

Work-A-Day Earn-A-Pay Task Force

148th General Assembly
November 18, 2015
Capital One Conference Room, 2nd Floor
Alexander Graham Bell Building
1 S. Orange St., Wilmington, DE

Meeting Attendance

Task Force Members

Present	Email	Phone
George Krupanski, Chair	Gkrupanski@bgclubs.org	302.658.1870
Senator Robert Marshall	Robert.Marshall@state.de.us	302.577.8744
Senator Bryant Richardson	Bryant.Richardson@state.de.us	302.744.4298

Absent

Senator David Sokola	David.Sokola@state.de.us	302.744.4286
Representative Michael Mulrooney	Michael.Mulrooney@state.de.us	302.744.4351
Rev. Donald Morton	donald@themortonfirm.com	302.658.9883
Patricia Cannon	Patricia.Cannon@state.de.us	302.577.8485
Mark Kleinschmidt	kleinschmidt@ncccc.com	302.294.2068

Staff

Katrina Cowart	Katrina.Cowart@state.de.us	302.577.8718
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Attendees

	Organization	Phone
Elder Tyrone Johnson	CTAC	302.420.7889
Eric Stewart	Royal Dynasty	302.781.2682
Wilkie Miller	Royal Dynasty	302.252.1325
Ernest Owusu	Hope Housing	302.981.9187
Raymond Goode	Star Hill AME Church	302.222.3403
Trudi Scheurer	Assistant to Senator Marshall	267.732.2412
Shaun (Hope) Bellamy	Hope's Academy	215.253.1898
Swiyah Whittington	Hope's Academy	302.252.8415
Glen Stubbolo	DNREC	302.739.9181
Lynne Pusey	DNREC	302.735.3609
Joanna Wilson	DNREC	302.739.9902
Michael Smith	DNREC	302.577.8445
Mike Harkin	SCLF	302.229.0876
Brahmin Jackson	N/A	302.357.8123
Elder Ty Johnson	CTAC	302.420.7885
Ida Bell Miller	Hope Housing Project	302.899.3391

Mr. George Krupanski called the meeting to order at 10:40 A.M.

Mr. Krupanski discussed protocol of the meeting. He stated that the Task Force would wait on consideration of the meeting minutes from the November 4, 2015 meeting. He continued to review the agenda of the meeting. He then reviewed the documents available for information and research at the meeting. He then opened the floor to Task Force members to share information or research they have gathered.

Senator Richardson stated that he called Reverend Herb Lusk from Philadelphia to discuss their public works program and explained that Rev. Lusk was interested in expanding the program. He explained that Rev. Lusk requested a point of contact and explained that he would continue to follow up with him.

Elder Johnson discussed the process to make recommendations by identifying information from previous meetings. Also identified that the recommendations should include a scope, purpose, measurement function, and identified amount of funding needed to support the WDEP Pilot Program. He also mentioned the recent CDC regarding gun violence in the City of Wilmington and identified the similarities in recommendations posed by the Task Force and the CDC report. He made the point that he felt the Task Force was on target and commended the researchers with the CDC.

Senator Richardson asked how many projects were completed or how success was measured for renovation projects in the vacant housing or abandoned properties in Wilmington.

Mr. Krupanski stated that the focus of the Pilot Program would be on a small number of the vacant homes, possibly the 200 identified properties as being controlled by the City of Wilmington. He continued to explain that he did not know how projects were tracked and how success was measured for such projects.

Elder Johnson explained that the 200 properties were controlled by Wilmington in conjunction with developers. He suggested that the Task Force research how such projects are operated. He continued to suggest other projects, such as for seniors.

Senator Richardson suggested an operation where initial funding was allocated to support the Pilot Program, then equity from renovated houses could be filtered back into the program.

Mr. Krupanski identified that it could be possible to implement the program in such a way and invest in the program.

Senator Richardson stated that job opportunities were available, but that they were for people with specific skills. He suggested more emphasis should be placed on proper

education beginning in elementary school to provide hope for the children and people in the community.

Senator Marshall described public-private partnerships, such as the Wilmington Housing Partnership, in the housing market, where projects are subsidized with public funds and provided examples to implement and create jobs. He continued to suggest the Task Force should think outside of the box for the program and implement something new to keep the program simple to implement and beneficial to the participants.

Mr. Krupanski opened the floor for testimony from representatives of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to discuss current clean up and other environmental employment and volunteer programs operating in the state.

Mr. Glen Stubbolo introduced himself as the Chief of Volunteer Community involvement for Delaware State Parks. He then discussed two programs he suggested would be related to the WDEP Pilot Program. The first program was the Youth Conservation Corp., which he then described as a summer program teaching youth soft job skills. The second program he identified was through AmeriCorp and was aimed to recruit military veterans. He described the program as a yearlong program that is conducted in teams to do jobs throughout the state park system and learn hard job skills, such as operating machinery and gaining certification for environmental qualifications. He continued to describe how the WDEP Pilot Program could be applicable throughout the Delaware State Parks systems, such as through trail maintenance. He also described the educational components that participants could learn throughout the program's implementation through the state parks. He also identified the need for more employment throughout the state park system for maintenance. He also identified that the wage outlined in the resolution was higher than what their agency had allocated to pay employees.

Senator Richardson asked how many people were participating in the AmeriCorp program.

Mr. Stubbolo stated that there were five participants for 2015 and that the next fiscal year they were going to increase to fifteen participants. He also identified that the federal government contributed to the program.

Mr. Krupanski asked Mr. Stubbolo if his agency had any restrictions regarding employing participants with a criminal background.

