

**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, 23 NOVEMBER 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], Tarron Dry (TD) [Biodiversity Conservation Manager: Overstrand Municipality], Glynis van Rooyen (GvR), Lee Burman (LB), Heloise Fortune (HF) [Environmental Secretary: Overstrand Municipality], Andrae Marais (AM) [Cape Nature], Linda Griffiths (LG), Liezl de Villiers (LdV) [Environmental Manager: Overstrand Municipality], Anthony van Hoogstraten (AvH), Kari Brice (KB) [Councillor]

Apologies: Nicolette Lloyd (NL), Muthama Muasya (MM)

No Apologies: [Law Enforcement: Overstrand Municipality]

Welcome: DH opened the meeting and welcomed all present. DH paid tribute to David Beattie by giving some background on his life and the contributions he made to FAB, the FNR and Hermanus. A moment of silence was held.

DH noted that the FAB term of office for AVH, LG, LBN and GvR will come to an end in Jan 2019. They all agreed to serve again. Their letters of re-appointment will be requested. HF

Some suggestions were made regarding new appointments to FAB. EMS and Council will consider these and provide feedback. LdV

2. Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of the FAB held on 24 Aug 2018. HF

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes and Public Availability

The minutes were accepted by FAB.

The minutes were made available to the public.

2.2 Comments from Council on FAB Minutes dated 24 Aug 2018. KB

No comments received.

3. Matters Arising

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

DH and TD will meet on 12/12/2018 to discuss this point.

3.2 Provincial By-Pass Road TD

TD reported that the status quo remains. The consultants are currently looking at biodiversity-offsets.

4. Administration

4.1 FNR Protected Areas Management Plan (PAMP)

A hard copy of the FNR PAMP will be printed for the board members and can be collected at the Environmental Offices. The board will be able to work through the plan and provide their comments at the special meeting.

The special FAB meeting will be held on 16 January 2018 to discuss the FNR PAMP.

4.2 FNR Riparian Zone damage – River Maintenance Management Plan TD

TD reported that the Riparian Zone and the Mossel River both require river maintenance management plans.

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

4.3 FNR 2018/19 Budget & Management Reports

TD

TD reported that;

Hiking Trails: TD had instructed the field rangers to assist with the light maintenance of the hiking trails during patrols. They will *inter alia* undertake basic lopper maintenance during patrols. Trail maintenance material will be purchased in bulk, so that for instance where a boardwalk plank has broken, they will be able to fix it on the next trail patrol. An ongoing hiking trail patrol roster will be implemented.

Firebreaks: The FNR firebreaks budget for this financial year has been spent.

Invasive Alien Vegetation (IAV) Control: All the alien clearing contracts were loaded but SCM could not process the orders as a practical and suitable formal quotation process for all IAV clearing in the Overstrand must still be agreed upon. TD is currently busy with a 3-year IAV clearing vegetation management tender process.

ACTION: DH will provide a supporting statement on behalf of FAB to EMS with regards to the Alien Clearing Tender.

DH

ACTION: DH noted that EMS must consider the fire risk liability of the pine trees on the FNR border. It is critical to determine whether they are on municipal ground or not and what the management plan states regarding IAV on the boundary or the adjacent buffer area.

LdV

FNR Workshop: LdV reported that she requested R2.1 million on the capital budget for the FNR workshop which will include a PPE store and herbicide store.

ACTION: LDV to email the buildings plans for the FNR workshop to FAB.

LdV

4.3 World Heritage Expansion Motivation Compilation

MM has made this opportunity known at UCT. It is hoped that there will be applications by students who would like to undertake this as a student project.

DH

5. Standing Items

5.1 **Enforcement:** DH noted that the official from law enforcement mandated to attend FAB meetings should add value to the meeting by being able to provide statistics pertaining to the reserve.

DH noted that with regards to the fire in FNR during the protests; the camera operators should be instructed to look out for perpetrators in the reserve so that they can be prosecuted in future. TD reported that he did speak to Angelo Aplon about this and he informed him that they do not prosecute veld fires as arson. DH noted that people should be prosecuted under NEMPAA, the Ordinance and the relevant by-laws when undertaking illegal activities in the reserve.

ACTION: TD to follow up again on law enforcement attendance of FAB meetings.

TD

ACTION: With regards to the access gate on Rotary Drive security issue: DH to draft letter for Hamilton Russell Vineyards in support of the deproclamation of Public Road (Rotary Drive) which traverses FNR and their properties.

DH

5.2 Encroachments

TD is currently busy with an encroachment case in Voelklip at 169, 11th Street. He will be setting up a meeting with the owner to rehabilitate the area at his own expense.

