

Agenda -- Natural Resources Agency Task Force

May 28, 2008 10-3 pm Maine State Arboretum

Outcomes of Meeting

Members will understand and support purpose of task force
Members will establish groundrules to guide their work together
Members will learn about their own connections to Maine's natural resources
Members will appreciate contributions of the five Natural Resource Agencies to the people of Maine
Members will begin to describe what is working well, what needs improvement
Task Force Co-chairs will outline a draft plan and schedule for the work of the task force

- 10 am **Overview of today's meeting, suggested ground-rules** (Ron Beard)
- 10:05 **Statements by Co-Chairs** (Karin Tilberg, Representative Wendy Pieh)
Background leading to formation of task force, purpose, overview of task force work and schedule through November
- 10:20 **Task Force Member Introductions** (Ron Beard, Task Force Facilitator)
Members share name, position/affiliations and a short story telling of their own and their family's connection to Maine woods, waters (salty and fresh), fields and farms
- 11:45 **Lunch**
- 12:30 **Five Agencies, Five Stories**
Early agency leaders share brief history and context for their work and missions
- 1:45 **Discussion: *When we think of providing state services (including managing natural resources and regulating their use) what is working well (painting with a broad brush)?***
Task Force members comment on what they see as particularly effective in how one or more natural resource agency is fulfilling their mission of service to Maine people, including examples of coordination and collaboration.
- 2:15 **Discussion** (continued)
Still painting with a broad brush, what needs attention ?
Task Force members comment on aspects of service delivery, efficiencies, coordination, integration that could be improved?
- 2:45 **Review overall plan for task force operations, future meeting schedule, next steps and homework:**
- 3:00 **Quick evaluation of today's meeting and Adjourn**
What went well today?
What should we consider, to improve future meetings?

Homework Assignments

- Homework assignment # 1: At July 7 meeting, bring your ideas and commitments to reach out to stakeholders and constituents, and we will brainstorm additional outreach strategies
- Homework assignment # 2: Respond to email survey about past or present examples or new ideas that would lead to improved services to the citizens of Maine through:
 - Increased efficiency
 - Coordination, cooperation across agency lines
 - Integration of functions
 - Elimination of duplication
 - New organizational configurations
 - Advances in science and technology
- Homework assignment #3: Respond to email survey (results confidential) regarding your hopes and fears for the task force process and recommendations

Proposed Ground-Rules (5/28)

Share the Air Time, One Person at a Time (refrain from side conversations)

Share information, experience, feelings

Look for “interests” that may underlie “positions”

Ask why, Explain why (you feel as you do, you reached the conclusion you have...)

Disagree respectfully

Attend to time and topic

Speak your own “truth” about your experience as a Task Force Member; refrain from characterizing the experience or positions of others

Try to keep from judging and deciding before the full process has played out (don't reject ideas out of hand)

Refer questions by the media to the co-chairs and meeting summaries on website

Proposal for how the Task Force will make decisions (5/28):

We will work very hard to reach consensus for all decisions and recommendations.

In the event this is not possible, the task force will talk through alternatives for conveying the sense of the group.