

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
FERNKLOOF NATURE RESERVE (FNR) ADVISORY BOARD (FAB)
HELD AT ELECTRICAL BOARDROOM, ONRUSRIVIER
ON FRIDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2014 at 09:00**

1. Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

Present: Duncan Heard (DH) [in the Chair], Estelle Spaarwater (ES), Glynis Van Rooyen (GvR), Heloise Fortune (HF) [PA-Onrus Office], David Beattie (DB), Anthony van Hoogstraten (AvH), Neville Green (NG) [Biodiversity Manager – Overstrand Environmental], Lee Burman (L.Bn), Linda Griffiths (LG), David Beattie (DB), Edward Fisher (EF) [Law Enforcement], Muthama Muasya (MM)

Apologies: Cllr Kari Brice (KB), Liezl Bezuidenhout (LB), Andrae Marais (AM) [Cape Nature]

Welcome: The Chairperson welcomed everyone present.

2. Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of the FAB held on 19 Sep 2014.

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes and Public Availability

The previous minutes had been circulated per e-mail to all members. The minutes were accepted by all.

Proposed: Anthony van Hoogstraten

Seconded: Glynis van Rooyen

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.

Corrections to the Minutes

LBN noted that she queried under 4.1.1 the fact that the Hermanus Astronomy Centre development node was indicated incorrectly on the map on the North side. NG confirmed that the development node was indicated correctly on the map on the South side.

H. Fortune

2.2 Comments from Council on FAB Minutes dated 20 May 2014

NG noted that Cllr Brice is awaiting feedback from Director Muller with regards to 3.1 (Fernkloof River).

N. Green

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Workshop to Market FNR Internationally (Item 3.1)

DH informed all that the workshop has been postponed until February 2015.

D. Heard

3.2 Amendment of By-laws relating to FNR and FAB

NG noted that he has no comment on this point. It was decided and approved by the Forum that he can tackle this matter in March 2015 once he has completed his MFMA course.

N. Green

3.3 Provincial By-Pass Road & Stanford Trunk Road Upgrade

DB questioned whether a by-pass road is needed. He commented that he majority people stop in Hermanus, they have no use for a by-pass road. He noted that no other alternatives were explored. He commented that other alternatives should be explored in the EIA. DH suggested that FAB members attend the meeting on the 8th at the High School and that they register as stakeholders. DH and DB will meet after the meeting to make a recommendation to OSM. LBn and MM will get together to create a preliminary report on plant species.

NG commented that apparently DEA&DP approved the application, ignoring requests for entrance. NG commented that the Stanford Trunk Rd has been approved and they did receive a document. EMS has to confirm that the upgrade will not affect the FNR boundaries.

D. Beattie/ N. Green

4 Administration

4.1 FNR Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Progress

NG noted that the advertisements has been drafted and translated and that HF has already received the quotations.

DH suggested that advertisements should be placed in the second half of January 2015.

AVH queried the 2 items which were not tabled in the FNR IMP, the reference to the planned observatory on page 31, SECTION E: ZONATION and the Scout Camp Site, entitled HERITAGE REPORT, ERF 4771, APRIL 2013, compiled for the Hermanus Scout Camp by Laura Bridgman (BA Architecture, UPenn) Peter Kantor (B.Com LLB) and Nicolas Baumann (BA MCRP MSc D Phil).

DH suggested he and NG have a discussion on Wednesday 3Dec to discuss this matter, where after DH will provide feedback to AVH.

4.1.1 Hermanus Astronomy Centre and future of the Rotary Drive Lookout Point

NG noted that the complete file has been submitted to him for comment. Light analysis shows that second option is not viable. He will comment on the document before he goes on leave.

N Green

4.2 FNR 2014/15 Budget

NG presented the FNR budget to the FAB.

LBn commented that NG should please speak to the Baboon Monitors as they are taking up all the parking at the Nursery.

