

United States Forest Service
Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2022

The Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL) Advisory Board (Board) convened at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at the Forest Service Administrative Office Building, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211. The meeting was open to the public, and it was also made available through a virtual USDA approved meeting tool.

Advisory Board Members present:

Walter Battle-virtual	Patrick Lemons	Abigale Smith
Derek Beard-virtual	Keith Murt	Russell Tilford
Brian Clark	Della Oliver	Ski Witzofsky
Nancy Dawson	Melissa Parker	Johnny Wall
Donnie Holland	Bill Purkes	De'Etra Young-virtual

Advisory Board Staff present:

Rick Lint, Chairperson
Leisa Cook, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Christine Bombard, Administrative Liaison

Facilitators present:

Tina Blancett, Facilitator
Jeanne Thomas, Facilitator

Forest Service Staff present:

Jared Baker, Business Performance (BP) Staff Officer
Chris Joyner, Public Affairs/Communications (CMS) Staff Officer
Jamey Thweatt, Customer Service (CS) Staff Officer
John Westbrook, Environmental Stewardship (ES) Staff Officer
Carlin Lewis, Public Affairs Specialist
Emily Cleaver, Visitor Information Specialist

Members of the Public present: Jaime Greene, John Rufli

Meeting Purpose: To welcome the Board to LBL and engage on Forest Service business.

Desired Meeting Outcomes:

- To introduce LBL Board members and Forest Service staff.
- To provide the intent for the LBL Board and set meeting ground rules.
- To establish new LBL Board Bylaws.
- To provide an overview of the LBL Forest Service Unit
- To discuss the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 accomplishments and to provide an overview of the FY 2023 high-level planned projects.

Tina Blancett introduced herself and Jeanne Thomas as the facilitators for the meeting. Tina is a Natural Resource Planner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Jeanne is an Administrative Officer with the National Park Service. Tina welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Emily Cleaver provided some technology related tips. This is a hybrid meeting, so we have Board members joining us in-person as well as virtually. She also explained that the meeting is being recorded. The link to the recording will be posted to our website at a later date. She asked that everyone put their phones on silent mode during the meeting.

Chip Littrell, Safety Officer covered information about what to do and where to go in case of a fire or other emergency. He pointed out the exits should we need to evacuate and advised of the rally points. He also let everyone know that this is a tobacco free building, and that smoking is permitted only in the designated area outside.

Introductions

Rick Lint, Deputy Regional Forester (DRF) thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedules to come to the meeting. This time together and these types of discussions are very valuable. He is one of three deputy Regional Foresters, and his portfolio covers all of the natural resource programs in the Southern Region including LBL. Another role that he has is to serve as the chairperson for this Board as delegated by the Regional Forester. He is glad to be here for a few days and is enjoying touring the unit.

This is the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Advisory committees have played an important role in shaping programs and policies of the federal government dating back to when President George Washington sought the advice of such a committee during the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794.

For the first time in five years, we are getting together. Today we will be going over a lot of things about the committee and talking about what we are going to be doing together. To help set the intent of the Board, Rick read the description of duties from the Charter:

To provide advice, in accordance with the Protection Act (Act) and FACA, to help broaden representation of diverse interests and increase the frequency of advice United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) receives from the public and private sectors in regard to means of promoting public participation for the Land and Resource Management Plan for LBL and environmental education. USDA retains sole responsibility for the management and operation of LBL and for all decisions regarding matters under consideration by the Board.

Rick expressed his appreciation for everyone's time and attention today.

Brian Clark stated he is newly appointed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Agency. He is the Deputy Commissioner and has been with them for 27 years. He was a wildlife management intern at LBL back in 1992 and is glad to be here.

Leisa Cook, Area Supervisor at LBL. She stated she has been here for one year, with the Forest Service for four years and has over 20 years of federal service in different areas. Her role with the Board is DFO, in that role she will be taking care of the meetings and making sure that it flows as it should. She expressed appreciation for everyone's willingness to serve on the Board. We look forward to collaborating with you and hearing from you about what we do here, how we do it and ways that we need to do it better. It is really important to us to have you here as stakeholders representing the different sectors. We look forward to many more meetings.

Johnny Wall stated he is a returning Board member and is appointed by Lyon County, Kentucky. He lives in Kuttawa and is retired from the Kentucky Department of Transportation. His ancestors lived here for over 165 years. So, he is interested in the history, culture, and all aspects of LBL. He wants it to be the best that it can be.

Nancy Dawson stated she is newly appointed to one of the USDA Kentucky seats. She is the Vice President of the Friends of Cherokee Park. Cherokee Park was the first state segregated park in the South. I also do consulting and have worked with Fort Donelson. She is glad to be on the Board.

Keith Murt stated he is newly appointed by the Governor of Kentucky. He is a contractor in Paducah and lives on Kentucky Lake. He also serves on three other boards.

Della Oliver stated she is returning to the Board and is appointed by Lyon County, Kentucky. She is a native of between the rivers. She was born here, and her heart will always be here. The Act was passed to provide guidance on how to operate LBL. It was put in place to protect it and keep it the way it should be kept. She will bring a lot a passion and will do whatever she can to promote, protect and defend this beautiful place. She invited Leisa to meet the Between the Rivers group and get acquainted with some of the former residents.

Patrick Lemons stated he is newly appointed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency where he works. He grew up in Paris, Tennessee, and some of his first memories are of hunting and camping at LBL So, it holds a special place in his heart, and he is excited to be of support.

Russ Tilford stated he is newly appointed by the Governor of Kentucky. He is the Superintendent of Lyon County Schools and also serves on the Board of Directors for the West Kentucky Educational Operative. He hopes that he will be a good conduit to share with students the great opportunities that are here. My grandfather was from between the rivers, and he camped at Taylor Bay. It is important to me personally and professionally to be a part of the Board.

Ski Witzofsky stated she is newly appointed by Stewart County, Tennessee. She started working here in 1978 after TVA as an intern. She managed campgrounds and worked in wildlife. She has done a little bit of everything and is very interested in history and does a lot of programs on local history. It is important that the history and stories of those that lived here are shared. Someone actually gave up their backyard for us to have this.

Donnie Holland stated he is returning to the Board and is appointed by Trigg County, Kentucky. His great, great, great grandfather settled here in 1800. He was a Revolutionary War soldier and got a land grant to move here. We left in 1968 when TVA used eminent domain to take our property. I am a retired Commissioner of State Parks for Kentucky and was a Captain in the Army. We have fought hard to keep LBL under the original mission. I look forward to working with you and your team, and hope that we can have a good relationship.

