

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FERNKLOOF NATURE RESERVE (FNR)  
ADVISORY BOARD (FAB) HELD AT ONRUS RIVER BOARDROOM, HERMANUS  
ON FRIDAY, 23 AUGUST 2013 at 09:00**

## **1. Welcome, Attendance and Apologies**

**Present:** Duncan Heard (DH) [in the Chair], Lee Burman (L.Bn), Estelle Spaarwater (ES), Glynis Van Rooyen (GvR) and Linda Griffiths (LG), Neville Green (NG)[Biodiversity Conservation Manager], Heloise Fortune (HF) [PA-Onrus Office], Johan du Toit (JD) [Law Enforcement]

**Apologies:** David Beattie (DB), Grant Forbes (GF)[Cape Nature], Councillor Pieter Scholtz (PS), Andrae Marais (AM)[Cape Nature], Liezl Bezuidenhout (LB) [Senior Manager- Overstrand Environmental]

**Absent without Apology:** Antony van Hoogstraten (AvH), Muthama Muasya (MM)

**Welcome:** The Chairperson welcomed everyone present and requested that everyone check their details on the attendance register and indicate amendments where required.

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of the FAB held on 26 of June 2013.**

### **2.1 Confirmation of Minutes and Public Availability**

The previous minutes had been circulated per e-mail to all members and no comments were received thereby confirming these Minutes. HF confirmed that the minutes were placed on the official Overstrand Municipal website as well as the intranet for public access. Minutes are also placed in a library file for public scrutiny.

**H. Fortune**

### **2.2 Comments from Council on FAB Minutes dated 22 February 2013**

NG confirmed that no comments were received from Council; Mr Stephen Muller also confirmed this.

**N. Green**

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **3.1 Hermanus Astronomy Centre (Item 3.1)**

NG confirmed that the Hermanus Astronomy Centre proposal was referred to as an application that was on the table in the draft management plan. The application will be evaluated in terms of the draft management plan.

NG will forward a copy of Shaun Privet's Botanical Assessment of the site to LBn and LG.

**N. Green**

### **3.2 Amendment of By-laws relating to FNR and FAB (Item 3.2)**

DH and NG did get together and had a look at the updating of the Bylaws. NG confirmed that he is busy finalising the amendments.

**N. Green**

### **3.3 Invitation to Mayor to attend a FAB meeting (Item 3.3)**

DH confirmed that he received confirmation from the Mayor's Secretary that the Mayor will attend the next meeting dated 22 November 2013.

**H. Fortune**

### **3.4 Dumping at Hoy's Koppie (Item 3.4)**

LG explained that she was in the cave for about 10 min on Mandela Day cleaning out litter, no law enforcement officers came out to investigate, and she requested that this should be checked on to see if the sensors are working properly. JD said he will get a few people to go out to Hoy's Koppie and see if they receive any response.

LG reported that there were a lot of rubbish and even the HPP /ADT officers did not do anything about the littering. LG also stated that the builders working in the area are using Hoy's Koppie as a toilet. JD confirmed that he will follow up and ascertain whether builders in the area have installed portable toilets for their workers in accordance with the By-laws. He asked that he should be contacted if this is behaviour is noticed again.

DH indicated that he would raise these matters at the Fernkloof Security Forum meeting on 5 September 2013.

**J. du Toit / D. Heard**

### **3.5 Galpin Hut (Item 3.5)**

It was confirmed that the renovations had been completed and that Galpin Hut is back in operation -thanks to the Municipality and volunteers that assisted. This item can be removed from next meeting's Agenda.

### **3.6 Provincial By-pass Road and Stanford Trunk Road Upgrade (Item 3.6)**

There had been no new developments on the Provincial By-pass Road and no outcome as yet of the Regional Transport Feasibility Study. This item will stay on the Agenda

NG and LBN will attend the meetings for the Stanford Trunk Road Upgrade and pass through information to FAB.

**L. Bezuidenhout / N. Green / D. Beattie / L. Burman**

## **4 Administration**

### **4.1 FNR Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Progress**

NG confirmed the draft had been finalised by the consultants and should be available soon to FAB for comments.

**N. Green**

### **4.2 FNR 2012/13 Budget**

NG presented a breakdown of the budget and said that a more detailed report will be circulated to FAB.

**N. Green**

FAB expressed concern about the lack of growth in dedicated staffing for FNR and the negative effect this will have on the FNR's management effectiveness. Divided responsibilities will

dictate that the Biodiversity Manager must respond to public concerns outside the Nature Reserve as a priority. This is always going to negatively affect the Reserve's planning and work schedules.

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – 2013 (3)**

**FAB strongly recommends that the Municipality, as a priority, strives towards developing a dedicated, specialised staff complement for the FNR in order to raise its management effectiveness which is relatively low at present. This would mean at least a Reserve Manager, Administrative Assistant, 4 Field Rangers and 2 Ground staff members.**

**4.3 FNR Management Reports**

NG will draw up a format for the report with all of the major headings of the budget report. Will give a verbal report at the next meeting.

**N. Green**

**5 Standing Items**

**5.1 Enforcement**

JD will be representing Law Enforcement at FAB in future.

DH mentioned that a proper investigation has to be done regarding the illegal herbicide spraying of coastal vegetation thickets including Milkwoods by persons wishing to secure a sea view. Andrae Marais did make an enquiry with the Dept. of Forestry to find out how to go about this. He is still awaiting a reply.