N. Green

4.3 FNR Management Reports

NG noted that FNR burning will take place in March 2015. DH commented that it will be a good idea to place an article in the newspaper of the intended burning and the Ratepayers Association should also be informed.

NG discussed the below points with the forum.

4.3.1 Staff Training –

- Mr. D. Gardiner and Mr. D. Henn completed a 5 day Junior Management Course in November 2014.
- N. Green attended 14 days training in November (MMC Course and Ecological Fire Management Course).

- Greenest Municipality Staff have received chainsaw training. Two members due to receive First Aid Training.

4.3.2 Alien Vegetation Management

- High Altitude Tender – Local Working for Water staff are being consulted as to the High Altitude specifications as neither national, or provincial Working for Water, Working on Fire, City of Cape Town, or Cape Winelands Municipality can furnish specifications. There are two high altitude contractors known to WfW team and these two shall be consulted by Working for Water in order to maintain impartiality. Work proceeding upon receipt of specifications from Working for Water.
- Young pine trees at Lemoenkop and on the plateau have been removed by GMC team.
- Kleinrivier Block 2 and the ‘Maanskynbaai’ block have been completed.
- Mosselrivier block 2 and Kleinrivier Stortingsterrein block are currently in development of specifications for clearing work.
- Hermanus Hack Group is removing alien vegetation adjacent to Gateway centre in buffer zone.
- Large *Virgillia divaricata* has been removed at the nursery area.
- Dense stand of *Virgillia divaricata* in the Fernkloof watercourse to be removed by combined GMC team and Working for the Coast team in December or January depending on availability of team during the Blue Flag season.
- Mr. Gardiner is giving attention to the *Senecio* infestation as pointed out by Ms Burman.

4.3.3 Fire Management

- Specifications have been drafted for the cutting of trace lines at Mount Pleasant, along the Baboon fence, the Voelklip reservoir and along the Plateau. Requisitions are being placed at present and the work must be completed by 15 February 2015.
- Specifications for the clearing of vegetation surrounding ESKOM pylons to follow after approval of budget and consultation with ESKOM.
- The intention is to use the cut material for erosion control on pathways / degraded sites in order to promote regrowth.
- General notice has been placed by Divisional Commander Rust in the local newspapers. A Notice has also been placed on the Municipal website. Detailed notice to be drafted and forwarded to each resident along the boundary, with procedure in place to manage queries complaints etc.
- Two queries have already been addressed. Vegetation was cleared along the boundary of a residential property in Voelklip. Discussions have recently taken place with a second resident. Awaiting feedback from Mr. Gardiner in this respect. Fernkloof NR will accommodate views of residents as far as possible in order to maintain good relations and to produce a flawless result.
- Possible reduction in the proposed burn area to only burn south of the baboon fence, as this will produce a better patch mosaic effect. Area north of the baboon fence could be burned in 2 years time with another section. Other areas to be burned as planned.
- Detailed planning to take place between December and January.
- Firebreak surrounding the centre has to be cut open during early December. Working for the Coast teams will do this.

4.3.4 Development

- Two applications for subsurface soil drains were received from private sources. The developers were required to place the structures outside of the reserve at Piet se Bos.
- Bird hide meetings took place. Provincial decision has complicated matters. Replanning needed. Building plans will also be required.
- Fernkloof Drainage in Dr. Verster’s hands at present. No further feedback received.

4.3.5 Infrastructure Management

- ESKOM painted pylons with fire retardant paint.
- Hoy's koppie was cleaned regularly by GMC teams. Regular patrols undertaken on Hoys koppie by M. Henn.
- Hiking trails around the visitor centre have been cut open.
- Procedures are underway between Operational Services and Mr. Gardiner to reinstate the Mosselrivier bridge for cyclists. ESKOM poles are being dragged out of the fynbos in order to provide construction material and to clear the fynbos of ESKOM debris.
- Demolition of buildings at Maanskygbaai is complete. James Janse van Rensburg is applying quality control procedures at present.
- Gates are back and installed.
- M. Henn has started with a coastal survey, but can't complete as he does not have GPS or camera etc.
- The GMC staff members were utilised to install water bars on the Fernkloof Jeep track.
- Surfacing of the parking area at the Fernkloof Nursery will take place in January / February after peak season.
- Fencing material has been requisitioned for the Fernkloof Nursery.
- Maintenance requisition for the Fernkloof store has been held back by Finance as it will complicate procedures in December. To proceed in January.
- Awaiting progress report concerning the construction of concrete bases for support of Mossel river pipeline.