Abby Smith stated she is newly appointed to one of the USDA Kentucky seats. She is from Lyon County and is a teacher there. She gets to look at LBL every day and feels very fortunate for that. Some of her family lived on the outskirts before it switched over to LBL. I am hoping to bring some ideas of how to get youth involved at LBL.

Bill Purkes stated he is returning to the Board and is appointed by Trigg County, Kentucky. He is retired from the military. He is passionate about the management of LBL, he tries to understand the regulations that are often quoted in the Board meetings and stated that we sometimes have different interpretations of the regulations. He cautioned about the use of acronyms and other governmental terminology. Not everyone is familiar with the acronyms; so, it is helpful to explain it at least the first time.

Melissa Parker stated she is newly appointed and represents Stewart County, Tennessee. She has been with school system for 33 years and works with a lot of local groups to coordinate school field trips.

Donald (Donnie) Dill was allowed to introduce himself. He stated he is the Law Enforcement Patrol Captain at LBL. He is a lifelong resident of Stewart County, Tennessee. He wants everyone to know that there are people within the Forest Service that care, including him. A simple fence post may have been the cornerstone to someone's property. So, the theft of a fence post or vandalism to an old homesite that once belonged to someone's family may not mean anything to many others, but it does to me because he understands the history. This room is full of people that care.

Walter Battle stated he is newly appointed to one of the USDA Tennessee seats. He works for the University of Tennessee (UT), is the Western Region Community Economic Development Specialist and also teaches at UT Martin. He teaches undergraduate courses particularly agricultural and environmental policy studies as well as agronomics. He is adamant about defending the national parks and their beauty. People need to understand about them and believe in them. He is happy to be on the Board and looks forward to coming to LBL one day.

De'Etra Young stated she is newly appointed to one of the USDA Tennessee seats. She is the associate Dean for Academics at Tennessee State University in Nashville with a master's and PhD in forestry from Texas A&M. She was first introduced to the Forest Service more than 20 years ago when she was in the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), as an intern in the Pacific Northwest for five years. She works on projects that focus on urban and community forestry. She is excited to be on the Board and be with here with us today.

Derek Beard stated he is newly appointed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He is one of the Assistant Directors and has been with the Department for 20 years.

Jeannie Thomas stated she is helping to facilitate the meeting today. She works for the National Park Service at Fort Donelson. She loves LBL, it is a great area with a big story to tell.

Tina Blancett stated she is facilitating the meeting today. She has worked with a few folks in the room at the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. Her family camps, rides, recreates, and enjoys nature here at LBL. It is a gem of a piece of land, just amazing! She is happy to be with us today.

Ethics Overview: Special Guest-Andrew Tobin, USDA

Andrew Tobin joined us virtually to provide an ethics overview. He is the Deputy Director of the Office of Ethics in Washington, D.C. for the Department of Agriculture. He is here to give the Board an opportunity to ask any questions that they may have about how things work.

Often, when folks are appointed to federal advisory boards, in this case USDA, there is sometimes a misconception that, I have a farm so that means that I can no longer apply for federal programs, cannot be involved in any contracts or any discussions with USDA now that I am a Board Member. In certain circumstances, there are those limitations, but that is not the case for you. You folks are here doing very important work, and I am letting you know that what you are doing here is representing your government entity or organization. You are speaking on their behalf as their representative, and we do not expect you to be unbiased. We want to hear from your experience and what information you have to share as a representative.

If you are a farmer or happen to use USDA programs in any way, you are able to continue to do that by virtue of the fact that you are here as a Board Member. It would be unfair and counterproductive to have folks that serve a board to be cut off from USDA programs. If you have questions about any sort of interactions with USDA or anything that you are doing here, please feel free to bring them up now.

One of the Board Members stated that when initially appointed to the Board they were given overviews, briefings, etc. that no discussion with Forest Service staff about Board business should happen other than during the meeting. Are you able to clarify what the limitations are? It also came up when we were promoting online communications within the Board and sharing information with Forest Service staff. The online tool was a way of sharing information and topics in preparation for upcoming meetings and trying to create two-way communication. Initially, we were told no, due to open meeting regulations; then later, that was reversed.

Andrew explained that this is a little bit beyond his area expertise and went on to say that there is public interest, meetings should be public, and allow for discussion by members of the public. The meetings are open; so, if someone is interested and wants to participate, they should be able to do so. That is not to say that you cannot have discussions among yourselves that are unrelated to the work that you are doing on the Board.

When it comes to official Board business and making decisions; then, the public should have the opportunity to participate-that is required by FACA. We are working on behalf of the public; so, they should be allowed to share their opinion and join in the conversation. We want to be as open and transparent as possible. Andrew provided his direct phone number (202) 570-0039 for future questions or concerns.

Tina stated that this meeting is open to the public. They are able to join online or in-person. If a member of the public wanted to make a comment, they were to provide their request in writing three days in advance of the meeting. We received no requests.

Since we have not met in five years, we are trying to get reestablished and get to know everyone and discuss the next steps. We are going to set some ground rules, discuss the Bylaws and set the stage for future meetings. Later today, the staff will each provide an overview of their program area, recent accomplishments and what they hope to accomplish in the coming year.

We want to take a few moments to recognize the 50th Anniversary of FACA. It provides an objective way for us to interact in a formal way without limiting the inclusion of ideas. The Board Members are the voice of what is happening in our communities.

Leisa commented that she wants to make everyone aware of the reason for the online portion of the meeting. There is new committee guidance that we offer a hybrid option. Meetings will now have a virtual component. If you are unable to attend in-person you may join the meeting virtually.

Sheila Holifield with the Forest Service joined the meeting virtually. She works out of the Office of Communications and is the Regional Coordinator for the FACA committees. She is happy to be attending and hearing from all of you.

Leisa introduced Christine Bombard as the Board Coordinator. She stated that Christine and our Communications staff have been working extremely hard to make sure that this meeting; and all meetings going forward, will be as productive as we can make them.

Tina shared sideboards on how to effectively communicate with each other. Here are some general thoughts on measures for success:

- Focus on the issue, not on the person.
- Raise your hand when you want to speak.
- Stay present.
- Watch the use of acronyms.
- Be a good listener.
- Communication has to be two-way.
- If you need to take a phone call, please step outside.

Bylaws

Tina stated that the Bylaws date back to 2005. We are going to take time today to review them and decide to accept them or if any changes need to be made.

