

United States Forest Service
Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL)
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2016

The Land Between The Lakes (LBL) Advisory Board convened at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 19, 2016, at the Forest Service Administrative Office Building, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211. The meeting was open to the public. Ten Board members, one alternate, a facilitator, three members of the public and four Forest Service (FS) employees were in attendance.

Advisory Board members present:

Della Oliver (P)	Donnie Holland (P)	Chris Garland (P)
Sally Whittington (P)	Bobby Wilson (P)	Steve Elkins (P)
Dwight Van de Vate (P)	Ginny Grulke (P)	Terry Mott (A)
Bill Purkes (P)	Charles Hancock (P)	

(P=Primary; A=Alternate)

Advisory Board staff present:

Dr. Jerome Thomas, Advisory Board Chairperson
Tina Tilley, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Christine Bombard, Advisory Board Administrative Liaison
Nancy Walters, Facilitator

Forest Service Staff present:

Andria Weeks, Director of Regulatory and Management Services
Jeff Laird, Customer Service Department Manager
John Westbrook, Environmental Stewardship Department Manager
Barbara Wysock, Area Planner

Members of the public present:

John Rufli-Friends of LBL, Phyllis Turner and Doris Sato

Dr. Thomas opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their time, participation and for the work that they have done and for the work that they continue to do. Tina expressed her appreciation for the Boards time and efforts.

Bobby Wilson was recognized in his new position as appointee for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and Charles Hancock for the Stewart County seat on the Board. Tina shared that she looks forward to the new thoughts and perspectives that they bring to the

table and expressed her enthusiasm as this is the most seated Board meeting that has been had since she has served as the Designated Federal Officer.

Nancy Walters, facilitator greeted and thanked the Board for their participation. The Board was reminded of the engagement guidelines that had been agreed upon at a previous meeting.

Engagement guidelines:

- Seek balanced participation
- Balance advocacy and curiosity
- Respect differing views
- Listen to understand

Minutes from the meeting on March 17, 2016, that had been posted to Basecamp were reviewed and accepted for finalization without any edits. Additional, items that have been posted to Basecamp since the last meeting are the notes from the public meetings and the Fox Hollow proposal in draft form.

Nancy brought the new members up to speed about the Fox Hollow case study:

- Area is 540 acres
- Forest Service hosted a field trip to the Fox Hollow area
- Several public meetings have been held to discuss the various potential needs for change
- By the fall of this year the case study should come full circle and be completed

For the benefit of the new Board members and as a reminder to all Nancy presented the following:

- Board meets 2-3 times a year
- Board is made up of 17 members
- Charter must be renewed every 2 years

Advisory Board Charter

Jerome began the discussion stating that the current charter is up for re-establishment in May 2017. Tina has initiated this process and asked Andria Weeks to join the Board today. Ms. Weeks is the Director of Regulatory and Management Services, who oversees these processes.

The re-establishment of the charter provides us an opportunity to make some minor changes to the charter. The proposed modifications would be to provide clarity on the appointing process and 5-year term limits with Board members not able to succeed themselves. This discussion is to share the points up for modification and collaborate on any proposed changes.

Historically, only USDA Board positions were being submitted to Washington for vetting. The Washington Office (WO) has now directed us to send all applicant packages for vetting. Vetting may result in a longer time required to formally fill positions on the Board.

Next the Board discussed the 5-year term of the Board and that members cannot succeed themselves. Andria shared with the Board that members can only serve for 5 years and then rotate off.

There was conversation among the Board as to why the need to enforce the 5-year term limit. Comments were made that once appointed to the Board it takes time to become effective and confident to speak out at the meetings. There is a learning curve. It took many years to learn and they are still learning.

A Board member expressed that they would like to keep as much local control of the Board as possible. There is need for more local input. We need to try to hold on to all of the information and resources of the locals.

There was significant discussion about how long someone must be off the Board before being eligible for another primary position. Recommendations ranged from one day then upward. Tina committed to discuss the issue further with Andria and report back to the Board.

Questions also arose around how adjoining counties received representation. Representatives from these counties can be appointed by the USDA and Governors seats to the Board.

