

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
FERNKLOOF NATURE RESERVE (FNR) ADVISORY BOARD (FAB)
HELD AT TOWN PLANNING BOARDROOM, HERMANUS
ON FRIDAY, 25 MAY 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], Anthony van Hoogstraten (AvH), Kari Brice (KB) [Councillor], Nicolette Lloyd (NL), Muthama Muasya (MM), Penelope Aplon (PA) [Environmental Officer: Overstrand Municipality]

Apologies: Glynis van Rooyen (GvR), Linda Griffiths (LG), Liezl de Villiers (LdV) [Environmental Manager: Overstrand Municipality], Heloise Fortune (HF) [Environmental Secretary: Overstrand Municipality], Lee Burman (LB)

No Apologies: Edward Fisher (EF) [Law Enforcement: Overstrand Municipality], Andrae Marais (AM) [Cape Nature]

Welcome: DH opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He extended a special welcome to Nicolette Lloyd who was appointed in the cultural heritage position on the Fernkloof Advisory Board.

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

H.F

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes and Public Availability

MM suggested that since the minutes are public record the words should be spelled out fully first thereafter the acronyms can be used. DB suggested that a list with all the acronyms should become standard with the minutes. This was supported by the board.

DH referred to point 4.1 in the minutes. He commented that LBN had a problem with the way 4.1 was recorded in the minutes. Since there was an intimation that HF did not minute properly he wanted to state for the record that he takes full responsibility because the Minutes as it passes his scrutiny. He is of the opinion that HF does record the Minutes very well and that before the Minutes are released it is scrutinised by himself, TD and LDV. He has the opportunity to comment beforehand and if he missed something he apologises.

2.2 Comments from Council on FAB Minutes dated 23 Feb 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

DH noted that he, TD and KB were supposed to meet on this point but they did not get around to it yet.

ACTION: TD to set up a meeting to finalize the by-laws. DH requested that PA should also attend the meeting.



3.2 Provincial By-Pass Road

T.D

DH commented that the BAR for the By-Pass Road has been rejected by DEA&DP. They have specified a number of items that needs to be improved in the report. SRK Consulting communicated that they are still talking to the Provincial Roads Department and as soon as they have decided on the way forward they will inform all the stakeholders.

AVH noted that the document (letter that indicated why the BAR was rejected) that was sent to SRK Consulting from DEA&DP was not made available to the public.

ACTION: PA to follow up with DEA&DP with regards to the letter that AVH is referring to.

4. Administration

4.1 FNR Integrated Management Plan (IMP) deliberation

DH gave feedback to the board on behalf of LDV. She updated him on the progress of the IMP via email. He read the email to the board.

"Update from my side regarding the IMP.

I received the full comments from CapeNature, which was very late, only received it a few weeks ago. Apparently they did send it but it got lost in between the IT lines? Be that as it may...

There was quite a lot of changes made by them and they also referred me to the CapeNature Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) format that they would require the IMP to be in. This changes the game a bit. I've also had a meeting with Garth Mortimer and Rhett Smart about the PAMP format and what it is that they require. I've started revising the plan according to this but it is taking up a lot of my time. I will have to set aside a week again so that I can get more work done on it. I wanted to let you know that I am working on it and taking the comments in consideration but I am far from finished. I'm hoping to have a rough draft of the changes by the end of June. I am trying my best and do respect the importance of the job I have to do."

DH responded to her email and informed her that he is very perturbed about the Cape Nature input because he has undertaken public participation for CapeNature - plans about 4 or 5 of them. He finds their PAMPs to be unnecessarily cumbersome and not user-friendly. Some public comment that he had seen had concurred on this point. Academically one could not floor their format, but it is not a user-friendly document.

ACTION: DH proposed that he must find time to sit with TD and LDV to discuss the PAMP format and to engage with Cape Nature as well as it will put a huge amount of work on LDV to change from one format to another. The current format is workable and user friendly.

MM commented that if the Cape Nature format should be used the OSM should get extra resources in place to assist with the IMP. A timeline should also be provided for the completion of the IMP.

AVH feels that 14 days is unreasonable for FAB to look at the new draft IMP to provide comments. He also wanted to know if another PPP will be followed with the new draft IMP.

AVH commented that it must be noted that there was a petition of 13 000 signatures that objected to the 2017 IMP.

Date of meeting – 25 May 2018

FAB Recommendation to Council – 2018 (1):

- 1) When the draft plan is completed the board should be given reasonable time to review the plan. Should the final draft differ greatly from the previous plan more than 14 days will be needed to review the plan.
- 2) The next version will differ from the previous plan and therefore should go through a PPP.

4.1.1 Hermanus Astronomy Centre

T.D

Remove point from the agenda until something can be reported.

4.1.2 Cableway

DH will not be the consultant for this process and he has nothing new to report.

Remove point from agenda until something can be reported.

4.1.3 Damage done to Riparian Zone at entrance

T.D

TD reported that this process will stand over till the 2018/2019 budget to draw up the rehabilitation plans. He noted that the erosion on the Mossel River also requires attention (maintenance management plan).

4.2 FNR 2017/18 Budget

T.D

TD reported that the allocated budget was spent. LDV and the rangers did a good job.

The planning for the AVM Plan is underway. It will be a 5-year plan with a 3-year tender.

ACTION: TD to provide FAB with a copy of the 2018/2019 budget pertaining to FNR.

4.3 FNR Management Reports

T.D

TD reported that EMS is currently renting a container for storage. The container has been placed at FNR behind the Field Ranger's office.