The Bylaws state two meetings per year, at least. The request was made for consideration of additional meetings. One of the Board Members indicated that early on they did meet more frequently for a period of time. Another Board Member expressed concern that meetings did not occur due to the Charter expiring and/or other administrative issues.

Another Board Member inquired about when the Charter is due to expire. Since this is not the first time that this has happened, when is the deadline to start the process? If it is required that we meet; then, why is it we are just meeting now after five years?

Leisa responded that the Charter was signed in May and is good for two years. It is a lengthy process that requires review by many different departmental areas. The previous DFO submitted the Charter for renewal 8 months in advance. We have it on our calendar to start the process in May 2023. The last time that this occurred, there were several things that were going on at a much higher level than us. Many of the committees that would normally meet came to a halt as there was a review of how committees would operate.

The question was asked if there is anything in the Act versus other boards that maybe slowed down the renewal process. Leisa explained that the Act is not a barrier nor an enhancement to getting the paperwork done. It is purely an administrative process that committees have to follow. Many boards are in the process of reestablishing themselves now after COVID.

The question was asked about precedence by a Board Member. The Act states we will meet twice a year. That is a federal law. We need clarification to understand the Bylaws versus federal regulations from the Act to FACA. If other guidance takes precedence; then, do we really need the Charter to be renewed every two years to meet, if it is law? Does federal law trump the Charter? Overarching authority needs to be clearly articulated. Also, it is my understanding that some changes were made by the former DFO regarding Board member appointments and term limits. This should be easy to verify by comparing earlier documents with more recent documents.

The comment was made that the historical knowledge and the background of this committee needs to be retained. The Board needs to know the Between the Rivers history, and what they went through in order to do their job effectively. Meeting continuity is also very important.

The Forest Service will research precedence, appointing authority limitations, if any and term limits.

The suggestion was made by a Board Member to add diversity to the Bylaws. We need to remember, enhance, and encourage diversity of cultures, in the region as well as the people. That is the piece that I am missing. For example, how many of you are aware that there is an Asian American cemetery in the region? We need to study these types of things and spread the

awareness. It will help bring different people to the region. If it is reflected in the Bylaws and it is encouraged; then, people will act upon it.

Another Board Member stated that heritage is not mentioned in the purpose. In my opinion, heritage should be in there. I think that the Forest Service has done a better job. For example, the Golden Pond Overlook and future interpretive signage at Fenton. Others expressed concern about how they were treated by the Forest Service when it came to the restoration of Saint Stephen's Church.

The suggestion was made that the Bylaws should be reviewed for use of acronyms when they need to be spelled out (i.e., DFO). Is it Designated Federal Officer or Designated Federal Official and does it make a difference? Would diversity fall under promoting public participation for land and resource management? That would certainly increase the participation and the interests of what we are doing. If it was inherent; then, it should already be happening. It needs to be specific.

Meeting access needs to be in the Bylaws to reflect current technology. Let everyone know that meetings are now accessible online. Also, have a banner on the LBL website displayed prominently to enhance public participation.

The comment was made that Forest Service meetings have become one-way discussions, and we are on the listening end. If you want a voice to represent the public you need to submit your request in advance to bring it before the Board. It would be nice if there was an opportunity to bring forth new issues without them being tabled and never discussed.

A comment was made about page 3; the Bylaws refer to meeting notes. That should probably be meeting minutes.

What role do we play as representatives? Is it representing our agency? Is it representing members of the public, or ourselves, or is there direct involvement the way that members of the public interact with me? Do I bring public issues to the floor or does the public have an opportunity to present that themselves during the public forum time that we are required to provide? Do the Bylaws cover this?

The comment was made that the public participation and land and resource management piece covers a lot of things, but it can also be limiting too. The Board to is provide advice.

We will have to do some homework on the concerns that have been generated, but those two points on page one of the Bylaws and operating procedures are straight out of the Act.

The Bylaws should mimic the Act. So, can things be added to the Bylaws?

The first statement seems to make that possible, but it could also be limiting if it is not spelled out the way it is in the Act. The environmental education piece covers a lot too. What can fit under those two statements?

I feel like there is very little that we could not discuss. For example, there are known issues with roads. Environmental education would not exist without a road system. So, it is very much under our purview, and I would think that most anything that comes up fits under these two broad categories. When we say resource management, we are including cultural, heritage and diversity.

In the past, we have had subcommittees. The subcommittee would get together and discuss things that was brought up during the larger Board meetings. The subcommittee would come back with suggestions. Is there the potential to formulate subcommittees? This would allow us more time in the bigger meeting to address other items. What are the subcommittee boundaries, if any? Are subcommittee members limited to only Board members or would other individuals be considered?

Also, is it possible to bring back the online communication tool that we used in the past? The Board was given access; so that, communication was ongoing and information sharing could extend beyond the meetings.

The suggestion was made to cap the purpose to environmental and cultural education. I think that would also take care of the heritage piece. Also, the recommendation was made that meetings be specified in advance (i.e., the third Wednesday of October) for meeting consistency.

The comment was made that there is nothing about any governance or anything by the parliamentary. Other boards that I serve on tend to have that. Typically, a board would operate with a motion and then a second, etc. Another Board member responded that for the most part, that has not been commonplace with this Board. Often we spend the day being briefed or are taken out on a tour.

Tina stated that today we are going to develop a list of new business for the next meeting. The list will drive future meeting discussions. We want to bring your backgrounds, experience, and knowledge to the table.

Based on Section 1 of the Bylaws it seems that one of our goals is to identify objectives. For example, desirable outcomes that could go into the resource management plan.

The purpose to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on means of promoting public participation, the land and resource management plan for Land Between the Lakes. The Board is an element of public participation.

A Board Member expressed concern about meeting consistency and only having two meetings a year. How much can the Board accomplish just meeting twice a year? That is where having subcommittees and the online communication tool will be helpful.

Subcommittees are in the Charter on page 5. The Board has the authority to create subcommittees in consultation, and the agreement of the deciding federal official, which is Leisa. Subcommittees must report back to the Board. Also, the Bylaws references working group. Do we want to change that to subcommittee for clarity?

We need to ensure that as we are proposing changes that wording was not expressly chosen due to FACA or other rules and regulations. We need to get the semantics right between the Bylaws and the Act.

