

United States Forest Service
Land Between The Lakes (LBL)
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2014

The Land Between The Lakes (LBL) Advisory Board convened at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, October 8, at the Administration Building at 100 Van Morgan Drive in Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211. The meeting was open to the public. Nine Board members, five members of the public, and twelve Forest Service (FS) employees were in attendance.

Advisory Board members present:

Tony Black (P)	Bill Purkes (P)	Tim McGinnis (P)
Jesse Thomas (P)	Della Oliver (P)	Kevin Murphy (A)
Michael Lyons (P)	Sally Whittington (P)	Steve Elkins (P)

Advisory Board staff present:

Jerome Thomas, Advisory Board Chairperson
Tina Tilley, Designated Federal Official (DFO)
Linda Taylor, Advisory Board Administrative Liaison
Angie Mitchell, Facilitator

Five members of the public consisted of: John Ruffli, Lisa Taylor, Roger Kendall, Gary Jones, and Larry Ladd.

Forest Service (FS) staff in attendance:

Brian Beisel, Manager, Customer Service Department
Denise Schmittou, Acting Manager, Communications Department
Darrin Samborski, Environmentalist Education, Customer Service Department
Pat Fowler, Manager, Environmental Stewardship Department
Dennis Wilson, Forester
Andy Pascarella, Fire Management Officer
Barbara Wysock, Area Planner
Jackie Franklin, Soil Scientist
Angie Mitchell, Lead Contracting Officer & Facilitator for the Advisory Board Meeting

Angie Mitchell opened the meeting by introducing herself as the facilitator and telling Board members about the facilities. She reviewed the purpose of the Board, "*Which is to provide advice on Environmental Education (EE), and a means of promoting public participation for the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP.)*" Angie then introduced Tina Tilley as the Area Supervisor for Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area.

Tina thanked the Board members and the public for taking the time to attend today's meeting and discussed logistics for today's meeting.

Field Trip

(1) Jenny Ridge Timber Sale Stop:

Tina Tilley started the stop by updating the Board's request for clarification on their role in promoting public participation for the land management plan. *The Office of General Council (OGC) has advised that the Board's role is not intended for site specific projects. There is flexibility in the board providing input on large scale Forest Plan monitoring.* This will be a topic for future meetings.

The intent of the stop was to discuss vegetation management. One side of the road had been harvested this past summer, and the other side had no active management. Dennis Wilson, Timber Management Officer, for Land Between The Lakes, explained to the group how and why the area was selected for management, how the management tied to the forest plan, and how the project was implemented. Dennis further explained how we use areas like this to educate student groups and environmental organization members on forest health, non-native invasive challenges, sanitation thinning after storm damage, and other best land management practices. Board members identified the following areas that could use clarification when discussing vegetation management to the public:

- What is the cost per acre for vegetation management and where does the monies go after the timber is sold?
- Opportunities for a demonstration showing active management versus natural condition.
- Defining old growth forests.
- Discussion of how slash is disposed of after a timber sale and what are the impacts to trails and roads due to slash.
- Land Between The Lakes utilization of Best Management Practices. What are these practices? Who checks on these practices and when?
- How do we know that we are making progress towards Oak Savannah habitats?
- How do we share with the public what concerns brought during a project are valid and what might just need more information to explain?
- What do we mean when we discuss "conservation?" Some of the public thinks of preservation when they hear conservation.
- There is a number of our public that still equates timber sales to clear cuts. Need to paint a better picture of what we plan to do on the landscape.

(2) Crooked Creek Prescribed Burn Stop:

Andy Pascarella, Fire Management Officer for Land Between The Lakes, discussed the reasons that we conduct prescribed burns, resource objectives that drive burns, burn parameters that must be met before a match can be lit and how a burn is conducted. Location of the stop showed that on one side of the road an area that was burnt last April as well as in 2009 and the other side had not been burned. In addition to explaining prescription parameters for burning, Andy spent time on environmental education topics like comparing catastrophic wildfires to our prescribed burns and discussing the benefits prescribed burns have on the environment like increased recreation usage for wildlife

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viewing, hunting, and hiking. Board members identified the following areas that could use clarification when discussing burning with the public.

- How many burn days are in any given year based on the all the parameters?
- When do these burn days typically take place?
- How is smoke managed during a prescribed burn?
- Is the outcome after a burn worth the cost?
- What is the cost to burn?
- Do tick populations increase after a burn?
- What research has already been conducted on burns and how does it fit our area?

Sales and prescribed burning serves multiple purposes and benefits multiple program areas such as: roads, wildlife, soil, water, and recreation. Recreation encompasses scenic viewing, hunting, and hiking. We are meeting the Forest Plan objectives but also trying to explain how it benefits users at Land Between The Lakes.

After reflecting on the field trip with the Board members the group was dismissed at 12 noon for lunch and asked to return by 1:30 p.m.

(3) Environmental Education Success Story:

Problem Based Learning – Trigg County High School

Darrin Samborski introduced Trigg County High School principal, Mr. Shannon Burcham, science teacher Mr. Scott Hill along with Mr. Matt Ladd, and five students: Marshall Evans, Braylin Mitchell, Jensen Price, Matthew Carneyhan, and Lauren Oliver. Each student gave a presentation on “Problem-Based Learning.” The presentation was videotaped which can be shared with other FS and Trigg county. The video is located at: <http://youtu.be/I-O3oVFvmo>.

Student presentations were as follows:

- Marshall Evans project encompassed Invasive Species in the Fenton area which includes Asian Carp.
- Braylin Mitchell discussed the erosion problems at Turkey Bay.
- Jensen Price discussed Invasive Species
- Matthew Carneyhan’s project was about Ferguson-Springs Road and the beaver population.
- Lauren Oliver’s project concerned Recreation.

Darrin Samborski discussed Theme-Based learning which took place this spring and summer at the Nature Station.

- In April we expanded our one day event at the Nature Station and introduced “Home-School Month” at all our environmental education facilities.

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- The “Hummingbird Festival” also expanded into a month and provided multiple opportunities for people to learn about Hummingbirds. The festival itself draws over 1,000 visitors.

Old Business:

- Linda updated the Board concerning the Charter renewal. *Charter renewal package has been completed and submitted for consideration. It is expected to be renewed before the current charter expires in February 2015.*
- Tina Tilley shared that currently there are two vacant USDA Board positions open. Applications have been submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture for consideration in the positions.


Recognition of members rotating off the Board

Three members of the Board are scheduled to rotate off the Board after this meeting: *Jesse Thomas, Sam Tharpe, and James Byford.* Dr. Thomas made a presentation to Jesse Thomas in appreciation of his service. Sam Tharpe and James Byford will have their recognition sent to them in the mail.

Jerome Thomas adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.

Certified by:


JEROME THOMAS
LBL Advisory Board Chairperson


(Date)

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