

United States Forest Service
Land Between The Lakes (LBL)
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2011

The Land Between The Lakes (LBL) Advisory Board convened at 9 a.m. on November 3 at the Brandon Spring Group Center in the Tennessee portion of LBL. The meeting was open to the public. Four members of the public and 11 Forest Service (FS) employees were in attendance.

Advisory Board members present:

Jesse Thomas (P)	Alan Peterson (A)	Tim Morgan (P)
Tony Black (P)	Michelle Rogers (P)	Bill Purkes (P)
Paul Ryan (P - outgoing)	Michael Lyons (P)	Tim McGinnis (P)
Sally Whittington (P)	Terry Mott (P)	Ben Stone (A)
Mark Cramer (A)		John Byrd (A)

Advisory Board staff present:

Jerome Thomas, Advisory Board Chairperson
Bill Lisowsky, Designated Federal Official (DFO)
Jared Baker, Facilitator
Linda Taylor, Advisory Board Administrative Liaison

The following advisory board alternates also attended, attending as members of the public since their primary was also present: Kevin Murphy, Della Oliver. Former member Ed Clebsch was in the audience as well.

Jared Baker opened the meeting with introductions of everyone present. He 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). Jared also reviewed the agenda and provided general logistics information.

Jared then introduced Mr. Jerome Thomas.

Jerome thanked all of the members for attending today's meeting and for making this board a priority. Jerome commented to the board members how he appreciates their enthusiasm and their commitment to LBL and for working alongside the Forest Service. He mentioned that at the last Advisory Board meeting "you were all very open and emitted lots of energy" and feels quite confident that each of you will continue with that same level of energy and enthusiasm.

Jerome handed out USDA certificates to Advisory Board members William Purkes, Michelle Rogers, and John Byrd. Jerome also presented Paul Ryan with a clock from LBL to show our appreciation for his time and dedication he has given to the board for the last five years. Paul was given the opportunity to make comments. His comments are paraphrased: "It has been a pleasure and learning experience. As I look over the last meeting minutes I feel that I am leaving the board in good hands and they will do a great job in the future. You will encounter frustrations down the road while working with government agencies. This is not a reflection on the Forest Service, but be

patient and persistent. LBL is special and unique as you probably all know. Hopefully, we can keep it that way.”

Mark Cramer was recognized as rotating into the primary position in place of Jon Gasset. Mr. Gasset will move to the alternate position.

Jared distributed new copies of the Protection Act to the members as comments were made by the members at the last meeting that some pages were faded and very difficult to read.

Sally Whittington, new appointee from Lyon County, was presented an appointment letter, certification of appreciation from the Forest Service and a padfolio by Jerome.

Jared introduced Sharon Waltrip and Richard Lomax.

Sharon Waltrip mentioned that we have a group here that we think will be of interest to you and you will get an opportunity to eat lunch with them. We want you to download Brandon Spring and learn what it is all about. See what we are doing with EE: we want to reconnect you with LBL, Brandon Spring and EE. She also gave each board member a background “quiz”; Bill Lisowsky added “the reason we are giving this quiz is that there are many misconceptions about LBL and your comments/answers will help us in our marketing/promotions and how we connect to the surrounding communities.”

Sharon then commented about the comment cards we receive from the public and one in particular comment card, dated September 28, she received concerning Brandon Spring, read as follows: *“You always go above and beyond! We are treated so good by LBL Staff. The programs match up with our grade level content perfectly!”*

Richard Lomax spoke to the members about the students that are here from the Clarksville Academy which is a private school from Clarksville, Tennessee. *“This is their tenth year and is the largest group that has ever been at Brandon Spring from this school. This includes students along with 30 teachers and parents.”* Richard briefed the group about safety before dividing the group into three smaller groups which will be going on different field study trips. *“First group will go to the Pond Study to observe the students at an old farm pond that is on site. The students will actively study life in the pond. (the group will ride a van so there is a small amount of walking involved. The second group will go on the “Orienteering course” which is a slightly longer walk but not too strenuous. We will observe the school group while they venture out and perform various feats to enhance their abilities in the out-of-doors. The Challenge Course is where the students rely on each other for guidance, leadership, and helping each other to finish the course.”*

The Advisory Board members were reminded that Brandon Spring first opened its doors in 1974. Board member Ben Stone commented that he has been here almost every year with Austin Peay.

