

## Meeting Notes: Outdoor Recreation Task Force Meeting 2

Date: 05/18/2020

Location: Webex

### Attendance

#### Task Force Members:

Mary Bauer, 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, Stephen Regenold, Molly Sajady, Asha Shoffner, Steven Voltz

#### Agency Staff:

John Edman (Explore Minnesota), Randolph Briley (DNR), Gratia Joice (DNR), Leann Kispert (Explore Minnesota), Andrew Korsberg (DNR), Shannon Lotthammer (DNR), Erika Rivers (DNR), Madison McGovern (CCMI/DNR), Laura Preus (DNR)

### Welcome

Co-chairs John Edman and Randolph Briley thanked members for participation and noted feedback received following the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and acknowledged the homework assignments completed by task force members. Gratia Joice reviewed the agenda for the meeting and introduced the three main goals: review the task force's timeline leading up to December 2020, share member areas of interest identified in the homework assignment, and finalize focus areas of the task force.

### Meeting Notes

#### Task Force Timeline

A major goal of the task force is to provide actionable recommendations by December 2020. To inform future meetings, actions, and next steps, the project team developed a phased timeline to progress forward.

- Phase I (Meetings 1 and 2)
  - Introductions
  - Background information

- Define focus areas
- Phase II
  - Workgroup formation
  - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats/Challenges (SWOT/C) analyses
  - Identify gaps
- Phase III
  - A look to how other states are accomplishing this work
  - Tailor these ideas to Minnesota's needs
- Phase IV
  - Finalize recommendations

## Identifying Areas of Focus

Task force members were assigned homework at the end of the first meeting to identify areas of interest for the task force to focus on moving forward. Answers were then categorized into the following areas: access, collaboration, economic development, promotion, conservation, and other. Task force members reviewed and commented on the categories to further define the specifics of each.

- Access
  - Ideas presented in homework assignment
    - Equity and inclusion
      - Opportunities for underserved communities
      - Access to health and quality of life benefits
      - More black, indigenous, people of color staffing or programming
        - Also more funding
      - Access to gear and equipment
    - Increasing opportunity
      - Creating quality opportunities
      - Creating opportunities to target more people
      - Modernize infrastructure
      - Complete and connect trails
      - Increase silent sport opportunities
      - Increase opportunities in areas of the state lacking them or which could benefit from economic development
  - Task force member reactions
    - Should include considerations for people with disabilities and the Americans with Disabilities Act standards
    - SWOT/C analyses may bring more considerations
    - Means to accessing opportunities
      - Camps, workshops, etc.
    - Create one workgroup for access
- Collaboration

- Ideas presented in homework assignment
  - How user groups connect and solve problems
  - Best practices in the era of Coronavirus
  - How Minnesota can help foster strong, sustainable local communities
  - How to connect outdoor recreation and K-12 education
  - Connecting stakeholders together
  - Coordinating across state agencies
  - Public-private partnerships
  - Creation of an Office of Outdoor Recreation
- Task force member reactions
  - One of the most important and challenging pieces
  - Fits in with other focus areas – promotion, economic development, access
  - Rename category “coordination” and integrate collaboration into other workgroups
  - Include community members as stakeholders
- Economic Development
  - Ideas presented in homework assignment
    - Planning and investment in outdoor recreation infrastructure
  - Task force member reactions
    - General support for category
    - Chance to tap into voices in communities
      - Engage local communities
    - Funding programs to participate in outdoor recreation
    - Requires detailed survey of stakeholders
    - Reiterate consideration of Minnesota residents and visitors as stakeholders
- Promotion
  - Ideas presented in homework assignment
    - Minnesota can be number one
    - Marketing, outreach, and partnerships
    - Broadening definitions and increasing breadth of opportunities
    - Reaching youth
    - Quality of life benefits
    - Building better outdoor recreation industry
    - Creating a unified strategy to promote outdoor recreation
  - Task force member reactions
    - How to promote without duplicating the work of Explore Minnesota
    - Rename category to “promotion and public awareness”
- Conservation
  - Idea presented in homework assignment
    - Identify creative ways to invest in conservation of wild places
  - Task force member reactions
    - Stewardship of resources is an important aspect
    - Rename category to “conservation and stewardship”

- Other
  - Idea presented in homework assignment
    - Consider creation of permanent outdoor council to continually advise policy makers
  - Task force member reactions
    - Seems to be more of a recommendation that could come out of the process
    - Not an agency in and of itself
    - Table the idea until further in the process

## Next Steps

The task force is entering Phase II.

- Form workgroups
  - Members will respond to a survey and indicate the workgroup(s) in which they would like to participate
- Complete SWOT analyses individually and within workgroups
- Report back to group during July meeting

## Public Comments, Q&A

- Comments of the areas of focus
  - Address outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure, preferably as a separate category. Need to address issues like backlog of maintenance needs, sustainable development, and opportunities for maintenance and sharing.
    - Backlog of maintenance needs could fall into conservation and stewardship category.
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  - Address funding for outdoor recreation facilities development and operations and maintenance in one of the areas or as a separate workgroup.
    - These also seem to fall into conservation and stewardship. They should be addressed in the near term.
  - In the coordination area, include cross-agency collaboration with local, regional, and federal recreation providers as well as private recreation providers.

## Next Meeting

Workgroups will meet in June. The next official task force meeting is scheduled for July.