DH asked JB to explain how this situation should be dealt with. JD informed everyone that he should be contacted directly in such a case and that if one suspect that a bush has been sprayed one should take an ear bud and swipe the poison or take a small sample of the vegetation and put it in a sealed container for forensic investigation. He would ensure that a case be opened at the police station, obtain a case number and submit the sample for forensic testing. If the forensic lab determines what kind of poison was used, it can lead to a search warrant and if the herbicide is found on a suspect's premises it could assist in a successful prosecution thereafter such information could be given to the media which will deter people from performing such illegal acts in future..

**Andrae Marais / Johan du Toit**

**5.2 Ecological Issues**

**5.2.1 Baboon Electric Fencing**

NG confirmed that LB is still continuing with the protocol and management strategy with Cape Nature. LBn suggests that fence should be placed closer to the boundary with proper access. DH recommended that NG arranges an inspection of the electric baboon fence when he (DH) and LBn and LG are available. to obtain first-hand knowledge of the situation at the site.

NG confirmed that he did follow up with Francois Pretorius, superintendent of Solid Waste, regarding removal of refuse adjacent to the reserve on Mondays. The date of implementation is the 30 August. NG will follow up again.

**N Green**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – 2013 (4)**

**As a result of damage caused by baboons to the FNR gardens recently, FAB recommends that the Baboon Monitors also shepherd baboons away from the gardens.**

**N. Green**

## **5.2.2 Event Applications**

### **5.2.2.1 Biosphere Breakaway ( Item 5.2.3.2 )**

NG Confirmed that the application was not supported. The item can be removed from the Agenda.

## **5.3 Research**

### **5.3.1 Research Applications**

NG stated that he has to follow up on old application. There were no new research applications.

**N. Green**

## **5.4 Land and Infrastructure**

### **5.4.1 Fernkloof Village Drainage Report**

NG stated that he will look at previous recommendations from FAB and will follow up and provide feedback.

**N Green**

### **5.4.2 Bosko Church – Lease Agreement**

Finalised - will be removed from next Agenda.

### **5.4.3. Scout Camp Site**

The legal opinion reasoned for and supported a Co-management Agreement in terms of NEMPAA (Section 42 ) to be signed between the Municipality and the Scout Camp Management body instead of an annual lease agreement which could result in this 'Living Heritage' site being taken over by an organisation that would not be in a position to maintain the 100 year traditional use of the site. The proposal was accepted by the Fernkloof Advisory Board. NG will ask WFTC to clear the entrance, the maintenance and the removal of the invasive plants at the Hermanus Scout Camp.

**N. Green**

### **5.4.4 Replacement of Signboards**

NG confirmed that the replacement of signboards was in the budget and will be replaced.

**N. Green**

## **5.5 Klein River Estuary Management**

LB informed FAB briefly at the start of the meeting that the Estuary Co-coordinator's contract has ended on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. She stated that the National Protocol has been sent through which makes it quite clear that a municipality is the management authority of any estuaries within its jurisdiction. LB confirmed that a discussion was held with the Overberg District Environmental Manager to approach them for a Coastal Co-ordinator. The Coastal Co-ordinator would resort under the District Municipality and the post description would include estuary management and will supervise a number of Coastal Monitors. LB did put in an application through the EPIP projects for funding for Coastal Monitors

LB informed all that Dr Danie Coetzee's contract will be extended to assist with estuary management LB informed all that the student who is funded by WESSA for two years will be monitoring the water quality of the estuaries and will also work closely with Dr Danie Coetzee. LB confirmed that the municipality is still a role player and a stakeholder for BREF and KREF. LB stated that the Minister must still identify which estuaries will require a management plan.

**L Bezuidenhout**

#### **5.6 Report from Hermanus Botanical Society**

DH confirmed that the minutes of the Hermanus Botanical Society have been distributed to everyone.

The water pipe/building operations are ongoing issues to be dealt with.

**L. Griffiths**

#### **5.6.1 MoA with Overstrand Municipality i.t.o. FNR**

FAB supported a Co-management Agreement. The matter should be dealt with in similar way as the Scout Camp Agreement.

**N. Green**

#### **5.6.2 On and Off FNR Localities of Herbarium Species.**

DH confirmed that this matter will be dealt with under the management plan.

#### **5.6.3 Accuracy of Signboard in FNR gardens.**

MM confirmed that there is only one signboard that is of concern, due to the new information being available. MM suggested that an additional board be put up with the updated information. MM will assist with the text of the replacement board.

**M. Muasya / L. Griffiths**

#### **5.6.4 Nursery**

#### **5.6.4.1 Indigenous plants for Municipal use for Rehabilitation Purposes.**

NG will follow up with Lauren Rainbird regarding requirements.

**N. Green**

#### **5.7 Report from Cliff Path Management Group**

Report from cliff path not yet received.

**D Beattie**

#### **5.7.1 Upgrade of Grotto Picnic Area ( Item 5.7.1.)**

NG will follow up with EnviroAfrica as to progress.

**N. Green**

## **6 General**

### **6.1 Burning of Coastal Corridors**

DH mentioned that a lot of research had to be done on the coastal corridors burning of the forest thickets could be decided on. LBn mentioned that a 'Cowling Report' that deals with all these aspects was handed to LB and that she would circulate it to FAB.

**L. Bezuidenhout**

**7 Date of Next Meeting:**

22 November 2013

The meeting closed at 13.00