Richard Lomax made the statement that, *“About 50 percent of our attendees are from private or public schools with the other small percentage being from church retreats, university workshops,*

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scout groups, special populations, and family reunions, etc. These help fund the other programs we do here at Brandon. We have special population groups such as Camp Rainbow which is geared towards those people that have a variety of disabilities. Approximately 50 percent of our operating budget (\$520,000) is generated by group use fees."

Richard also stated that, *"We have an open floor plan at Brandon Spring and have 128 beds, although we have had over 200 people spend the night. In a few weeks will be having a school from Evansville, Indiana coming for a visit with around 250."*

Tim McGinnis asked what the average overall winter visits are at Brandon Spring to which Richard Lomax commented, *"40 percent for the winter, and 70 percent April through December is filled to capacity. Standardized testing has made it difficult. Field trips have overall declined, and we now need to convince the schools to come out and tie into our Environmental Education programs. A charter bus from Nashville, Tennessee for 80 kids costs \$1,500 which is half the cost for a group of this size to stay at Brandon Spring." Over the years, we have dropped groups and gained groups. In FY 10 we had 97 groups visit us and in FY 11 we had 108 groups visit us"*.

Sally Whittington asked if the lessons and programs we offer interest the teachers. Richard Lomax responded with, *"We look at the curriculum to make sure it is in the school's interest."*

Sally Whittington asked, "How do you determine the programs?" to which Richard Lomax answered, *"We do not determine the programs. The group tells us what they want to do and to be sure it hits the core curriculum."*

Richard Lomax commented about a teacher, *Mr. Greg Smith, who is with the Perry Heights Middle School in Evansville, Indiana -- one of his students commented to Mr. Schmitz, "the only thing I really remember about elementary school is LBL."*

Bill Purkes asked, "We are going to church groups and private schools, but are we reaching out to public schools? To this, Richard Lomax answered, *"There have been some schools that had issues with their School Boards and shifting in priorities for no overnight visits. We are working on changing this policy."* Bill Purkes asked Richard about the areas we are working with. Richard Lomax replied, *"Anywhere between Evansville to south of Nashville areas; more groups are coming from the Nashville and Paducah area."*

Bill Purkes commented that since we cannot really visit all the schools that need visiting, can we, the Forest Service, put together a video or put information on the website so the teachers can go directly to what they need in order to implement LBL programs into their curriculum? Richard Lomax responded, *"The ability is there but it takes money. Word of mouth is our best advertisement. It takes three people – the teacher (to put in the extra time and work to take a field trip); a principal (to go-to-bat for the teacher); and the superintendent (to allow them to do it.)"*

Tim McGinnis agreed it would take a partnership to get this going. Richard replied, *"We do not have the time it takes to work with three individuals at each school."*

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Mr. Terry Mott stated that the internet is a great thing, but we still need to make contact within the schools. Sally Whittington mentioned that if children could have improved test scores from studying outside, this could be a great asset. Richard Lomax answered with, *"We also want to work with getting things on the internet which will keep us in touch with the school groups that have visited us."* Denise Schmittou also responded with, *"Hopefully, groups will share the information from the internet with the other levels of their school organization."*

Bill Purkes said that the LBL "website is not easy for a teacher or the administrator to find the information they need, such as the costs. "Brochures in this day and age are not going to fly well."

Ben Stone suggested a Smartphone application. Nicole Hawk answered, *"We are working on having a regular website along with a mobile website that can meet this need."* Ben Stone feels the public would use a Smartphone to find out what is going on at LBL.

Jared Baker then transitioned to the next topic and discussed the three "tracks" the Advisory Board members could choose. The group was quite excited to be able to observe the various sites. At 10:15 a.m. the Advisory Board members were split up to explore the Activity Building while the other group toured the Dorm areas. The groups then switched places. The board regrouped on the back porch at 10:35 a.m. and set out for the Pond Prowl, Orienteering and Challenge Course.

