

# MN Outdoor Recreation Task Force January Meeting Notes

Date: February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Location: Webex

## Attendance

### Task Force Members:

JR Burke, Elliot Christensen, Katy Friesz, Matt Gruhn, Aaron Hautala, Breanne Hegg, Joe Henry, Hansi Johnson, Greg Lais, Perry May, Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Mark Norquist, Steve Voltz

### Agency Staff:

Randolph Briley (DNR), John Edman (Explore Minnesota), Leann Kispert (Explore Minnesota), Andrew Korsberg (DNR), Laura Preus (DNR), Erika Rivers (DNR)

## Meeting Notes

Objectives for this meeting were to:

- Go over updated recommendations document and implementation plan
- Discuss public feedback
- Understand next steps

### Executive Summary Updates

- Updated to address questions such as Why ORTF requires an office. What problem is being resolved?
- Updated to include more information and clarity to the purpose of the office. How the office will operate.
- Reframing within the summary to be more succinct.

### Public Engagement Feedback Summary

- Lots of feedback regarding concern for potential bias against motorized recreation vs. non-motorized recreation
  - Idea of ORTF office is to prevent and minimize biases
  - Concern may have been raised due to vague language of the initial executive summary; prior to updates
  - Make exceedingly clear that the office would NOT be a policy maker or management branch but rather a voice for ALL outdoor recreation
- This was a public input opportunity/feedback tool and not scientific survey, therefore 209 respondents is a satisfactory sample size. Especially taking into consideration the commitment required to read all the information then provide feedback. However, in comparison to statewide, 209 respondents is not a large number illustrating the importance of an office to assist with communication efforts.

- As mentioned in the updated executive summary, 14 other states have established recreation offices and so we have opportunities to learn from these established offices
- Office purpose:
  - Power to be a convening body
  - Convener for stakeholders
  - Magnify current projects and activities
  - No power to create policies or make changes that would benefit one recreation activity at the expense of another
  - Promote economic benefit of outdoor recreation
  - Minimize conflict between user groups
- Reframing/re-ordering will be necessary of the full recommendations document in order to match that of the executive summary
  - Thorough edit by small group for final draft
  - Emphasis on the economic benefit of having the office

## Straw Poll Results

The task force took an anonymous straw poll on the recommendations. The questions for each of the recommendations and the overall recommendations were “Do you support the recommendation?” The options for answering were “Yes,” “Yes, with modifications,” or “No.” Below are the results of the straw poll of those attending the meeting plus those that weren’t able to attend but who responded to an anonymous follow up survey.

### *ORTF Members Straw Poll on Recommendations*

Do you support the recommendations to:	Advance Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity	Unite Minnesota’s Outdoor Recreation Community	Unify Communication, Promotion and Public Awareness	Creating and Funding Minnesota’s Office of Outdoor Recreation	Overall Recommendations
Yes	14	17	16	12	11
Yes, with Modifications	3	1	2	5	7
No	1	0	0	1	0
Total	18	18	18	18	18

## Next Steps

- Modifications needed to ensure that the main body of the recommendations document reflects the executive summary.
- Large group to make change to recommendations document via tracked changes and edits will be sent to small group
- Poll/executive summary will be sent to ORTF members who were not in attendance and their responses and any tracked changes/edits will be sent to the small group for review
- Small group to schedule meeting to discuss final edits and finalize document
- Final formal meeting to be scheduled with large group once document is finalized in order to cast votes; stress importance of FINAL meeting in March
  - Offer the option to vote by email if someone is unable to attend final meeting