It is our understanding, that as of right now, we are operating under the existing Bylaws. Each time the Charter is renewed the Bylaws will be rolled up into that approval process. The suggestion was made that a draft of the Bylaws be made available in advance, via an online mechanism that takes into consideration the concerns that were brought up today and have been researched. Any questions may be addressed online; and then, the Bylaws can simply be voted on at the next meeting.

If you look at Section 1- Purpose, those were pulled directly out of the Act. We may be spending time today discussing changes to the Bylaws only to find out that no changes are allowed to Section 1.

How long will it take to do the research? The Forest Service responded that it would depend on whether we need to have a discussion with General Counsel or if we need a legal opinion. It may take longer to get some of the answers. The request was made that we have another meeting, not necessarily in-person; so that, the Forest Service can report progress back to the Board.

Leisa stated that, at a minimum, we will make sure to meet twice a year when all things align. That doesn't preclude us from meeting more than that. It may be that we add a shorter meeting or have a two-day meeting. The commitment was made to provide an update to the Board in January and hold a meeting in April.

As we continue to work on the Bylaws, please consider if the proposed changes will allow us to operate the way we need to. We do not want to impede growth or progress. Leisa will inquire if we can have an online forum for the Board to work in. If yes, it is likely that the platform will need to be public facing. We need to be open and transparent.

As some of you stated earlier in the meeting you are not interested in another download to you, but we want to be sure that everyone has at least a baseline knowledge about what we do, how we do it and why we do it. One of the things that came to mind when we were bringing you all together, is many of you may or may not have been on the Board previously; and that you might not have experienced LBL or been in communication with us. So, please be patient as we go through this. The staff officers and I will be presenting to you after the working lunch. It may generate some ideas about what you are interested in having further discussions about.

We continually look to make improvements at LBL, but not so much that you would not recognize it anymore. Some things we do not want to touch as they need to remain exactly how they are due to the heritage, culture, or wildlife habitat, etc.

Unit Overview

Leisa explained that as DFO it is up to her to make sure that these meetings happen and that we collaborate with the Board. Building and maintaining partnerships is very important.

Regionally we are working together to make sure that we are managing well together, and that we are supporting each other in everything that we do. We are talking to our neighbors and will be talking to the newly elected appointed officials about what we are thinking, what we need to do and see what impact it may have on them, if any.

I know that any decision that I make here is likely going to impact them. My job is really to reach out and create more partnerships. I am getting ready to fill a partnership specialist position. That position will be looking across the board to see what partnerships we already have, how we have them and how we expand those; or if we need to find some new partners to assist with managing the resources, do more environmental education or whatever that might be. Having more folks involved will help us with the delivery to all of you and to the public.

Staffing levels across the unit are down about 40%. I have got to find some more people to do this work, or we are going to have to dial back a lot of what we hope to do. We are using every possible available tool for us to find good people to come here.

As we were going through introductions today, it was really great to hear that some of you started here early on in your careers. When we bring on a student or volunteer early on we can help shape them and what they think about the Forest Service, about protecting the resources, and working with the resources to create new protections and to create new opportunities. We are going to face a lot of new things in the next 10 years. We need some new, fresh ideas about how to do it and what we need to do it. We are really looking at using recruitment opportunities to bring on people fresh out of college and create that new workforce. We are also using the authorities we have to bring on retirees or folks that are coming out at the military. They have a lot to offer us.

The staff officers are reaching out to different universities to work with recruiters to bring staff here. This is a great place to learn as we have opportunities here that other forests do not have. For example, our Demonstration Authority. LBL is a wonderful outlet for creative thinkers. I am hoping to use the fact that we have Demonstration Authority to bring new folks here to help us come up with new ways to do business, be more effective and efficient while remaining cognizant of those that used to live here and the history of this place.

Civil Rights and all that encompasses is important to me. Making sure that we are taking care of people and staff the way that we should. Safety is also a huge issue for me. I come from a safety and public health background. I want to make sure that everyone from our visitors to staff is in a safe environment.

Because of the way that we do business, we have a lot of agreements, contracts, and grants. We are working to make sure that we have what we need in place to carry forward the work that we are doing. So, we have a lot of work ahead of us.

We are doing everything that we can to make sure that we are structured correctly and that we have the right positions in the right order; so that, we can have succession here on the unit. We have been doing a lot of work in the background, looking at realigning positions and different programs which has created opportunities across the board.

The Timber Salvage Sales Project (Timber Salvage Sales/Project) and cleanup after the tornadoes has taken up a great deal of our time, but it is worthwhile time. Much of the staff here have been involved in that project one way or another. The Project will likely continue for another year and a half or more. As the recovery work continues, we hope to bring back more native species in terms of wildlife.

I am trying to make sure that the staff has the resources that they need, that we have the right staffing capacity to do what we need to do.

We have a lot of great opportunities here to create new environmental education, and to get to the heart of what Nancy was talking about; as well as some of the other things that many of you have probably thought we need to do.

Some of our facilities are fairly old, but they are still in good shape. They have some pieces and components that need to be upgraded (i.e., sewage/water systems, additional parking). I think that we are getting ready to have the opportunity to have a lot more visitors on the unit. We could easily take on 500,000 more visitors if we can find them. So many people and companies are moving into Western Kentucky and Tennessee. There are many people that have never experienced LBL that want to get out. So many things happened during COVID, but the good thing that happened was it brought people back into the forests, parks, and refuges.

Unfortunately, not all of the new users know how to use the land; and some of them used it in ways that were not good. There were places that were overrun and there were all kinds of things going on, but in the end, it created a lot of new users who want to come back. The new users want to come back in a different way. There are things they want to do that we are not quite set up to do just yet. The main thing is to help them understand how to use the land correctly. Our public affairs team does a really good job with informing folks. They are working on finding other ways about how to better inform the public. We are going to need input to make sure that we can reach those folks. We want them to come here and become return customers. When they return it is helpful to know why they are returning. What can we do; so that, they want to come back? We have a visitor use survey that we should have the results in approximately two months.

I have been taking drives on the weekends to talk with campers and ask how their visit went. Over and over, they tell me that they love it, "I come here all the time, and there is nothing that you could do to make it better and that it is a wonderful place." It was great to hear that; so, at least we know that we are doing things right and people are coming back. But I would love to see us attract new people as well.

For additional information: <https://landbetweenthelakes.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Area-Supervisor-Advisory-Board-Doc.-.pdf>

Jared Baker, Business Performance (BP) Staff Officer

I am a Graves County native. For those of you who are in education, my father was a high school U.S. history teacher at Graves County and retired from Graves County High School. My background is in wildlife, fisheries, environmental education, and business. I have been at LBL for 16 years.