At 11:35 a.m. the group reconvened in the loft area for a recap of what they observed while with the students. Jared Baker asked each of the members, *"Did you all have fun while on your tour?"* and they all responded, "Yes!"

Jared Baker asked Jesse Thomas to comment on his time at the Pond Prowl to which he responded that he noticed the kids seeing dragon flies. Michelle Rogers noticed the kids enjoyed getting their hands dirty. John Byrd asked if there were any studies done today.

Jared Baker asked Michelle Rogers if each student was given a dip net and she said, "Yes." John Byrd made the suggestion that traps could be set during the evening hours during which time several species of pond life could be caught as opposed to using a net that can stir the water.

After Jared Baker asked how the Challenge Course went, Michael Lyons noticed that the kids got in a circle near a telephone pole. The students helped each other as they one by one tried to stay on the pole without falling off. With the help of their teammates they were able to cross over the telephone without slipping off. According to the board members, the group of kids that were on the telephone obstacle course also gathered around and helped each other get on top of the stump and help each other on rope swinging. The students also worked with being able to stand on a cable and holding each other's hands to offer support.

Patrick Holcomb then asked the group to *"discuss what took place, how this could help kids with life skills and how to incorporate this into real life situations."* Jared Baker asked the board members if they noticed any of the students taking charge. Michael Lyons answered "yes" to Jared's question and also commented that the students were not allowed to talk but to communicate non-verbally. This prompted a few to figure out how to communicate without

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talking with each other. Bill Purkes made the comment that he enjoyed seeing the students outside and making decisions outside of their comfort zones. Tim McGinnis mentioned that all of the kids were engaged and he enjoyed watching them all engaged outside. He was challenged to be sure he knew where he was going. Bill Purkes and John Byrd noted how nice a job the students did on getting to the heart of the matter and making decisions. Sharon Waltrip replied, *"You will have the opportunity at lunch to see what else the kids did."*

The group broke for lunch at 12:40 p.m. and met back at 1:42 p.m. to continue discussing the day.

Bill Purkes asked about the type of programs offered at Brandon Spring. He referred to the other subjects that could also be part of the visit, such as English and History. Patrick Holcomb replied, *"Most programs are offered in the science realm and we do want teachers to give us input as to how we can support more of what goes on in the classroom."* Sharon Waltrip said, *"teachers are letting us know they want to go and see other areas such as the Elk & Bison Prairie, The Homeplace, the Nature Station and other areas of interest to their students."*

Bill Lisowsky asked, *"If we could be more integrated, would this help more?"* Bill Purkes answered that if we could make this more attractive to teachers, they would enjoy more. Michelle Rogers asked if some groups would bring music teachers, art teachers and science teachers. Bill Purkes commented that we could walk 100 meters and within that time, see how many birch trees we see. *"Use the grade levels to make this a more attractive package. Go to The Homeplace and write an essay about what they think about living in this time period."*

Sharon Waltrip suggested allowing a few extensions from the science program in order to do a map exercise, etc. Patrick Holcomb stated that, *"We try to cover curriculum so it will help the teachers in the classroom. If it can be done in the classroom, we try to connect to it here also. We are working on pre and post activities."* Tim McGinnis said this would benefit the teachers.

John Byrd suggested maybe bringing in older students for the summer programs to enter analysis into a database – this could be accessible to people. Ben Stone and John Byrd commented that the key to learning is motivation.

Jared Baker then asked the advisory board members about the homework assignment they were given last April.

Bill Purkes commented that this homework assignment would have to be addressed at a staff meeting. *"Even if we provided information given to us by LBL, I do not feel qualified. I feel LBL staff needs to address this at a school staff meeting."* I was able to provide some contact information.