Jerome explained that a fairly balanced Board will encourage fresh ideas and a way to achieve that is with staggered membership terms. He went on to explain that an important part of the charter renewal process is the Civil Rights Impact Analysis (CRIA).

A Board member acknowledged that a CRIA is a complicated initiative and has much respect for the outreach process and for the efforts made to promote diversity. The following entities were mentioned as possible outlets for outreach potential:

- National Wildlife Turkey Federation Wheelin' Sportsmen
- Wounded Warriors
- Fort Campbell MWR

Jerome continued by saying that we do not want to kick folks off the Board. We have a charter that lays out what we are supposed to do. Some things we have control over and some things are policy driven. We need to know what the rules are, abide by them and establish understanding of the process. It is not clear that we are outside of policy. When we do outreach we look for diversity. We need to be mindful of and make the case of extensive outreach efforts as we consider those that have expressed interest in serving on the Board.

The following were identified as items for charter clarity:

- Vetting-all positions to be vetted by USDA.
 - Vetted for: conflicts of interest and criminal background
- Term limits
 - Set: 5 consecutive years; cannot succeed yourself; re: person not position
 - Fresh views vs. continuity-balance
 - Time interval off the Board is a gray area; Tina will work with the WO to clarify
 - Back-to-back terms as a Primary and Alternate Board member are acceptable
- Two contiguous counties
 - Not on Board
 - May be flexibility to fill from other representations (Governor's and USDA appointees)
 - County Judges can appoint someone not in his/her county
 - Wildlife Commissioner can appoint someone not in the commission
 - It is about representing the views of the appointing body

Fox Hollow Case Study

Barbara Wysock presented the NEPA triangle to reflect on the steps that have been taken thus far in relationship to the Fox Hollow case study. She walked us through the triangle explaining where we were and where we are now in the process. Thanks to the collaborative effort we have a broader range of opportunities. At this point, we are at the top of the triangle and can start talking about a project for the area.

Since this started as a case study it will remain a case study from beginning to implementation; but real actions on the ground will be identified and taken. The next step is to look at the purpose and need. Purpose and need will come out of the opportunities. Then is the proposed action. The proposed action is taking the opportunities and making them more specific. That is when we send out a scoping letter and ask for public comment.

Tina shared her reflections from the small group meetings that were held to get the publics' input on the potential needs for Fox Hollow. In preparation of the meetings we sent out letters and news releases. Fifteen-eighteen members of the public attended each meeting. Tina was pleased with the turnout.

Participants were given the basic information about Fox Hollow and discussed opportunities for change. All of the comments were captured and entered into a spreadsheet. The spreadsheet is representative of the comments received from the public meetings and the last Advisory Board.

A comment was made that it might be time to have discussions beyond just Fox Hollow. Jerome explained that this has been stretched out due to being used as a learning tool and that this is not

the normal time frame. This has been an expanded process to hone and learn as we develop skills. We are learning how much information is needed, when to share, what is the right balance of information and about how to keep the public involved throughout the process.

It was shared that we are ready to send out a scoping document to the public for their comments. An example of a scoping letter was provided to the Board. The Board was asked how best to get the public's engagement in reviewing the document. The goal is to make the scoping letter more readily understood, improve communication flow and keep the publics engaged in the process.

Possible "Scoping" Mechanisms

- Send letter to interested parties on mailing list
- Add link on web homepage-consolidate all related documents
- Put notice in 3 papers- Paducah Sun, Trigg & Lyon County with the phone number
- Tie to an article not just a notice
- News Release goes out to 1,000
- Pennyrile electric monthly and Fish & Wildlife magazines
- BTR Facebook page
- Post in visitors centers; opportunity for interaction
- Meeting where various interest groups are invited
 - In the process connect to issues brought up originally where it is appropriate
 - Do not do individual meetings for interest groups
- Radio (WKDZ)
- Social media
- Advisory Board members can help

Feedback from Board members: What is the cost of doing nothing? Your plate is already full. Focus on damage control with what you have already got before moving on with new and more. You need to find a way to tie all this together. Keep it simple and cohesive. Education is the key. Take the time up front and that will help with the level of acceptance. Also, it is important to keep the scale realistic.