4.3.6 Conservation Agreements

- A meeting was held with the Hermanus Hack Group to determine the areas that they would be working in. Proposed areas were presented, but the map had to be altered. This must still be done and forwarded to the HHG. The HHG submitted a draft agreement, which does not address public liability issues or safety standards. N. Green to examine the document and comment, including issues for amendment. Consultation with legal representative before the agreement is signed.
- N. Green has attended several meetings concerning the establishment of a trust fund for the management of the Hermanus Golf Course wetlands, which requires agreement between Overstrand Municipality and the Botanical Society as to the annual amount to be budgeted for the maintenance and upkeep of the wetlands. Dr. Geordie Ratcliffe from the Freshwater Consulting Group is advising the Golf Course and Municipality. Georgio Lombardi is in attendance from BOTSOC. Further discussions concerning the establishment of the Trust Fund are pending.
- Meeting to be scheduled with Hermanus Flying Club concerning the disturbance around the towers.
- Meeting to be scheduled with Hamilton Russel Vineyards with respect to co-operative fire management agreements. Will discuss the issue with Fire Chief in order to co-ordinate a fire meeting with all southern neighbours to work on a rotational burning programme.
- Meeting to be scheduled in January with the Hermanus Botanical Society concerning the revision of the lease agreement. No time at present.

4.3.7 Administration

- Electronic filing system was created as per the previous minutes. There has not been any time to populate the folders due to 3 MFMA sessions during the October / November. An intern has been appointed under the Working for the Coast project – possible assistance in this respect.
- Fernkloof Management Plan Three translations of advertisements were drafted and quotations received for advertisement. Copies of plans to be made available at libraries, website, office, Urban Dynamics, Advertisement payment.

4.3.8 Enforcement

- Problems are being experienced with dumping along the boundaries. Continual patrols are being implemented to ensure that dumping is curbed and that the material is removed.
- Plaques in the coastal zone were removed by M. Henn.
- D. Gardiner has warned several members of the local flying club concerning trampling of Fynbos.

N. Green

5 Standing Items

5.1 Enforcement

Edward Fisher confirmed that the purchase order is in process for officials to receive PPE and equipment. The baboon monitors also assist with safety in the reserve and report any issues to Michael Henn. Edward Fisher will be attending FAB meetings in future, replacing Johan du Toit.

N. Green

5.2 Hoy's Koppie

DH noted that the alarm went off on 2 occasions in October, a dassie and tourists triggered the alarm. He commented that alarms are working. LG noted that there are beggars at Hoy's Koppie parking, Law Enforcement will follow up on this matter.

N.Green / D. Heard

5.3 Ecological Issues

5.3.1 Baboon Electric Fencing

NG noted that the baboon electric fence is operational and effective for channelling baboons to designated areas. The fence will be retained as it is an asset which is still effective and the impacts of removing the fence on the inhabitants of Voelklip will be disastrous.

L. Bezuidenhout / N Green

5.3.2 Burning of Coastal Corridors

NG noted that there are currently no plans to burn the coastal corridor. Trial run is going to be done in Kleinmond in second week of December. Discussions with Amida Johns indicate that no reseeder will be damaged in a December burn. Clifftop vegetation is part of the sandstone Fynbos and thus has similar ecology. Discussions with Rory Allerdice indicate that not burning the coastal fynbos is detrimental to the system as well as a hazard as Rhus and other species build up wax layers which generate gases and which fuel the fire in the event of a wildfire. Plans should thus be made for burning sections of the coastal corridor in the 2015/2016 financial cycle. NG noted that BOTSOC should discuss and give a recommendation next year as to which areas should be burned.