Tim McGinnis spoke of liability issues and this was a major issue and the largest problem. School districts receive one paid in-service day. School councils "get the other three days" that are not paid. He added that we need to be able to get information to the school board in a timely manner. He said that some teachers are familiar with us; however, some are not even aware of LBL. Tim also stated that every experience here at LBL has been very positive. He suggested that we attend

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the West Kentucky Educational Cooperative once-a-month meeting. He can contact Dr. John Settle for us so we can attend a meeting. There are 27 school superintendents that attend this meeting and this would be VERY powerful.

Bill Purkes said that as teachers retire, the new teachers and principals need to be educated about LBL. Terry Mott said that each contact at a school needs a contact from LBL so they have someone to call and get our information.

Jared Baker asked Sharon Waltrip to explain the packet she distributed. This included a pamphlet titled "Group Program Guide", a Brandon Spring Leader Check List and pamphlet, a General Information and Map for Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area and a 5" x 7.5" card with a DiscoverTheForest.org. More background information for the board.

Sharon Waltrip is very encouraged by the comments that have been made – *"don't give up – even baby steps will get us to where we want to go. I appreciate your efforts and progress you've all made."*

Jared Baker closed up the homework assignment.

Jerome Thomas told the advisory board, *"I appreciate the contacts you've made and I know it's been a challenge, but continue to do so. Be diligent and continue making contacts."* Jerome then asked, *"What is suggested we do next?"*

Bill Purkes recommended that we have a person designated to go to the schools when the school is ready to talk with us. Sharon Waltrip stated, *"I'll be the one to go out. We will put a presentation together."*

Jerome Thomas made the comment, *"The board will be making these contacts and we need to be ready to go with some information. If it is not Sharon, someone needs to be ready."* Bill Lisowsky replied, *"We have a number of folks on staff, including myself, who can make these presentations. We will figure out a way to follow up. What we need are the contacts."*

Ben Stone asked if there was somewhere on the website that teachers can go to get information. Denise Schmittou and Nicole Hawk discussed the information that is available to teachers. Ben Stone mentioned that there should be some names on our website that teachers can contact with questions or comments. Bill Lisowsky answered with, *"If it's not that visible, we can do that."*

John Byrd suggested we have an icon on our website. Bill Purkes asked if there were any educational opportunities at LBLA. Terry Mott said that teachers need a one-on-one contact. Sharon Waltrip answered with, *"We are trying to come out and meet those groups."*

Bill Purkes suggested that maybe we could go and meet with the superintendents so that they can get the information and do the presentations for us. Our presentation from the web needs to be accessible to everyone.

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Jerome Thomas told the advisory board, *"I do not want you to leave here thinking that the Forest Service is asking you to do these presentations. We would like you to make the initial contacts and support the schools efforts by making them aware of the opportunity. A suggestion was made at the last meeting to have us give some level of orientation to the contacts at schools. "We need to keep working on this."* Bill Lisowsky committed, *"We would do this."*

Bill Purkes suggested we provide a session to educators on LBL. We should recruit retired teachers to come to these meetings so that new teachers can relate to other teachers.

Jerome Thomas said, *"We can develop additional materials to give to the board members."* Jerome asked Bill Lisowsky about getting names of the retired teachers. Bill answered, *"Yes we can get names of retired teachers that used to come to LBL that we could recruit."* Tim McGinnis commented that there may be retired Trigg teachers that work for projects and perhaps LBL could approach them. There are a number of retired teacher groups. We need a well-thought out plan. Bill Lisowsky requested that Tim McGinnis help to get him on a meeting agenda with the West Kentucky Educational Collaborative. Mr. McGinnis agreed to do this.

Jerome then asked the board if there were any other actions. Bill Purkes said, *"We need to know what is going on at these meetings with the superintendent. Have we decided on what we can take to the schools?"* Bill Lisowsky responded to Mr. Purkes, *"We need leads first and then we will develop an avenue of what is next."* Michael Lyons suggested that we need to go to schools close to here first so that the field trips are not overnights.

Ben Stone said this could be an avenue for good teachers to initiate this with their superintendents. Let the teachers come and visit us. Bill Purkes agreed with Ben Stone. John Byrd also agrees with Ben Stone – let the teachers have the opportunity to get involved with this. Michelle Rogers commented that this can be an achievable project.