As Leisa mentioned, one uniqueness of LBL is that we do not have ranger districts. The nice thing is that everyone is in the same office. For example, if you need to talk to an engineer you just walk down the hall and talk to an engineer. That is a huge advantage. There is also the uniqueness of the Act, Demonstration Authority and the way that we operate.

We are split up into four departments, Business Performance, Customer Service, Environmental Education and Communications.

Business Performance is a very unique department within the Forest Service. I do not know of any other unit that has one; and it really revolves around the Act, and how the revenue works here.

I manage a department of five phenomenal staff. At this time, I have no vacancies in my department. We manage everything from finance to budget to accounting, as well as contracting, grants, agreements, and acquisition management. I am the point of contact for staffing and Civil Rights.

Business Performance staff act much like the customer service department for the rest of the building. We assist the other departments by setting the budgets, help program managers understand their budgets, strategic planning, and management. We also work a lot on cost recovery for our facilities.

LBL operates approximately 50% off revenues. That is different than any other Forest Service unit. Since 50% of our operating budget is based on revenues, we have to look at every facility from a cost recovery standpoint. BP analyzes each of them and works with each program manager to do that.

BP was involved with many of the accomplishments that you will hear about from the other staff officers. For example, we moved to a new online Deer Quota Hunt system with a different company; it was quite a heavy lift. We also helped get a contract established to have Wi-Fi installed at Brandon Spring. Having Wi-Fi there is extremely important when you have a school group so teachers can do their job.

If you're interested in learning about the budget give me a call. I'm happy to talk with you one-on-one.

For additional information: <https://landbetweenthe lakes.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Business-Performance-Advisory-Board-Doc..pdf>

Chris Joyner, Public Affairs Staff Officer

I'm responsible for the Communications (CMS) Department. I am originally from North Carolina, attended North Carolina State University and I have several graduate degrees. I have studied the areas of journalism, public relations, and animal science. I am retired from the U.S. Army and came to the Forest Service from the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado. Prior to that, I was with the Department of Defense. I have been in public affairs since 2006 in various capacities.

I work with three really awesome people that I admire and appreciate. Public affairs among federal agencies involves internal messaging, external messaging, and community relations. If you are familiar with the Act, it says that one of our specific responsibilities is to stimulate the region. We take that to mean economically stimulate the region. We do this with what we call brand awareness marketing. You will not see National Forests marketing to promote visitation, but because of the Act and our Demonstration Authority we can do that here.

I know some people are concerned about bringing people from outside the region and changing things, but ultimately we have to go on those marching orders, and those marching orders are to stimulate the region and we are doing that through brand awareness.

Community relations is another part of what we do. We belong to several of the area Chambers of Commerce. LBL is made up of three counties: Stewart, Trigg, and Lyon. These counties are our priority when it comes to community relations and trying to make sure that our efforts are in those particular areas. All that we do in communications is under the direction of the area supervisor - this is her communications program.

We do not make any decisions for the Agency. We only convey and receive communication matters that are important to the public.

Internal messaging is messaging to our staff as well as to our visitors. For example, the bulletin boards at the Visitors Center and the campgrounds are a very small piece of internal messaging.

Our Facebook page and website are examples of external communications. We began our Facebook page in August of 2019, right now we have 16,000 followers. Our website is very different from those of other forests that you may see. We are able to do this through our Demonstration Authority. We take care of the reservations for our facilities here locally; we do not use recreation.gov.

There is a great deal of security considerations that have to go with any federal website. So, if sometimes things seem a little clunky, it is most likely the result of a security measure that we have to take. If you ever have a problem with our website, give me a call.

When referring to public affairs, we are talking about public information not public relations. This means providing information to the right people, at the right time; so, they are able to make informed decisions about their health, well-being, and safety.

For additional information: <https://landbetweenthelakes.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Communications-Advisory-Board-Doc..pdf>

Jamey Thweatt, Customer Service (CS) Staff Officer

I am the Customer Service Manager and started this position back in the spring. I am replacing Jeff Laird, who is now retired. I grew up camping, fishing and riding at LBL. I have been working here for 20 years. I started in 2002, as a wildlife apprentice. In my time here, I have worked at many of the facilities and have also worked in Alaska and Montana.

I am responsible for recreation, engineering, environmental education, heritage, archaeology, and special uses.

Under recreation, we have three developed campgrounds: Hillman Ferry, Wranglers, and Piney. These three campgrounds are considered regional priority sites. We have over 450 miles of trails that include equestrian and water trails. The water trails are fairly new to LBL. There are approximately 80 water trail access areas now. Boat ramps and picnic areas also fall under recreation.

The engineering staff provides support to the facilities; from all of the infrastructure to our road system, and deferred maintenance on our buildings. They help with construction, repair projects, a little bit of design, project planning and the maintenance contract.

For environmental education we have the Nature Station, Planetarium and Observatory, Brandon Spring and the 1850s Homeplace. My mom used to volunteer at the Homeplace. We were there yesterday, and it brought back a lot of fond memories and it made me proud to be here trying to support that facility.

Archaeology and heritage also fall under my department. I do not have any ancestors that lived here, but I am from Marshall County. So, I am familiar with the history. I take it very seriously and it is important to me. Our staff has a good relationship with many of the former residents. They work really hard to clean-up graffiti at places like the Silo and the Western Furnace, try to come up with mitigations to keep things like that from happening again. They also did a lot of survey work to support the Timber Salvage Sales. There is collaboration that goes on with the Native American Tribes. We are currently working on a Trail of Tears Project through an agreement with the National Park Service.

There are approximately 25 people in my department, and I am very proud to lead them. They do a lot of good work, and they really care. We serve a diverse group of customers who love this place, and I'm proud to serve them.

For additional information: <https://landbetweenthe lakes.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Custom er-Service-Advisory-Board-Doc..pdf>

John Westbrook, Environmental Stewardship (ES) Staff Officer

I have been here for approximately seven years. I see some familiar faces in the room today. We have had some very lively discussions and conversations in the past. I recognize the need and understand the importance of the Board.

I am originally from Alabama and have been with the Agency for 26 years. I started off in Wyoming as a biologist; then, to Georgia to work in the timber program. Then, I decided that I wanted to be part of something that was bigger than just myself. That is why I am here. This is the place that allows you, if you allow yourself, to buy into what it offers; to be woven into the thread and the fabric, that makes this place unique.