DH suggested that a spreadsheet should be created of all the encroachments which can be used to follow up or to prosecute the perpetrators.

ACTION: TD to get a list of all the legal encroachments from Property Administration where municipal action has already been taken.

TD

5.2 Hoy's Koppie

5.2.1 Extension of Hoy's Koppie

TD reported that the northern extension area will remain as transformed open space with a wooden post-n-rail fence. This point can now be removed from the FAB Agenda.

6. Ecological Issues

6.1 Baboon Virtual Fence / Baboon Electric Fence

LdV reported that it has been stated in the draft management plan that the Voëlklip electric fence will be moved down to the FNR boundary. The exact positioning of the fence must still be decided on. **TD**

She further noted that a letter from Minister Bredell was received stating that an implementation plan must be drafted between DEA&DP and OSM to deal with the baboons, but until the function of baboon management is given to the Municipality, they will not be able to budget for it in accordance with the MFMA. She noted that the virtual fence has a success rate of 99.8 % in Gordons Bay for the past 2 years. Concern was however expressed by FAB at the huge annual cost of baboon control in past years which consistently exceeded FNR operational costs. **KB**

6.2 Burning of Coastal Corridors

TD

The FAB recommendation to Council on the burning of coastal corridors was articulated in the Minutes two meetings ago – there had been no counter argument to this. The principle of this recommendation, which was also supported by the UCT botanical academics, should therefore also be included in the draft management plan.

6.3 Event Applications

TD

- TD received an application to use the tower up **Rotary Drive for paragliding**. He will distribute to FAB once the formal application has been received.
- He also received an application from a company to put **towers up in the reserve**. He will distribute to FAB once the formal application has been received.
- LdV commented that in 2015 there was a memorandum of intent signed between OSM and HPP to put up **security cameras** in the reserve which includes the top and coastal section of the reserve. She had received an application for the cameras to go up but informed them that the management authority and FAB had to be consulted before they can go ahead. She still requires certain annexures to the memorandum of intent. Once she has received the complete document, she will forward it to FAB.
With regards to the damage done by HPP while setting up the camera on the top section of the reserve. She will be writing a letter to HPP stating their infringements and requesting the rehabilitation of the area. It appears as if this matter will have to be reported to DEA&DP in terms of the NEMA EIA regulations.
FAB wants to know if the security cameras in FNR are looking at the reserve as well or are they only facing the streets.
- TD reported that before Cape Epic can launch their trail, they will have to undertake a basic assessment in terms of the NEMA EIA regulations which will have to go through a Public Participation Process. He noted that DEA&DP are aware of the Cape Epic proposal.

6.2 Research

TD

6.2.1 Research Applications

TD reported that he received two applications but requested them to first receive their permits from Cape Nature before he can authorise it.

DH noted that it is important for research reports submit annual progress reports as well as a copy of their final research report to EMS.

6.3 Klein River Estuary Management

TD

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

6.4 Reports from Hermanus Botanical Society (BOTSOC)

LG

LG circulated the report to FAB.

FAB congratulated Lee Burman and Dianne Marais on receiving their environmental awards.

TD requested that BOTSOC should please adhere to the agreed closing times for private functions.

6.5 Reports from Cliff Path Management Group (CPMG)

There is nothing to report.

7. General**7.1 Dogs in FNR**

TD

It was agreed that this point should stand over till after the draft FNR PAMP has been finalised.

7.2 Trail Maintenance

TD

Discussed under 4.2.

7.3 Public Participation

AvH

Point will stand over till the next meeting.

7.4 De Mond Development

KB reported that two meetings have been held where Riaan Kuchar has spoken on the De Mond Development. The area is zoned for camping. The Pohl Group is not currently ready to implement camping at this stage. It will probably only happen in January 2019. They cannot continue without adhering to the requisites from the Municipality. They could not get everything in place for the camping to continue in December 2018 as planned. Any other developments like a hotel or conference centre will require a rezoning of the land and will have to go out for public participation. With regards to the De Vette Mossel restaurant they also have to comply with stipulations from EMS, Town Planning and Fire departments.

AvH noted that the Mayor undertook at the meeting regarding the De Mond Development 3 weeks ago to provide a response to whether the lease of the property should have been discussed with FAB first. To date he has not received any response from the Mayor yet.

Final proposals still have to be submitted and no development can take place until the EIA has been completed and EA has been received. FAB will be able to comment in future on the proposals.

7.5 Stanford Trunk Road

LBN noted that work on the trunk road will probably start sometime next year and wanted to know how much of the reserve will be affected.

ACTION: LdV requested that Penelope Aplon provide FAB with the exact status in a short email.

8. Date of Next Meeting: 22 February 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

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