Richard Lomax made the comment, *"Every pre-teacher at Murray State University (MSU) spends an overnights at Brandon Spring and some come back."* Ben Stone suggested that we contact Joe Baust who is connected with MSU.

Terry Mott said, *"To me, the teacher is the second person in the equation."* Jerome Thomas responded with, *"These are great ideas, but our staff cannot do everything"*.

John Byrd suggested that we need a slick/smooth presentation. Bill Purkes commented that we need to bring something to these school boards.

Jesse Thomas remarked. *"If you sit behind a counter all day, you won't sell your goods after awhile. You need to go out to the middle schools within a 100 mile radius. When I was in the business, I realized I needed to go out to the customers and their environment to sell my goods. John Byrd said that we have to show how EE will have an impact on them. Bill Purkes suggested that we need worksheets for all curriculums and not just for earth science – do worksheets for math, social sciences and bring all this to the classrooms. Classes can walk two miles and encounter history."*

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Jerome Thomas replied with, *"I've heard affirmation for presentations to be able to go out to the teachers. We need to be sure that a training package is developed for the retired teachers and other volunteers. We need to get this list so we know where the retired teachers associations are located. We also need to make a plan on where do we go next after this meeting with teachers, principals and superintendents."*

Bill Purkes also made the statement that, "Any educators looking at our website have a difficult time locating the areas they need. It took me 45 minutes to 1 ½ hours and 12 pages later to find the information I needed on the LBL website. I suggest we have some educators comment on the ease of our website. It's not very easy to find the information we need." Bill Lisowsky answered with, *"Point well taken. Our discussion began with the board agreeing to get us in to see the teachers and for them to be receptive to LBL."* Bill Purkes said, "We have them in Trigg county, but we need to be able to give information to them."

Jerome Thomas commented with, *"We ask that you continue to make contacts for us and to continue to pave ways for us to visit these contacts."* Several members asked if the presentation was ready to go, if we do get a call." Bill Lisowsky quickly responded that *"we could be ready very quickly."*

Ben Stone asked, "What is the number one mission goal for this board? Bill Lisowsky replied that *"it's not simply a matter of one goal. LBL has a multiple use mission that is codified in the LBL Protection Act. Recreation and Environmental Education are to be optimized and LBL is to be managed in a multiple use fashion that stimulates the surrounding region. Our projects have to be good for all of the surrounding communities. Right now, we are asking you to help us get back into the schools that are not visiting."*

Tim McGinnis said that Richard Lomax commented that Brandon had several returns, a good sign. John Byrd said, "What is important is that teachers would love to be here and stroll down our roads but our public schools have drifted off." Ben Stone commented that when he listened to what teachers said after being asked where they would like to go, 80 percent said a trip to LBL.

Terry Mott responded with, "We need to get one-day trips back to LBL. Sharon Waltrip answered with, *"One day trips can be for schools that are close, but for far away schools, they can't do a one day trip so theirs would be an overnighner."*

Bill Purkes said, "Our target audience is the school age student of the area and how are we going to get them back. We may be using Brandon Spring. Schools have to come back to LBL. Brandon Spring can fill up with church groups 365 days a year; and if so, we failed. We need to get school children here." Bill Lisowsky reminded the group that we already have many schools coming. Our goal is to increase that use. Jerome Thomas added, *"Continue to make our contacts. Continue on this path and keep going on the way you are until our next meeting. Concerning the retired teachers association, continue to help us on that end and we will work on presentations and continue to move ahead."*

Michelle Rogers made a comment that she was not received well when she spoke to people.

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Jerome Thomas answered with, *"We need your help to break down bureaucracy barriers and continue."*

Jared Baker opened the floor to talk about the board's lunch experience with the school children, the teachers, and parents.

Tim McGinnises overview of the lunch experience was very positive. Ms. Henson has been coming here since 1995, and she spoke very highly of Richard Lomax, and the staff at Brandon Spring. She said the staff goes out of their way to accommodate their needs and requests. During one of their visits, they wanted to eat later and the staff was very accommodating. Jeff Macy's dad spoke of Camp Rainbow, which is for terminally ill children, canoeing, and other things. The kids are excited to be here.