We have a mantra in my department. We will be open, honest, and available for frank conversations. That means that we are not always going to agree, but we are going to talk about it. It does not mean that you are going to get your way, and it does not mean that I am going to get mine. We talk about it because we all have a job to do, and because I am invested in this place. In the same token, I owe it to you to talk about it. When we stop talking, everyone loses.

I am responsible for wildlife, timber, water, soil, South Bison Range (SBR), Elk and Bison Prairie (EBP) and the fire program. We receive in excess of 100,000 visitors to EBP. An advantage that we have here over other units is that we have control over our restricted hunts (i.e., turkey and deer) on our public lands.

I am responsible for the fire program. I know that fire is often a concern. We are tasked to manage this resource using active management. Often, we find that it is the most cost-effective active management tool that we have available to us that will bring about a change on the landscape. In an attempt to manage and protect the resources, we have to remove the fuels. The problem with not removing the fuels is what we see on television in California, Oregon, and Utah. We do not want a similar catastrophic event like that here. We have to find means to manage a lot of these things; and it may not be pretty to some, but it is effective.

Invasive species (i.e., Asian carp, fire ants, feral hogs). We have partnerships in place. The intent is for us to learn new techniques and tactics to hopefully bring about full eradication of certain species from this landscape.

The Tenant Farmer Program is another important piece. They represent an opportunity for us to keep our open lands open. A lot of the old home places are maintained by tenant farmers. It is a really effective tool for us to use.

You asked earlier about the Timber Salvage Sales, and I want to assure you that we are staying way inside the footprint of the impacted areas. We have over 10,000 acres that were impacted. We are actively managing 4,500 acres of only the most severely impacted. We are only dealing

with the severe and catastrophic. We are finding ways to put that money back on ground at LBL. One of the first places that you will see it is in the roads to cemeteries and places that are visited often.

The strategy that is being used in Puerto Rico for hurricane clean-up was developed here in this building. From utilizing the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) Designation, to the use of aerial and satellite photography. Getting those groups together and coming out with a final product. We were able to get everything rolling within one week. Typically, that process would take 60 to 90 days. This is just one example of how we have used our Demonstration Authority.

Social licensing is making sure that we put the appropriate values in the appropriate places. As it relates, there's a lot of history here. Often, the Agency does not put enough emphasis in cultural effect. At LBL, we try to make sure that we are including the former residents; as well as our partners, to ensure that the appropriate values are used in our decision-making processes.

For additional information: <https://landbetweenthelakes.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Environmental-Stewardship-Advisory-Board-Doc..pdf>

Tina made everyone aware that no one from the public indicated that they wanted to make any comments today. So, a little later we will have some extra time in the agenda. We can use that time to focus on and prioritize some of the issues that you would like to cover. The staff is now going to give you an overview of what they hope to accomplish in FY 2023.

Jared Baker, Business Performance Staff Officer

I really appreciate everyone being here today. As you know we had a pandemic. If you look at our visitation numbers, last year was the highest to date and I have got records back to the 1970's thanks to Ski. Visitation this year has been a little lower. It is more of an average year.

There was a lot of things that we, the staff, were not able to accomplish and do because of the pandemic and the fearful environment. Back on October 1, we began our new FY (reference to Fiscal Year). This is going to be the first FY since 2019 that we have some sort of normalcy for the entire FY.

BP is really gearing up to help all the program managers and staff that work under Chris, Jamey, and John to get their programs back to pre-pandemics levels. Working with them with their budgets, programs, projects, and business strategies.

Before the pandemic, BP implemented an Operations Analysis of the Nature Station (NS). We sat down with some of the NS to do some brainstorming. It was an equal round-table group comprised of Forest Service employees and Land Between the Lakes Association (LBLA) employees to come up with ways to improve Nature Station operations. I am a firm believer that the way to increase revenues is not by increasing fees, it is about increasing visitation. We know that currently, the NS is nowhere near capacity. The campgrounds are at capacity on holiday weekends, but other times they are not. We work with facilities to discuss how we can bring in

more visitors during the slow times. The NS draft is in the process of being finalized. In FY 2023, we will start on the Homeplace operations analysis.

Another priority is going to be our hiring strategy. As Leisa mentioned, we are about 14 staff short. BP is the spearhead of all those hiring actions. We are looking for unique ways of hiring. For example, Kim Crump, Financial Specialist, retired after 42 years at LBL. We were able to do a reinstatement action to bring back Kathy Coursey. Kathy was the former Budget Officer. She was here during the transition to the Forest Service; has very intimate knowledge of the Act, and our Demonstration Authority. Reinstatement actions are just one example of the hiring tools that we have available to us.

Chris Joyner, Public Affairs Staff Officer

I wanted to say earlier is that I am really excited that we are here today. Kudos to the local elected officials for their continued efforts in keeping this in the forefront. Having this forum to communicate is so very important. You mentioned earlier, one of the things you wanted to be able to do is understand what your role is with the Board. You all provide incredibly valuable formal input to Secretary of Agriculture.

Someone earlier brought up about the tornadoes. One of the things I really appreciate is transparent government. If I had it my way, every file would be made available to the public. But there are some proprietary issues that we have to be concerned with. For example, legalities associated with contracts. As we go forward, you will see a lot of that information on our website once it is no longer proprietary in nature.

There is a transportation project that Carlin has been working on for quite a while. Many of the kiosks are outdated and are going to be replaced. If you have been to the Elk and Bison Prairie recently, you will notice the quality of the new signs.

The National Visitor Use Monitoring survey (NVUM) is one of the critical pieces for trying to identify key markets, key groups to get our message out to. We have not had a good source for this information since the last survey was in 2012. At some point, I would like to have a conversation about how to reach different communities and underserved populations. We will utilize the data from the survey to strategize our brand awareness marketing to improve visitation moving forward.

Jamey Thweatt, Customer Service Staff Officer

One thing that I left out earlier is that we have a litter of red wolf pups at the NS. They are a very highly endangered species. We thought the male was too old to breed. So, this was an awesome surprise.

I'm going to start with archaeology. I mentioned earlier that Chris Thornock is working on a Trail of Tears Project with our partner, the National Park Service. That Project is just getting off the ground.

We are always trying to improve our relationship with the former residents. Another project that he is working on is interpretive panels that will be installed at Fenton. Also, the post-Timber Salvage Sale surveys will continue into FY 2023.

You will be happy to hear that engineering has a lot of road maintenance planned for FY 2023. A portion of the proceeds from the Timber Salvage Sales will be put towards roads. Some culvert replacement is planned as well.

