

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
FERNKLOOF NATURE RESERVE (FNR) ADVISORY BOARD (FAB)  
HELD AT ELECTRICAL BOARDROOM, ONRUSRIVIER  
ON FRIDAY, 17 APRIL 2015 at 09:00**

**1. Welcome, Attendance and Apologies**

**Present:** Duncan Heard (DH) [in the Chair], David Beattie (DB), Anthony van Hoogstraten (AvH), Neville Green (NG) [Biodiversity Manager – Overstrand Environmental], Lee Burman (L.Bn), Linda Griffiths (LG), Muthama Muasya (MM), Cllr Kari Brice (KB), Estelle Spaarwater (ES)

**Apologies:** Andrae Marais (AM) [Cape Nature], Liezl Bezuidenhout(LB) [Senior Manager–Overstrand Environmental], Glynis Van Rooyen (GvR), Heloise Fortune (HF) [PA-Onrus Office].

**Absent without Apology:** Edward Fisher (EF) [Law Enforcement]

**Welcome:** The Chairperson welcomed everyone present. DH apologised for minutes coming out late, had problems with his PC. The Chairperson wants to address important issues before officially starting the meeting.

**Invasive Alien Species**

- DH attended an invasive species workshop held by the Dept. of Environmental Affairs that focused on the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) regulations listing 559 IAS which came into effect in October 2014.
- He received a South Africa National List of Invasive Alien Species booklet – NG must try to obtain more copies for members of the board. **Neville Green**
- Regulations have implications when selling one's immovable property – the seller must notify the buyer in writing (declaration) of the presence of listed invasive species on the property. Sellers must consult accredited invasive species practitioners to complete declaration on behalf of seller and declaration must be submitted to DEA.
- Also a DEA booklet on Gums and Bees published – setting out under what controlled conditions certain gum species will be will be allowed, according to landscapes and situations.

**World Heritage Site (WHS) Listing for FNR and corridor of adjacent reserves in Overstrand**

DH spoke to Guy Palmer from Cape Nature who has just completed a further motivation for the extension of the Cape Floral Kingdom WHS which will probably be granted by June 2015. Guy is confident that in the next round of motivations that worthy local authority and private nature reserves can be included.

DH will set up a meeting with Guy to discuss preparation and motivation for such a WHS listing. DH wants to establish a working group consisting of Cape Nature (Guy Palmer and local Managers), EMS section, Giorgio Lombardi (Vogelgat), delegation from BOTSOC (Di Marais and Anthony van Hoogstraten), Grootbos and Shaun Privett. DH has also spoken to the Mayor about WHS about this. **Duncan Heard**

**Overberg Coastal Management Programme** – part of Fernkloof Nature Reserve falls within the coastal management area.

**2. Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of the FAB held on 17 Apr 2015.**

**H. Fortune**

**2.1 Confirmation of Minutes and Public Availability**

No corrections to the Minutes. The Minutes were confirmed: Proposed: David Beattie. Seconded: Linda Griffiths

**2.2 Comments from Council on FAB Minutes dated 20 May 2014**

None received.

**N. Green**

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **3.1 Workshop to Market FNR Internationally (Item 3.1)**

Workshop was planned for the end of last year. DH informed the meeting that the workshop didn't get the response that was needed and had been cancelled. It was decided to remove the item from the agenda.

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

NG had been focusing on getting the Fernkloof Management Plan finished. Delivered comments the previous day so the Fernkloof by-laws and all the other issues related to the astronomy centre will be dealt with in the course of the next two weeks.

**N. Green**

#### **3.3 Provincial By-Pass Road & Stanford Trunk Road Upgrade**

##### **By-pass:**

DB says nothing further to report. Alternative still going down Fairways Avenue/NG mentions that there's a comments table available from SRK. NG reads EMS comments that were submitted on the by-pass road. The Dept. of Public Works made comments about the proclamation of the reserve over that national alignment of the road and also comments about the process to amend the boundaries of the nature reserve. Our response was to bring the provincial proclamation of FNR into context with the Protected Areas Act. NG reads responses that were made by FNR – he will send copies to all FAB members.

**Stanford Trunk Road:** NG to provide information on the Environmental Authorisation at the next meeting.

**D. Beattie/ N. Green**

### **4 Administration**

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

Comments from minutes were placed in a comments & responses table. Issue of provincial by-pass came up.