DH asked for feedback on the path to the toilets that needed attention. TD reported that BotSoc will maintain that path.

TD reported that BotSoc will be doing maintenance on the paths. EMS has supplied the material.

The municipality will install grass blocks to a section of the road in the garden. After completion it will be handed over to BotSoc for maintenance.

4.4 World Heritage Expansion

D.H

DH reported that there is currently no one available to compile the application.

DB asked if this could not be achieved as a thesis for someone studying in this field.

ACTION: MM will go back to the University to discuss this with his colleagues in conservation to find out if a student project cannot be done. He will provide feedback to FAB.

DH suggested that a team should be compiled to run with the project. Allocate various sections to different people.

AVH commented that Pat Miller can also be approached.

5. Standing Items

5.1 Enforcement

T.D

TD reported that it is still part of his long term planning to get the security forum up and running again.

ACTION: TD to find out who the law enforcement representative is for FAB.

5.1.1 Encroachments

DB commented that the GPS coordinates of every encroachment on the reserve with the description of the type of offence is needed.

TD reported that the rangers has done mapping and he is working with Property Administration to police the encroachments.

ACTION: TD & DB should meet and share information on what they have regarding encroachments.

5.2 Hoy's Koppie

5.2.1 Extension of Hoy's Koppie

TD reported that the reserve boundary is currently described as an unconventional point-point description which makes it difficult to identify the boundary.

DB commented that soil has been dumped at Hoy's Koppie and the reason for this is unknown. TD indicated that it has been stopped.

DB still proposes that the proposed extended section of the site be used as a dog park.

ACTION: TD to arrange for the soil to be removed as soon as possible.

ACTION: AVH suggested that TD speak to Spronk regarding the reserve boundaries.

6. Ecological Issues

K.B

6.1.1 Baboon Virtual Fence / Baboon Electric Fence

TD reported that all the technology for the virtual fence is available but is currently not operational. No people on the ground to put out the boxes, etc. He also reported that a new group approached the Municipality regarding drow technology and shock device on the collar.

AVH commented that new roads are created to reach the relay stations and this is unacceptable.

AVH noted that the movement of the actual fence must first be discussed with FAB. The placement of the fence was never discussed with FAB. The movement of the fence must be cost effective.

ACTION: A presentation must be done to FAB on moving the fence (cost, placement, etc). Justification must be given on reasons for the move.

6.1.2 Burning of Coastal Corridors

T.D

MM reported that the Cowling Report is still relevant today with regards to coastal burns.

Date of meeting – 25 May 2018

FAB Recommendation to Council – 2018 (2):

Burning along the coast must be scientifically well motivated. Current coastal thicket adds another habitat to the reserve. Management must clearly spell out what objectives they want to achieve with coastal burns and how it relates to the Management Plan objectives – bearing in mind the coastal thicket is not a fire hazard.

6.1.3 Event Applications

T.D

TD gave a description of the type of event applications that are received.

Big events - Wines to Whales (3000 cyclists that want to use a track in FNR)

Big events - Walkerbay Extreme (Trail run of about 300 people)

Informal events – weddings, parties, etc in the garden.

TD wants to discuss the events in the reserve whether big or small. What should be allowed and what should not be allowed. Should a conservation fee be charged for events? How will the funding be managed?

AVH commented that firstly it must be decided if this scale of event of 3000 bicycles should be allowed in the reserve. He is not in favour of it. The reserve is not a place for bicycles and the impact is potentially high.

DB commented that these events are all commercial ventures where they make big money and the reserve gets nothing.

DH commented that the main consideration when approving must be whether there is sufficient capacity to monitor the event and its impact effectively.

MM commented that if an event requires rehabilitation afterwards it should not be permitted.

- 1) Where normal use of a path will be disrupted significantly by an event – RED FLAG
- 2) If the path or facility is likely to have be rehabilitated after use – RED FLAG
- 3) If the Reserve Manager is of the opinion the site will be impacted/eroded - RED FLAG
- 4) If the purpose of application conflicts with the original objectives of the FNR area – RED FLAG
- 5) If EMS does not have the capacity to monitor/control the event – RED FLAG
- 6) If the event is likely to grow from the original application – RED FLAG

ACTION: TD to have a meeting with BotSoc and FAB regarding the use of the gardens and hall for functions.

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

Nothing to report.

6.4 Reports from Hermanus Botanical Society (BOTSOC)

L.G

LG apologised for the absence of the report, she lost it on her computer.

AVH reported that BotSoc started with alien vegetation clearing.

ACTION: AVH will send the alien clearing map to TD or they can sit with the hard copy to mark off the areas that they will be clearing.

AVH referred to pine trees above Hermanus Heights he suggested that they should be felled. TD noted that the trees will be felled.

6.5 Reports from Cliff Path Management Group (CPMG)

D.B

DB submitted his report to FAB. He reported that 4 new whale information signs have been delivered. They will replace the graffiti ones.

7. General

7.1 Dogs in FNR

T.D

This point will be discussed at the next FAB meeting.

7.2 Trail Maintenance

T.D

ACTION: DH to send information on trail maintenance to TD.

TD reported that Giorgio is currently assisting with path maintenance. BotSoc will pay for the labour and EMS will buy the material.

7.3 Event Fees

T.D

FAB recommended that in the future if fees are charged for events on the reserve it should be received in BotSoc's account and the fees should be allocated to labour costs for maintenance of paths, etc.

8. Date of Next Meetings:

24 Aug

23 Nov

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