We received a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant from the Kentucky Department of Transportation. We have approximately \$1.2 million to spend on trails. Those funds have to be spent in Kentucky. We are planning work on the Central Hardwoods Trail, North/South Trail, Hematite parking area, blind overlook and two bridge replacements. Also, on the list, is road improvements to enhance access to water trails.

As far as environmental education, Jared mentioned the NS Operations Analysis is nearing completion. There are going to be some new programs developed as a result. We will give them a try. If it works, great! If not, we will move forward and try other things.

Hazard tree mitigation is also planned for many of the facilities.

A new entrance sign is being designed for the Homeplace. We have been working with HistoriCorps. They are a nonprofit organization that does period type work. They replaced the roof on the Double Pen House and some other building there. The existing agreement is closing out. We are considering another agreement with them to do some more work at the Homeplace.

As mentioned earlier, Wi-Fi is being installed at Brandon Spring. It is due for some upgrades, deferred maintenance, and replacements. Due to some air quality issues, it was the last facility to open after COVID. It took a lot of hard work and being diligent, but the issue has been mitigated. It was really great to see kids down there yesterday.

We will be taking a look at parking challenges; specifically, at Hillman Ferry and Piney Campgrounds. Recreational vehicles are getting bigger; so, we are going to have our engineers come up with some plans to increase the size of some of the parking areas. At the dispersed areas and lake access, we will be working on routing access, road maintenance, hazard tree mitigation and just overall maintenance as needed.

Contracting has been moved to the USDA level. So, we no longer have an in-house contracting officer. Procurement for big projects is awarded through contracts. After we determine the scope of work; then, it is put out solicitation. We had a mandatory site visit for potential bidders last week. The Technical Evaluation Team will meet to review the proposals; and then, make a selection. We broke out the contract into three different pieces: roads and trails, grounds maintenance and wastewater. The length of the contract is typically five years (one year, with four option years).

A Board Member asked who handles things regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)? Jamey responded that his department oversees that. We do improvements and upgrades. We do try to make sure that everything is as accessible as possible.

This has got my attention. When I first started to go to parks, it was not an issue for me. But now that I am disabled, it is different now. I have to think of other ways to get access to places (i.e., Planetarium). Have you given thought to how you could modernize things? Jamey said that as we are doing upgrades we are looking at innovative ways to make ADA improvements. We definitely look at the guidelines and see what can be done.

Have you considered scooters rentals? It sure would make it easier to get around. Jamey commented that we have received some special use requests from disabled hunters to be able to use motorized wheelchairs. We have to look at what that might do to the programs; what effects it might have on the resources and other hunters. We have to be fair to all user groups.

John Westbrook, Environmental Stewardship Staff Officer

ES going to be working on timber. At this point, our best estimate is that we will be putting half-a-million tons of salvage timber into the local economy over the next couple of years.

Other things that we are doing, given our Demonstration Authority, is some of the work that has been done with the Geospatial Technology Application Center (GTAC) in Salt Lake City, Utah. They brought in a specialized aircraft that allowed us to track the exact path of the storms and classify them into one of the four categories. The ones that we are dealing with are categorized as severe and catastrophic. There will be a lot of monitoring that will take place here over the next year.

Something else that we are looking at within the wildlife program is Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and potential impacts to the elk herd. We are looking at the possibility of double fencing EBP. Unless we want to put a lid on it, we cannot keep CWD out because of avian predators/scavengers that are known to roost in the trees inside EBP. Their feces drop to the ground and so on. You can see where this is going.

I am in the process of filling some positions in our fire program. I need to fill those positions; so that, we can begin our monitoring program. There are some things that we deal with locally; for example, water temperature is higher than ground temperature which makes smoke do things. Smoke likes to go wherever it wants to go. We do not want it sitting on top of Interstate 69 from a safety management standpoint.

For the past few years, we have been utilizing agreements with partners for our invasive species program. They bring in aerial operations to assist us with the feral hogs. We support our partners with Fish and Wildlife with the modified unified method for the Asian carp.

A Board Member asked if we are gaining ground regarding feral hog eradication. John said that we are gaining and losing ground. We have made some real progress. It has made a noticeable impact in areas that we have targeted. We have been approached by individuals that are interested in having a special use permit to hunt feral swine here. Prior to that request, there were no feral swine here-we do not know where they came from. What we do know is that they became more prevalent all of a sudden, and the population started growing. It is still our belief that we will win in the battle against them.

A Board Member asked about armadillos in the area. John explained that it is due to climate change—they follow the food source. The further north you go, it is cold; and so, less food sources are available. So, they go where it is a little warmer and find more food sources. Another Board Member commented that it seems as though climate change is impacting the work that you are doing. John replied, there is a direct correlation.

A Board Member gave the Forest Service kudos for their response to the tornado damage. I have seen improvement from the way this situation was handled in the past. Damaged timber laid on the ground so long it was no longer marketable. From what I am hearing, this is something that has been resolved. We are grateful for the improved management and for the funds that will be returned to LBL. John said that our Demonstration Authority helped expedite the process. A Board Member inquired if we could share a dollar amount regarding timber sales. John responded we are unable to provide that information while the contracts are active. These funds will come back to LBL, correct? John confirmed that the revenues from the Timber Salvage Sales would remain at LBL. By having the additional money from the Timber Salvage Sales, will our appropriated funds be reduced as a result? Per John, that should not happen. He explained that the Act states that funds generated on the unit will stay on the unit.

The question was asked, what do you have as a generalized proportion of how much effort has been put into trapping versus your contract shooting regarding feral hog eradication efforts? John commented that we are using all of the tools that are available to us. There is no cost to us with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); other than, our personnel costs relating to safety. The active trapping program is year-round.

Topics for Future Meetings

Tina explained that we have time set aside on the agenda for public comment. No comments were received, hopefully we will improve ways of outreaching to the public. We are going to move on and use that time to go over the issues that you wrote down during the working lunch break.

They are as follows:

- As a new Board member, what are the duties and goals for new members?
- Tornado logging plan and proceeds.
- Recreational shooting and educational opportunities.
- Discussion of impacts and mitigation of invasive species.
- Brief impacts and usage of fee restructure of campgrounds.
- ADA issues: handicap restroom not wheelchair accessible (i.e., Sugar Bay Campground).
- eBike restrictions from all trails.
- Begin historical field trip/tours.
- Editing Bylaws.
- Fill vacant positions in ES. Currently at 30%.
- Promote timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat, and as a funding source for cultural activities.