L. Bezuidenhout

5.3.3 Event Applications

NG noted that there is a current application for the Atlantic Flying Club that still needs to be approved. Captain of the national flying club has been requested to issue a general letter to members requiring better controls around the flying site, as members are trampling vegetation beyond the designated area. According to the National Representative, the Hermanus Club is growing rapidly. He also mentioned that Fernkloof staff should designate the area again, and organise a meeting with the local flying club as the new members are probably responsible for the damage.

N Green

5.4 Research

5.4.1 Research Applications

NG noted that there are no current research applications. He tried to trace publications from previous research applications but could not find any information. He will try to contact researchers on previous contact details to retrieve publications or to organise presentations.

N. Green

5.5 Land and Infrastructure

5.5.1 Fernkloof Village Drainage Report

The issue seems to be in the hands of Dr. Verster. There has been no further feedback in this respect. They are awaiting feedback.

N. Green

5.5.2. Scout Camp Lease

NG is busy drafting comments with respect to the lease of the scout camp. Input is required from the Annual Hermanus camp as to the conditions to be placed in the lease agreement. Comments will be favourable in respect of the lease of the site. OSM will approve for 1 year. NG has to follow up on the pipeline with Penelope and circulate to FAB.

N. Green

5.5.3 Replacement of Signboards

NG noted that Piet se Bos signs still have to be replaced; he will follow up with WFTC in this regard. DB commented that James van Rensburg should contact Wild side for Piet se Bos signage. DB also noted that Cliff Path Management will replace their signboards in the New Year.

N. Green

5.6 Klein River Estuary Management

No feedback.

L. Bezuidenhout

5.7 Report from Hermanus Botanical Society

LG distributed the report to FAB. The final meeting of the year will be on 8 Dec and she will provide feedback at the next FAB meeting.

L. Griffiths

5.7.1 MoA with Overstrand Municipality i.t.o. FNR

Initial discussions have been held with HERBS concerning their responsibilities. HBS has indicated that tasks will be undertaken as required and Overstrand is released from expectations in this respect.

N. Green

5.7.2 Accuracy of Signboard in FNR Gardens.

MM will forward to LG before the next FAB meeting.

M. Muasya / L. Griffiths

5.7.3 Nursery

5.7.3.1 Indigenous plants for Municipal use for Rehabilitation Purposes.

It was agreed by the FAB that this item should be removed from the Agenda.

N. Green

5.8 Reports from Cliff Path Management Group

DB noted that the final meeting will be Tuesday next week. He noted that the Biodiversity walk signage are completed and approved they want to finish before the Hope Spot but is highly unlikely.

D Beattie

5.8.1 Upgrade of Piet se Bos Area-Progress

NG noted that the project proposal by Lauren Rainbird was part of the application for EPIP funding. An implementing agent has been appointed, but the IA is recommending that the funds should be spent in Hawston only. Overstrand required clarity on several projects under this application, and requested costing of the projects in order to make tradeoffs. Matter referred to Area Management for decision-making purposes. They are waiting for feedback. Furthermore, the final comments have been submitted. Town Planning to table the issue before Council before final report is submitted to DEA&DP.

N. Green

6. General

6.1 Grotto Parking Embankment (BAR)

DH noted that FAB did put in a recommendation. NG noted that Town Planning will take all recommendations to Council and Councils decision will then be forwarded to DEA.

D. Heard

6.2 Bird Hide

- a) FAB has been informed that EMS has advised the Bird Club that they can proceed with the Bird Hide, west of the Vogelgat River.
- b) EMS has agreed that they will urgently take up the matter of access from the R43 with Province.

7. Date of Next Meeting:

27 February 2015