Bill Purkes spoke with two parents who have been coming here since Brandon Spring opened. He asked the teachers if they felt the programs have changed and how? At first, all of the teachers were doing all of the teaching, but now the staff helps with the programs and they (the staff) are more knowledgeable in these areas. Bill asked the group "how the facilities met their needs and did the parents see that all the facilities here were being taken care of as best as could be?"

Ben Stone made the comment that Brad Markham said he would like to be in on fund-raising for Brandon Spring. People would volunteer for fund raisers if it was possible or was in place. He noticed that during lunch, names from the group staying at Brandon Spring were being called out concerning positive things or statements.

John Byrd said he and the students talked about turtles.

Bill Lisowsky commented, *"There were three students that were careful not to talk about what they did."* Richard Lomax said, *"On some teams, they don't like to know what is going on next."*

Jared Baker introduced Denise Schmittou and Nicole Hawk.

Nicole Hawk spoke about the quarterly information that Denise Schmittou provided to all the board members and some of our methods.

- Δ *Advertising – LBL can do some paid publications*
- Δ *Able to get word out to what the staff is doing and information on Brandon Spring, The Homeplace and the Nature Station*
- Δ *Use LBL.org and provide approximately 80 news releases each year to the public*
- Δ *Promote the Land Between The Lakes Association (LBLA) and School Grant money programs*
- Δ *Use Social Media via Blog.com*
- Δ *Use a twitter account*
- Δ *Use personal one-on-one contact information*
- Δ *Created six pop-up banners (four being used here today) to be used at all of our functions, and we encourage our staff to use for displays at any event for LBL*

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△ *We keep our staff, the Regional Office staff, and the Washington Office staff in the loop as to what is going on at LBL. We helped to prepare pamphlets for the yearly Congressional visits.*

Bill Purkes spoke about a bus seen on the Trace and Nicole Hawk responded with, *"We do work with family and group tours. If we are contacted by a tour bus group, we encourage the tourism group to visit and comment on us on our website."*

Ben Stone spoke of being sensitive to the heritage of LBL. The board has talked about a mechanism about how to go to our website so that former families can locate their former home sites. Can we Google earth within the LBL website? This might generate more visits and could give generations a place to go where they can locate former families.

Bill Lisowsky replied with, *"We are working on developing a link within our website that will include heritage information that will be made available to the public."*

Ben Stone answered back with, *"There's not much time left to gather information from the living people to help with locating past families."*

Jared Baker introduced Sharon Waltrip to update the board on Golden Pond Visitor Center, (GPVC) visioning comments and open house. *Items mentioned were:*

- △ *Proximity to Scenic Byways coming through LBL*
- △ *Conducted a summer-long comment period*
- △ *There was an open house for nearby community leaders and Advisory Board members*
- △ *All of the comments were gathered and put together and they will be posted on our website.*

She closed by reviewing the answers to the morning quiz. Ben Stone asked if we have more visitors than Mammoth Cave to which Bill Lisowsky answered, *"We get almost twice as many visitors."* Ben Stone asked how we counted our visitors. Bill Lisowsky replied, *"We utilize traffic counters that are placed at each entry into LBL."*

Ben Stone suggested that we permanently appoint some former members who are willing to continue on the Board. Board membership has term limits. Bill Lisowsky replied with, *"several folks have already rotated back on to the board."*

Bill Lisowsky remarked, *"If you notice while driving on the Kentucky side, we have two miles of a scenic paved trail which is well used, and has been two years in the making. Eventually this trail will go from one bridge to the other. The remaining 8.5 miles is now under construction and will be farther away from the highway. All kinds of trail users will benefit."*

Bill Purkes commented on the current accessibility to the trail --you have to cross over the barriers to get to the trail in places. Bill Lisowsky replied, *"This is unfortunate, and we are still working with the state to make it as usable as possible, but some of this is due to the new bridges that are still years away. We just completed our 17th and final trail bridge replacements, funded by the Recovery Act."* Jesse Thomas commented, *"They look beautiful!"*

