Engineer apparently said that it was just a small piece of the reserve it does not matter.

DH responded that it does matter as it is proclaimed nature reserve and that only the relevant Western Cape Minister (MEC) may authorise the deproclamation of a nationally registered local authority nature reserve in terms of NEMPAA. At this stage the work has been stopped.

DH noted that hopefully the proper process will be followed on continuation of the project.

7.3 Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)

DH undertook to facilitate a METT exercise at the FAB next meeting to determine the effectivity of management of the FNR. He noted that EMS officials and the members of the FAB will participate. It is a 30-question interactive discussion exercise and should take about an hour to complete.

8. Date of Next Meeting: 24 May 2019.

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
EA – Environmental Authorisation
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment
ECO – Environmental Control Officer
EMS – OSM Environmental Management Section
FAB – Fernkloof Advisory Board
FNR – Fernkloof Nature Reserve
IMP – Integrated Management Plan
IAV – Invasive Alien Vegetation
MFMA – Municipal Financial Management Act
NEMA – National Environmental Management Act
NEMPAA – National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act
OSM – Overstrand Municipality
PAMP – Protected Area Management Plan
PPP – Public Participation Process
SCM – OSM Supply Chain Management
WCC – Whale Coast Conservation