The accuracy of the maps was in question. NG received an updated nature reserve layer from Cape Nature and also the conservancy layer but there were problems with the projection, NG requested updates on the shape files from Andraé Marais. These will be forwarded to the consultant.

NG included a brief paragraph for the World Heritage Site application and requested an action to be added.

**N. Green**

##### **4.1.1 Hermanus Astronomy Centre**

Astronomy Centre: NG noted that council reached an in principle decision concerning the astronomy centre and clarified that by saying it will have to be a consent use in terms of the zoning scheme i.e. an application has to be submitted and in addition to the application for consent use, is the basic assessment process which has to be followed, so when two applications and the council decision cannot be implemented until those two assessments have been done. Both assessments get submitted to public participation again. So what we are reducing it to is a procedural matter which has to be interpreted in terms of the management plan document which takes cognisance of the zoning of the reserve and that the environmental and that the concept development plan for the FNR Development Nodes must still be finalised

**N. Green**

#### **4.2 FNR 2014/15 Budget**

NG gave summary of spending: Spent a lot of money on cutting open the most important trails in the central part of the reserve – the one hold up is that the appointed contractor's tax clearance certificate has lapsed, will have to wait 1 to 2 weeks to start implementing.

The alien clearing budget took care of most of the lower level parts of the reserve, from lagoon farm, both above and below the R43 all the way to the boundary of Hermanus and Mossel River. Kloof is also being cleared at present and there are two units clearing alien vegetation from Gateway Centre all the way to the back of Bosko School. Will be testing out herbicide – after the cutting the spraying operation will start.

NG sourced a contractor to build a set of two entrance gates at the first G-track entrance and bought gates to replace Mossel River gate as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> G-track gate.

NG noted that they did not get around to re-routing the storm water pipe which has just been put in and which

drains the area from the nursery down to the one bench in the gardens but a concept quote was obtained from our engineers to look at re-routing the storm water from the entire complex down to the main storm water system and that was around R117 000 for 128m. What we want to do is align all of our services and give it the proper servitude which we can link into the main systems. We can then look at taking the sewage system out of the existing tanks which are continually overflowing and then try to get them into the main system. NG will try to work it into the next budget which starts in July.

NG also put in a requisition for a fire break, from Mountain View Drive to around the electrical sub-station through to Bosko, on the boundary of the reserve. One of the requisitions, which was withdrawn, was to cut two fire breaks, from the blue gum plantation along the Hemel-en-Aarde road which is in our buffer zone along the Preekstoel boundary.

Final requisition was to reduce the height of the proteas along rotary drive. The problem is that fires are always stopped above that section of vegetation, it is incredibly tall and impossible to get a fire regime started there. Burning there was stopped but we have proceeded with the clearing of all vegetation along the ESKOM lines and the baboon fence. Burning of the Preekstoel block could still be done depending on the weather. Will have to re-advertise for permission to burn next year.

DH asked about the making of fire breaks and how it might clash with EIA regulations. There was no conflict as just cutting the vegetation did not trigger the EIA regulations.

**N. Green**

#### **4.3 FNR Management Reports**

This point was discussed under 4.2

**N. Green**

### **5. Standing Items**

#### **4.4 Enforcement**

DH noted that EMS should send a letter to Law Enforcement to reinforce their presence at the Fernkloof Advisory Board. LB to countersign. ID cards for Law Enforcement officials to be discussed at the next meeting.

**N. Green**

#### **5.2 Hoy's Koppie**

LG noted that car guards use Hoy's Koppie to throw rubbish and they trample out new pathways in the bush.

Mr Tshefu (Law Enforcement) will talk to them. Bins are being cleaned on a regular basis. HPP Municipal court will address the transgressions on Hoy's Koppie.

**N.Green / D. Heard**

### **5.3 Ecological Issues**

#### **5.3.1 Baboon Electric Fencing**

LB to give update on baboon monitoring strategy and electric fencing when ready.

**L. Bezuidenhout / N Green**

#### **5.3.2 Burning of Coastal Corridors**

NG gives an update: In this financial year a section of the Kleinmond Nature Reserve and two units in the residential area were burned.

