

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
FERNKLOOF NATURE RESERVE (FNR) ADVISORY BOARD (FAB)
HELD AT THE ELECTRICAL BOARDROOM
(TOP END MOLTEÑO ROAD – BELOW R43)
ONRUS RIVER, HERMANUS
ON FRIDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 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], Nicolette Lloyd (NL), Liezl de Villiers (LdV) [Environmental Manager: Overstrand Municipality], Anthony van Hoogstraten (AvH), Heloise Fortune (HF) [Secretary: Environmental Management Section], Bongani Sithole (BS) [Cape Nature], Johan Burger (JB) [Cape Nature]

Apologies: Muthama Muasya (MM), Andrae Marais (AM) [Cape Nature], Frank Woodvine (FW) [CPMG], Glynis van Rooyen (GvR), Kari Brice (KB) [Councillor], Lee Burman (LB)

No Apology: Grant Gillion (GG) [Law Enforcement: Overstrand Municipality]

Welcome: DH opened the meeting and welcomed all present. DH welcomed Johan Burger from Cape Nature who is replacing Tierck Hoekstra as the Landscape Manager. DH also welcomed Bongani Sithole from Cape Nature who will be replacing Andrae Marais as the Cape Nature representative on the FAB.

DH informed all that Linda Griffiths had decided to resign due to her health after serving approximately 18 years on the FAB. On behalf of the FAB, he thanked her for her enthusiastic interest and passion in ensuring that the Municipal reserve functions properly. She did a much of work on behalf of the Hermanus Botanical Society and in her own capacity such as inspecting and reporting hot spots for vandalism, litter, and vagrants, especially at Hoys Koppie. She had gone the extra mile many times. She also represented both FAB and BOTSOC at Ward 3 meetings. The Fernkloof Nature Reserve Advisory Board sincerely thanks her for her long years of service on the Board and wishes her well in her future endeavours.

2. Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of the FAB held on 23 AUG 2019 **HF**

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes and Public Availability

The minutes were made available to the public.

2.2 Comments from Council on the FAB Minutes dated 23 AUG 2019 **KB**

Stand over for feedback at the next meeting.

3. Matters Arising

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

DH noted that the FAB bylaw must align with the Ordinance as the Ordinance is the superior piece of legislation.

LdV noted that she would like to request to keep the *status quo* until the PAMP has been finalised and then follow the NEM: PAA process of advisory committees. The new bylaw should then be then drafted to align with that process.

DH noted that in the meantime and in terms of the of the Ordinance, the FAB composition as it has been implemented over the last 10 years be accepted and maintained.

3.2 Provincial By-Pass Road **TD**

Status quo remains. Nothing to report will keep on the agenda until written feedback has been received.

4. Administration

4.1 FNR Protected Areas Management Plan (PAMP)

TD

LdV reported that she received over 60 comments mostly about development. Tamzyn Zweig the Environmental Officer will be assisting with compiling the feedback comment/response table.

TD & DH agreed that they will meet the first week in December 2019 to work on the PAMP maps.

EMS will wrap up by end March 2020.

DH noted that with regarding the transformed zone at the entrance of FNR, the Botanical Society who is a partner in the reserve is wishing to spread their its wings and require more space, but currently OSM also requires more space for offices and storage as they increase the reserve staff component. LdV noted that internal discussions are occurring around this but unfortunately, she cannot put anything on the table as yet.

4.2 FNR Riparian Zone Damage

TD

TD requested a site visit with DEA&DP because the area has largely rehabilitated itself. TD will send BS an email for his assistance with this matter.

AvH noted that BOTSOC has encroached at the nursery. TD to do a follow up on the area that BOTSOC encroached to rehabilitate the area.

4.3 FNR 2019/20 Budget & Management Reports

TD

It was suggested that TD should look at NRM projects for alien clearing and give feedback to FAB in paragraph form. TD to speak to Japie Buckle from the National Dept.

The AVM team of 6 people appointed through the EPWP process is currently working in the Vermont Greenbelts and they will then move to FNR next.