Jerome agreed that it is a legitimate concern that we do not want to start anything that we cannot sustain. Meaning we will not start implementation and walk away from the project. No ideas are off the table at this time. You have to be committed all the way.

What are the steps that will be taken between now and the fall meeting to develop a range of alternatives/scoping document?

- Variety of meetings; meet with specific user groups; small group meetings
- Goal is to collect data
- By November look at a range of draft alternatives
- Consider all input and opportunities
 - All comments will be considered
 - Some may be dropped due to forest policy

All documents shared today will be posted on Basecamp. Tina asked for the Board to comment on the draft scoping document so the information can be more easily understood.

Beyond Fox Hollow

John Westbrook led the discussion about the opportunities that may be available to use the skills that we have gleaned from the Fox Hollow case study on future LBL projects. He presented a map that detailed the recent storm damage. We experienced flooding, and a tornado touched down in the Craven's Bay area. As a result, some heritage sites and cemeteries have damage. This is an opportunity to use the tools that we have developed from Fox Hollow to do something that makes sense. He started the discussion by asking the group to help us to figure out the best approach to deal with the damage (i.e. roads, vegetative, cultural, etc.). What are the social, economic and cultural considerations? Does this make sense? Another option is to do nothing.

Concerns were voiced over previous timber management and Jerome shared that the Forest Service is committed to working collaboratively and we need to give the process a chance.

A comment was made that this is an opportunity for education and that scale is an issue. You might get public acceptance if you start with something on a smaller scale.

When it comes to logging and harvesting timber, education is key. The public needs to know what the goal is in doing this type of activity. Provide signage where the cutting is taking place and put information on your website.

Is there an opportunity to do day lighting roads and contract out the work? Tina responded yes to both. However, we have not received any storm dollars yet. Costs so far have been out of pocket.

Board members asked questions regarding the following:

- Ability to react timely
- Loggers clearing along roads at no cost to the Forest Service
- What is the cost of doing nothing

The group discussed focusing strategically on the area and utilizing a shortened NEPA process. We will use all available tools to make the process as efficient as possible but cannot allow loggers to clear roadways without surveys being completed.

There is a need to look at all the impacts of the storm damage and share that with the public. The cost of doing nothing should be considered for some areas.

Jerome shared that there is a need to gather information, develop a timeline and complete NEPA by considering options. Need to use the tools developed in Fox Hollow to communicate and collaborate with the public so there are no misconceptions. Boundaries need to be explained.

Suggestions by the Board are as follows:

- Leave all or part untouched for environmental education
- Makes sense to clean it out and clean up
- Signage at area explaining storm damage
- Be clear and concise in efforts to what happened on the ground and what the goals are

Wrap-up

Next Advisory Board Meeting Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

Topics to potentially include:

- 10 year Monitoring Report
- Fox Hollow Range of Alternatives
- Environmental Education strategy update
 - No current line item in the budget for this
 - Align environmental education program
 - What are the needs and desires?
 - What are we capable of producing; need to maximize what we are doing

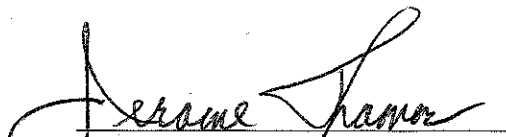
Tina is grateful to have the opportunity to start change. We have started down a good path. I am looking forward to listening, working and building together.

Jerome stated we are learning, using tools that we should have been using years ago. My hope for the future is that we gain experience, elevate trust and confidence moving forward. Also, that we deal with issues in a timely fashion and continue to work collaboratively. We are putting our best foot forward and hope that folks will see that this is the new way that we are doing business. Thank you all for coming and safe travels.

Action Items

- Tina and Andria will get further clarification about the areas of flexibility in the Charter
- Tina will craft language for review by the Board on 5-year term/succession in the Charter
- Jeff will post Environmental Education charrette information on Basecamp
- Board members will review draft scoping proposal for working and clarity immediately
- John will use Basecamp to communicate and invite feedback on storm damage

Certified by:



JEROME THOMAS
LBL Advisory Board Chairperson

08/16/2016
(Date)