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Bill Lisowsky told the board about the National Adventure Race. *"Last week we hosted the National Adventure Race which was last held at Moab, Utah. There were 150 people in this race and the several participants said this was the best race they ever had."*

Bill Lisowsky shared, *"The first of the year was rough, and visitation was down due to the wind storms and flooding that we experienced. With the economy like it is, people are not driving for pleasure and when fuel prices go up, there are fewer boaters and ATVs used."*

Terry Mott asked, "What about campgrounds?" Bill Lisowsky answered with, *"Hillman Ferry was up 3 percent, and Piney did well also."* Bill Purkes asked about Energy Lake campground. Bill Lisowsky answered, *"No significant change there."* Brian Beisel commented, *"Energy was opened for the winter, but did not have lead-in time."* Bill Purkes mentioned that it was a late notice about Energy being opened through the winter; two days before it was supposed to close for the year." Bill Lisowsky answered with, *"Yes, but we hope to be doing better this year in getting the word out and hopefully various visitors will use Energy Lake this winter."*

Bill Purkes mentioned he was bicycling on the Trace and noticed someone taking seeds and asked if that was allowed. Bill Lisowsky answered, *"Yes, they have a permit to do this and we get a portion of these native seeds that they collect."*

Bill Purkes mentioned that Honkers Trail was in good shape, but that Hematite Trail was in bad shape. Brian Beisel answered, *"I'm not sure of this but will check it out; due to the floods this past spring, one of the boardwalks is damaged."*

Jared Baker made the statement to the board that there were no public comments received for this meeting.

Jared asked the board, *"Is the first week in April a good month for you for our next meeting?"* Tim McGinnis answered with, "Spring break is not good." Bill Purkes replied with, "The earlier the better end of March, or first of April is best." Mark Cramer agreed with the March date.

Jared Baker asked the board for suggested agenda items for the next meeting.

Bill Purkes asked, "Are we willing to form a subcommittee to look at the website?" Bill Lisowsky advised the board that there have been subcommittees in the past.

Ben Stone suggested that the members email addresses and telephone numbers be on the website.

John Byrd said, "Since 1989 there has been a program for school age children. High school kids are our concern too." Bill Purkes thanked us for having the meeting here and to observe the kids while they were working on their challenge courses – it keeps us exposed and educates us.

Alan Peterson asked about Turkey Bay OHV area environmental concerns. Bill Lisowsky clarified *that Turkey Bay is now in the best shape it has been in for decades. Impacted area has gone from 12.4 percent to around 9 percent and there is no measurable surface erosion. The*

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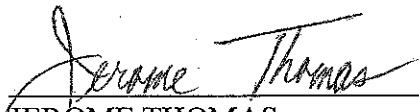
users have led the change to a designated trail system and "Respect The Resource" has been helping riders understand their responsibility to sustain the area and ride responsibly.

Alan asked if lawsuits were a concern. Bill Lisowsky replied with *"users are given extensive safety messages and riders have taken this issue seriously. Training and area changes have improved the safety record."* Bill Purkes mentioned that Turkey Bay has changed tremendously since the 1980's, especially since it went to having to pay a fee to use. Bill Lisowsky remarked, *"We now close the area during heavy rainfall periods. Call Before You Haul. Users helped to put this in effect and do some of the area restoration. Often we host rider safety classes. The users have worked very closely with the staff to improve the area."*

Jerome Thomas asked for any closing comments from the board. He then said, *"I want to thank Bill and his staff as I continue to hear comments on the great quality of work that they do. During the floods, tornadoes, ice storms, and snow storms each time we had to close and then reopen. I want to thank the board and your commitment as a team to work together with us to provide the opportunities we want to give to schools. We will find the solution to these challenges, and I thank the board for their attendance."*

Jerome Thomas adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Certified by:



JEROME THOMAS
LBL Advisory Board Chairperson

December 01, 2011
(Date)