

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING FERNKLOOF ADVISORY BOARD

Date: 19 February 2025

Time: 13:00-14:00

Venue: Environmental Boardroom, Onrus

Attendance:

No.	NAME	ORGANISATION	EMAIL/PHONE
1.	Mr. Duncan Heard (DH)	Chairperson	duncanheard@telkomsa.net
2.	Prof. Muthama Muasya (Prof. MM)	Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cape Town	muthama.muasya@uct.ac.za
3.	Dr. Pat Miller (PM)	Whale Coast Conservation	pat.miller7@outlook.com
4.	Dr. Tony Gardiner (TG)	Vice-Chairperson	tgardiner54@gmail.com
5.	Mr. Allistair Pieterse (AP)	Conservation Manager: Overberg Off Reserve (Cape Nature)	apietersen@capenature.co.za
6.	Mr. Andre Marais (AM)	Conservation Manager: Walker Bay NR (Cape Nature)	amarais@capenature.co.za
7.	Liezl de Villiers	Divisional Manager: EM&C (Overstrand Municipality)	ldevilliers@overstrand.gov.za
8.	Chester Arendse	Reserve Manager (Overstrand Municipality)	carendse@overstrand.gov.za
9.	Mr. Gift Sandi (GS)	Secretariat (Overstrand Municipality)	enviroadmin@overstrand.gov.za

No.	Item	Discussion
1.	Opening and welcome	The Chairperson Mr. D. Heard (DH) and Chairperson, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance in person and online.
2.	Apologies	Member of Mayoral Committee (MMC): Cllr. Lerm. Ms. Liezl de Villiers (LdV) explained to the Board the status of MMC Lerm and that he will not be attending future Board meetings, and the Board shall wait from the Mayor's Office to determine who will attend future Board meetings.

		The Board accepted the feedback and will await to hear from the Mayor's Office for the next delegated official to attend FAB meetings.
3.	Minutes of the Previous meetings	<p>3.1. Approval of Minutes</p> <p>The chairperson led the minutes of the 7th of November 2024 and that of 30 January 2025, he also explained why there is two sets of minutes to approve to this meeting. This was due to an apology submitted by LdV to the meeting of the 30th and minutes could not be approved for the meeting of the 7th of November. However, the meeting went on to discuss Any Other Matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of the 7th approved by Dr Pat Miller (PM), seconded by Dr Tony Gardiner (TG). • Minutes of the 30th approved by Dr Pat Miller (PM, seconded by Prof. Muthama (Prof. MM). <p>The Chairperson emphasized that it is good to have minutes, but it is more important to have them on the Municipal website for public access. The Board agreed on this view and minutes are to be made available. https://www.overstrand.gov.za/document/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/others/</p> <p>3.2. Matters Arising from Minutes</p> <p>Matters have been noted as part of the agenda of the day and also, reflected as action items to be dealt with.</p>
4.	Environmental Proposal Gateway Reservoir	<p>The chairperson led the topic and explained the proposal to the Board in full. He started by first detailing the current condition of the area, the day to day operations of the area and past developments that had been proposed for the area. The major concerns were that the proposal is not part of Protected Areas Management Plan (PAMP), the proposal may not be sustained, thus posing a potential further maintenance burden on the reserve, the reserve should be untouched to preserve the natural beauty of the area and human interference is minimised.</p> <p>Members of the Board had agreed, and the Board took a decision not to support the proposal. This is the recommendation from the Fernkloof Advisory Board to Council.</p>