4.4 World Heritage Expansion Motivation Compilation/ BOTSOC lease area – Cultural Heritage Site

DH

Nothing to report.

5. Standing Items

5.1 Enforcement:

TD/GG

DH suggested that Cape Nature and Field Rangers do patrols together in FNR. A workshop must be held between Cape Nature and Overstrand Municipality officials with regards to enforcement. A SOP must also be drafted.

DH & AVH will attend the workshop on behalf of FAB.

JB will facilitate the workshop.

5.2 Hoy's Koppie

TD/GG

TD reported that Law Enforcement and Field Rangers do regular blitz operations at Hoys Koppie and that the vagrants were removed. It was reported that Linda Griffiths saw vagrants the day before at Hoys Koppie.

TD reported that he is still trying to get the FNR Safety Forum up and running again.

TD will also speak to GG with regards to his attendance of FAB meetings.

6. Ecological Management Issues

6.1.1 Baboon Virtual Fence / Baboon Electric Fence

TD/KB

TD reported that Human Wildlife Solutions was appointed as the service providers to deal with baboon management with a budget of R2.6million.

6.1.2 Event Applications

TD

TD reported that he received an application for a film shoot in the FNR gardens. He still awaiting feedback from the applicant.

The only other application is from the Walker Bay Radio Flyer's for their 2day annual event.

TD reiterated that valid factual reasons must be given when commenting on an event.

- 6.2 Research** **TD**
- 6.2.1 Research Applications**
TD reported that he receives the applications, but that many of the the researchers never revert to him or follow up on their applications
- 6.3 Klein River Estuary Management** **TD**
The mouth is still closed. Nothing further to report.
- 6.4 Reports from Hermanus Botanical Society (BOTSOC)** **LG**
Nothing to report.
- 6.5 Reports from Cliff Path Management Group (CPMG)** **FW**
Nothing to report.
- 7. General**
- 7.1 Dogs in FNR** **TD**
DH suggested that people who want to walk their dogs on the dog paths should receive a permit and if they are found with their dogs off the leash the permit should be revoked. He requested everyone to think about the suggestion as a measure.
- 7.2 Stanford Trunk Road** **TD**
This point will be removed from the agenda.
- 7.3 METT (Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool)** **DH**
DH noted the exercise will be done next year when all members are in attendance. TD suggested that the exercise must be done when the reserve manager is appointed.
- 7.4 Hermanus High School – XCO MTB** **TD**
DH reported that he attended a site meeting with the Cycling club, TD and Hanneen van der Stoep from Town Planning. The cyclists noted that they can assist with alien vegetation removal through the schools eco club. The draft Plan currently does not allocate the area as a cycle trail. He noted that this is a situation that can be beneficial for the reserve as you can get the school and the sportsgrounds becoming custodians of the reserve on the other hand what concerns him is that it can very easily become a free for all.
TD requested that another meeting be held with himself, DH and Hanneen van der Stoep but before the meeting can take place he must complete the mapping of the area. After the meeting a presentation can be made to the board.
- 7.5 Cutting out of Searsia bush in the FNR coastal thicket habitat** **DH**
This point will be removed from the agenda. A statement has been made by FAB.
- 7.6 BOTSOC Lease** **DH**
AvH noted that Botsoc’s lease will expire in June 2020, they applied for a 45 year lease and has not received any feedback from the Municipality yet. He feels that the application should be dealt with as a matter of urgency. TD noted for the record that he does not work with lease agreements it falls under Property Administration. DH suggested that this point be kept on the agenda for feedback at the next meeting.
- 8. Date of Next Meeting:** DH will propose meeting dates for 2020 in January.

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

EPWP – Expanded Public Works Programme

FAB – Fernkloof Advisory Board

FNR – Fernkloof Nature Reserve

IMP – Integrated Management Plan

IAV – Invasive Alien Vegetation

MFMA – Municipal Financial Management Act

MTB – Mountain Biking

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

SOP – Standard Operating Procedure

WCC – Whale Coast Conservation