- Transition to native grass/forbs as primary food source for Bison Prairie; not fescue.
- Heritage/culture.
- Possibly visit other national recreation areas/parks for ideas.
- Enhancement of early successional wildlife habitats for imperiled species.
- Concerned about the number of vacancies on the organizational chart.
- Education programs.
- Public awareness of LBL and its opportunities (regional and national).
- Work on adding discussion for the public. What is an effective way for the public to make comments?
- Add, study, highlight, encourage and enhance diversity of people and culture at LBL. Adding purpose or modifying that.

Tina said that one of the main issues she heard earlier was to have open discussion of issues. Also, making sure that the Charter is renewed in a timely manner. What other thoughts do you have?

The comment was made that we need to find ways to increase meeting efficiency. What is the best way to make use of our time?

Much of the information is available online. But what about those that do not have the knowledge or access to a computer, or their cell phone does not have service when they are visiting LBL? There is still a need for brochures.

- Getting internet to surrounding agencies/communication between organizations.
- Guidance for Board Members on working with Forest Service staff.
- Need more emails regarding comments, projects, and environmental education.
- Sharing of events and other (i.e., mailing lists).
- Business performance.
- Committee development and involvement.
- Timely update of online collaboration tool.
- Marketing-promotion/brochures versus online.
- Improve/increase public awareness.

A Board Member expressed concern over the lack of communication during the past five years. Chris explained that was intentional. He was concerned that we overcommunicated event type situations; and that if we had warning news information or a crisis situation going on, that it would get lost in the noise of all the other news releases. There is a difference between news and a community event. This strategy seems to be working, as what we are putting out is being picked up by media outlets. The National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) is the exception. There is a specific process for NEPA actions, and LBLA continues to send out communications about special events. The Board Member that made the previous statement offered an explanation on the importance of the NEPA process for the new Board Members. NEPA is a tool that the Forest Service uses to vet a project. The process allows a period of time for public comment. It is important that the public receives these notifications.

There have been times when the public has not been accepting of some of the decisions the Forest Service has made. So, I hope we find a way to collaborate in this setting and find a way to refurbish public interaction.

Christine is going to pass around a note pad for you to write down your contact information. She will create a list and share it with all of you. Share whatever information; if any, that you are comfortable with (i.e., phone number, email). This will not be shared with the public. It is for your use. Also, the Advisory Board page of our website has been updated to reflect the current Board Members. It shows Board Members names and the area that you represent (i.e., USDA, county, etc.). It does not have any personally identifiable information.

Next Steps

Leisa said that we are thinking that we will meet again in six months. How does April 11 or 18 work for everyone? The April meeting and future meetings will continue to be hybrid. So, if you are unable to be in the room, you can still participate virtually. The additional meeting in January to go over the Bylaws piece of this will be predicated on whether or not we receive enough information from all the sources we need to go to; so, we can bring it back to you.

A Board Member commented that we have learned in the past that setting a meeting date in October is not a good idea. In previous years, at least two meetings were cancelled in October because federal funding had lapsed. So, the solution is to have it in September to avoid that in the future. Leisa responded that she understands the concern and really wanted to get the Board reestablished and meet as soon as all the elements were completed.

Meeting in November may be a challenge due to voting, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. Next time we meet, we can determine the best months for meetings going forward. The majority agreed to meet on April 11.

We will be talking about the Bylaws. There will probably be a little bit of carry over; even if we do meet in January, or as soon as we can after that. We are going to use the list of topics that you came up with as a driving force to help us set an agenda. Of the topics that you brought forward, only two were exactly alike.

We will definitely be talking about what your role is as a member of the Board. There is a need to provide some guidelines about what we are doing and why we are in the room. A theme that kept coming up is how do we improve/increase public engagement.

A Board Member stated that they only learned of the agenda today. If we could get the agenda in advance of the meeting that would help us prepare for the discussions. Christine responded that it was posted online and apologized. The link to the agenda was included in an email to the Board. In the future, she will send the agenda as an attachment.

Leisa said that there was a lot of good things that came about during COVID. We know how to do things online better; we are able to move information faster to more people. The other piece to it is we were able to get a lot of a lot of things produced. I did not have the staff officers go

through everything that happened over the last three years, but this unit produced a lot of good things, and they kept the doors open at a time when people were coming back to public lands.

At any point, if you would like to hear more about what happened in the previous years, we can also go over that. But I was really pointing us more toward the future and how you can help us shape the future.

We will do everything we can to make sure you get the information you need to be prepared before the next meeting.

Most of the meetings will continue to be held in this room unless there is something going on with our building. If there is, then we might use our activity building down on the Tennessee side. Are there any questions before we adjourn the meeting?

A Board Member requested an update every couple of weeks as far as when we will have the online tool for collaboration and communication again. That would go a long way with solving a lot of problems. Leisa said that she will look into it. It will likely take a month or so to find out what is available, and we are allowed to use. She agreed to keep the Board informed.

We recently established an email inbox that is specific to the Board. Christine, Chris, and I have access to the inbox. So, all of us are able to monitor communications; and so, there is no delay in getting back with you like there would be if you sent an email directly to Christine or myself and we are out of the office. Please use the following email address for Board business: SM.FS.LBL_AdBoard@usda.gov.

Rick closed out the meeting by thanking the Board for their time today and for being present throughout the meeting. Also, thank you for sharing what was on your minds; that is important.

It has been a treat and I am honored to be with you, and part of this. I am looking forward to figuring things out and getting things done. It is always difficult to do things that have not been done before, and to get things done. I appreciate the opportunity to work together and do some of that heavy lifting.

As we went around the room, I was really impressed hearing about your experience and skills. Having such high caliber folks on this Board is tremendous. Let me know if you have any questions; or, if there is anything that I can help with. I am working for you. Also, Leisa is available as well.

Thank you all and safe travels home.

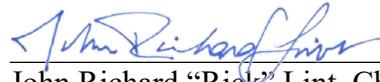
For additional Land Between the Lakes Advisory Board information: <https://landbetweenthelakes.us/about/working-together/>

Adjourn:

The next Advisory Board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 11, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Central Time. The meeting will be held at the Land Between the Lakes Administration Building located at 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, KY 42211.

The meeting will also be available to attend virtually or via phone through Microsoft Teams.

Certified by:



John Richard "Rick" Lint, Chairperson

November 14, 2022

Date