Complaints were received from residents from (Kraal Rock through to Kwaiwater) on the height of the vegetation adjacent to their houses. Fire Chief, LB and NG did a site visit and came to the conclusion that they can burn some of those blocks in the next cycle but wants input from BOTSOC and Cliff Path Management first.

**L. Bezuidenhout**

#### **5.3.3 Event Applications**

Walker Bay Extreme marathon to be held on 2 May 2015. No indication of how many people will enter the event. Asked to do the road circuit first so that the field is spread out on the cliff path. The first race will be a good learning curve to gauge management requirements. The event will generate exposure for the area.

NG noted that there will have to be tight control over the water points on and around the cliff paths to avoid littering and there will be monitors on the pathway.

A notice needs to be placed in the newspaper to inform the public of this event. DH to sign form on Monday.

**N Green**

#### **5.4 Research**

##### **5.4.1 Research Applications**

No new research applications received.

**N. Green**

#### **5.5 Land and Infrastructure**

##### **5.5.1 Fernkloof Village Drainage Report**

FAB's opinion was that a basic assessment was required for any changes to the Fernkloof NR drainage.

NG has had no further interaction with Dr. Verster and no further comments/info from Dir. Muller.

**N. Green**

##### **5.5.2. Scout Camp Lease**

AvH will apply for a 9 year and 11 month lease on the scout camp property. NG noted that an interim lease agreement was signed with the Scout Camp. As this matter had been successfully concluded, it was decided to remove the item from the agenda.

**N. Green**

##### **5.5.3 Replacement of Signboards**

Complaint received about signboard along the Cliff Path. DB is busy gathering quotes for signboards. It was decided that the item can now be removed from the agenda.

**N. Green**

#### **5.6 Klein River Estuary Management**

To be discussed at the next meeting.

**L. Bezuidenhout**

#### **5.7 Report from Hermanus Botanical Society**

LG noted that the plant sale went very well over Easter. Speaker's Evenings have also started again and preparations for the flower show are ongoing.

**L. Griffiths**

##### **5.7.1 HBS MoA with Overstrand Municipality i.t.o. FNR**

NG will discuss at the next meeting.

**N Green**

##### **5.7.2 Accuracy of Signboard in FNR Gardens.**

LG noted that the signs are being replaced. It was decided to remove the item from the agenda.

**L. Griffiths**

#### **5.8 Reports from Cliff Path Management Group**

DB has identified 13 points for maintenance work along the cliff path, but waiting for the 2015/2016 budget to be finalized. Alien clearing taking place at present. An area of severe Morning Glory infestation has been identified in Westcliff. A lot of focus on the biodiversity walk. The five info node benches are all complete. The official launch date is 22/05/2015 and all FAB members. A significant amount of alien vegetation has been removed by Working for Coast. Replanting of vegetation will take place. The replanting budget is R31 000. Frank Woodvine suggested planting vygies in the interim. DB is busy looking into a voice map cell phone app for the cliff path.

**D Beattie**

##### **5.8.1 Upgrade of Piet se Bos Area-Progress**

The Town Planner, Hanneen van der Stoep, submitted the item for the next council meeting on 29 April, to inform council of the process and when they have to make the final resolution, which will then be included in the final

assessment report to be submitted to DEA & DP. DH noted that the FAB recommendation still stands – opposing the building of a restaurant. This matter will now be removed from the Agenda

**N. Green**

## **6. General**

### **6.1 Grotto Parking Embankment (BAR)**

Penelope Aplon and LB did a presentation to the EMT, Mayor and the Directors, regarding the different options available and the costs involved for the embankment. It was decided, to propose a soft slope embankment as a future natural mouth openings could scour this embankment, built in the estuary functional zone, again.

### **6.2 Hunting with Dogs & Illegal Plant Harvesting**

LG noted that this happens after hours when law enforcement is off duty. Early morning and late evenings in mostly the Westcliff area – cliff paths. DH commented that photographs need to be taken if possible to provide Law Enforcement with a positive ID and times and locations need to be recorded.

### **6.3 Access control on Rotary Drive.**

DH noted that the entrance to the reserve is not legally controlled according to the Protected Areas Act. No permit system exist at present. Municipality is under great financial pressure as well as operational costs for FNR. DH would like to explore different categories of entrance permits. He will initiate discussions with LB and NG.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting:**

17 July 2015