		Management (LdV) of the Fernkloof Nature Reserve agreed with the Board and recommendations, as such once minutes are approved then they will be made public and then submit a Council item.
5.	Divisional Report	<p>5.1. Budget:</p> <p>LdV provided an overview of the budget allocations for various operational keys, noting that the environmental department has R13 million available. Significant expenses include R 6.9 million for the Project Management BMP and a request for additional funds for the Mosul River Bridge project, which is critical due to structural concerns. The discussion also touched on the hiring of safety monitors and the overall spending on infrastructure and maintenance.</p> <p>The expressed concerns with the total amount given to Baboon Management which would do a lot of difference if it were allocate to Fernkloof. PM supported by TG and the Chairperson request that the budget be summarized in a one page document to make it easier to present and understand. Other than that the board accepted the budget presentation.</p> <p>5.2. PAMP:</p> <p>LdV presented the current status of the PAMP that it has been signed by both the Chairperson and LdV and it needs to do its round through administration, Council, Cape Nature and Province. Furthermore, attach maps to the PAMP as a final document.</p> <p>LdV further addressed concerns about development projects near the reserve, highlighting the need for corrections to a map and the importance of maintaining appropriate boundaries. Adding that Penelope is managing the correspondence and that she would follow up with her for updates. Also, emphasized the necessity of ensuring that any development aligns with the reserve's ecological principles.</p>
6.	Fernkloof Stream	PM presented that the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency was not happy with the Fernkloof stream and they are to issue a directive after an investigation was done. The point was noted and CA is to follow up with Penelope Aplon with regards the status of the stream but the Division is aware of the challenges of the stream and is working towards to resolve it.
7.	17th Ave Voelklip development	LdV reported that the Developers have been informed to do an erratum with their mapping as their documents includes part of Fernkloof and which is a wrong publication for public commentary. The Board expressed great

		<p>concerns with such publication from the developers which in not correct. The board discussed the matter in full and the EMC is to express their stance towards the Development and the Board will support the decision made by Management. Cape Nature also stated that they have made their comments and they do not support the application, Andre Marais(AM) reported.</p> <p>The Chairperson explained the importance of submitting the FAB recommendations to Council and that Council should take such recommendations seriously.</p>
8.	Next meetings	<p>The Chairperson made a suggestion that the next meeting be an in-person meeting for all members to meet and mingle rather have it on teams. The suggested dates were week of the 17th – 28th March 2025.</p> <p>Resolved meeting dates: 17 March 2025 30 July 2025</p>
	Meeting Adjourned	13h30

Action Items	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Mapping for Fernkloof Nature Reserve regarding wildfires and disaster	PM and EMC	Ongoing
Presentation to Council/ MAYCO Needs of the Reserve	Liezl and FAB	Ongoing
MMC to request a slot for the Board to present	CL	Ongoing
Public Day Once a Year, presentation on Fernkloof at the auditorium with the general public getting informed about the activities of Fernkloof in a particular year, with all stakeholders.	Liezl and FAB	Ongoing
Invite the Mayor, MAYCO and Council to fynbos walk to Fernkloof.		Ongoing
Cape Nature and Environmental Management with Di to organize the cleanup and educational activities. 18/03/2025	PM/Gift	17 March 2025

Possible encroachment in Fernkloof Reserve	Chester/Liezl	17 March 2025
Share point for Board members to gain access to share documents and comment.	Gift	17 March 2025
EMOZ Buffer Zone Error 404	Gift	17 March 2025
Invite Rhett Smart Landuse Specialist from Cape Nature, to have input on the matter of encroachment to the Reserve.	Allister	17 March 2025
Minutes to be sent within 5 working days after the meeting	Gift	Ongoing
Feedback Fernkloof Stream Projects, confirmation with Penelope	Chester/Liezl	17 March 2025
17 th Ave Development Application/Maps erratum	Chester/Liezl	17 March 2025

RESOLUTIONS FROM FAB TO COUNCIL	
1. Gateway Reservoir Proposal	The Board has recommended that the Gate Way Proposal be not supported, due to the inclusion of the Proposal to the PAMP, additional maintenance burden to the management of the Reserve, which is already struggling, clear sustainability plan for the development and that and that the reserve should be untouched, preserve the natural beauty of the area and minimize human interference.
2.	