

SCORP TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 27, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members:

Brad Dennehy
Joseph Smack
Lauren DeVore
Anastasia Jackson
Daniel Wilson
Katie Hickey
Beth Krumrine
Heather Dunigan
Jason Berry
Joe Spadafino
Ebony Mapp
Marilyn Smith
Kendall Sommers
Thomas Kneavel
Mark Chura
Mary Roth
Tonyea Mead
Michelle Schmidt
Rachael Phillos
Noel Duckworth
Anthony Gonzon
Shebra Hall
Jon Wickert
Robin Eaton
Trish Kelleher
Jason Berry
Chip Kneavel
Rachael Phillos
Vikram Krishnamurthy

Staff:

Michael Tholstrup, DNREC, Parks and Recreation
Bob Ehemann, DNREC, Parks and Recreation
Megan Ramsey, DNREC, Parks and Recreation
Kerri Batrowny, DNREC, Parks and Recreation
Michael Krumrine, DNREC, Parks and Recreation
Tess Charney, DNREC, Parks and Recreation

Mike Tholstrup called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Mr. Tholstrup gave an overview on the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails Grant Program (ORPT).

In response to a poll asking, “How have you used SCORP?” the following responses were shared:

- Included in State Health Needs Assessment for Health Improvement Planning
- Shared with students for various projects/research
- Used to score properties for acquisition via the Open Space Council (one of the categories of scoring requires use of the SCORP)
- To help identify needs on state-managed Fish and Wildlife areas

Mr. Tholstrup reviewed the data gathering process for the SCORP and the five planning regions. Responding to Noel Duckworth, Mr. Tholstrup stated that he did not believe it had ever been attempted to include short-term “pop-up” outdoor play planned for communities with low access on the Play Outside web tool, but it was something that could be looked into.

Mr. Tholstrup discussed the proposed planning process and the role of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and invited members to reach out directly via email with any questions on their roles.

Ms. Shebra Hall stated that she saw in the last SCORP survey that about 5% of respondents did not use outdoor recreation but she thought the number was actually much higher than that, especially in certain high-need communities. She expressed concern that she did not think the survey was reaching those communities.

Responding to Noel Duckworth, Mr. Tholstrup stated that he was open to hearing from the committee if there was anyone else that should be added to the TAC.

Mr. Tholstrup reviewed some of the trend data questions that would be kept for the SCORP survey this year. Responding to Noel Duckworth, Mr. Ehemann stated that the trend data represents 95% of Delaware residents but it is random so the demographics behind it vary, it is illegal to survey children which is why the survey asks about household participation instead of individual participation.

Responding to Noel Duckworth, Mr. Ehemann stated that the topic of belonging is something that would need to be delved into more. He explained that it is difficult to broach the subject of belonging in the survey because of situational deciding factors that vary from respondent to respondent.

Ms. Lauren DeVore stated that it would be great to include a question that addresses the inclusivity of outdoor recreational areas as well.

Ms. Michelle Schmidt stated that it would be great to have a few questions for people who don’t necessarily recreate outside regularly for various reasons but that value having natural spaces.

Mr. Jon Wickert stated that the Department of Education administers many surveys, he was unsure what all they collect but some of the data points may be helpful to fill in any sampling gaps there may be.

Responding to Mr. Tholstrup, Mr. Ehemann stated that the phone surveys in the past had a Spanish speaking component.

Ms. Tonyea Mead stated that the Department of Education does a district/charter survey through Chesapeake Bay Foundation on Environmental Education outdoor education.

Responding to Mark Chura, Mr. Tholstrup stated that it's not an easy thing to evaluate the level of collective unmet needs from a funding standpoint and identify all of the areas that could overlap but there are a lot of areas out there right now that have federal or other funding that include things like outdoor recreation.

Responding to Michelle Schmidt, Mr. Ehemann agreed that there was difficulty with the last phone survey due to people being unwilling to commit to a long call or answer an unknown phone number. He stated that is a bias that needs to be worked through but also enforces the need for effort to expand the audience and engagement with the public beyond just a phone survey.

Jon Wickert stated that the Delaware Higher Education Office uses a text messaging service to share information and collect feedback.

Responding to Mark Chura, Mr. Tholstrup gave an overview of the Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails Grant Program (ORPT) incentive that was implemented for the 2021/2022 grant cycle.

Jon Wickert stated that SCORP can support workforce development efforts, especially for a greener economy.

Lauren DeVore stated that SCORP can help to preserve open space/recreational areas adjacent to waterways to preserve public access to waterways, especially in Sussex County.

Mr. Tholstrup discussed the next steps for the TAC focus group meetings and stated that he would be in touch with information regarding future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.