Mr. Stubbolo stated that it would be identified, but that there were no restrictions. He continued to identify that they search for participants who are willing and able to work and wish to make a difference. He continued to discuss measuring success of the WDEP Pilot Program and explained that DNREC would be able to provide output measures and that they had those capabilities. He also described the education components in the YCC program and the importance of enriching the participants experience to prepare them for future employment.

Mr. Krupanski asked Mr. Stubbolo if there were any restrictions for age requirements.

Mr. Stubbolo stated he could envision creating a program to meet the WDEP Task Force's needs for a program to reach 18 to 24 year olds. He continued to suggest that the program could be administered through a non-profit where they are then put to work by DNREC/State Parks, or his agency could provide the administrative support.

Senator Marshall asked Mr. Stubbolo what the budget was for the programs.

Mr. Stubbolo responded that the entire budget was \$500,000 and that the YCC program was \$120,000. He also clarified that the program was statewide.

Senator Marshall asked if the YCC program could be expanded for age and to a year round program in order to include a wider range of individuals.

Mr. Stubbolo suggested the program would need to start small and grow, but identified the work and need was available. He suggested beginning with a team of five people and grow. He also discussed the application and selection process of the program, where participants are not interviewed but rather are given a project to work on and asked to identify important facets of their lives. He stated that participants are selected based on their willingness to work and potential to grow in the program.

Senator Marshall asked Mr. Stubbolo if marginal individuals are considered that may not appear to be willing and able initially.

Mr. Stubbolo described the program as a development opportunity and stated that the selection process includes all individuals that have the potential and that their process helps them understand the potential.

Senator Marshall and Mr. Stubbolo discussed the facets of the program regarding payment and budget and number of days each program operates. They also discussed project areas and assignment locations, which included rivers and stream cleanups.

Ms. Lynne Pusey introduced herself and her affiliation with DNREC's Division of Fish and Wildlife. She explained that the division did not have any type of employment program, but identified that they had similar needs as the state parks. She explained that the division did not have a funding source for an employment program. She also identified possible projects, such as habitat management, maintenance of hunting and fishing activities, facility maintenance, trash clean ups and others. She explained that the division would be interested in participating in a program like WDEP.

Mr. Stubbolo discussed the idea behind having five workers in a team and the benefits of that model.

Mr. Krupanski asked Ms. Pusey to expand on facility maintenance projects.

Ms. Pusey identified paint projects and minor repairs and construction projects. She also identified several examples, such as old farmhouses that are now offices and boat docks and fishing piers. She identified landscaping as a need as well.

Mr. Stubbolo added the importance of reintroducing youth and people to the natural environment and integrating environmental education.

Ms. Joanna Wilson introduced herself and her affiliation with DNREC Public Affairs. She also identified herself as a coastal cleanup coordinator. She discussed the various cleanups that occur through DNREC and the opportunity to expand those cleanups through a program like the WDEP Pilot Program.

Mr. Krupanski opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Swiyah Whittington asked Mr. Stubbolo if the YCC program was statewide and if transportation was provided.

Mr. Stubbolo answered yes to both and provided examples. He also explained that the program was growing to 35 kids to expand the opportunity.

Mr. Shaun Bellamy discussed the importance of education along with the work component of the WDEP Pilot Program in order to make participants employable for future opportunities. He also discussed how facets of the program should work, such as the number of people accepted per county, statewide.

Mr. Richard Brice explained his affiliation with Hope's Academy and explained his background in trades such as electrical and carpentry. He suggested he was willing to be a part of the program in order to teach participants trade skills.

Senator Marshall reintroduced the vacant property issue in Wilmington and their potential to be a classroom for participants to learn skills.

Mr. Eric Stewart discussed his partnership with Hope's Academy through his cleaning company. He discussed his company's purpose in educating people how to be employed and how to properly clean as an employee of the business. He suggested that his company was willing to participate in the intent of the WDEP Pilot Program as a resource for teaching skills and employing individuals.

Ms. Ida Bell Miller discussed her background working in the field of mental health at Meadowwood Behavioral Health. She continued to discuss the Hope Housing Project that provided people with mental health conditions with housing to avoid the cycle of entering the hospital and then leaving and being homeless. She described services offered and how the project works.

Mr. Ernest Owusu identified himself as CEO of the Hope Housing Project and continued to elaborate on Ms. Miller's previous comments regarding the services offered and how the project operates. He also described the vacant property issue in Wilmington and the connection with housing to social problems. He discussed the opportunity to partner with organizations present at the meeting, amongst others, in order to establish the employment program.

Mr. Krupanski asked if the people living at their Hope Housing homes would be able to work through an employment program such as the WDEP Pilot Program.

Mr. Owusu stated that they would be able to be employed and explained how that was another goal through Hope Housing Project.

Ms. Miller discussed the partnerships they were establishing with local mental health organizations through Hope Housing Project and the success that has come from that.

Senator Marshall asked if the groups present work together and also where the funding comes from for their programs (Hope Housing Project and Hope's Academy).

Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Owusu and Ms. Miller identified that they utilized their own money to support the programs they have established.

Elder Johnson described possible options for beginning the WDEP Pilot Program and connecting current organizations that are providing services to the WDEP Pilot Program in order to implement it effectively.

Mr. Kareem-Bey discussed a previously completed neighborhood clean up program done throughout Wilmington for youth. He emphasized the importance of education and teaching youth to make a difference and empowering youth. He also emphasized the importance of teaching work ethic and the value of work to youth.

Members of the public and Task Force discussed the importance of education for youth and also identified that it was a large part of current programs offered through DNREC and that it should be through the WDEP Pilot Program.

Mr. Krupanski adjourned the meeting at 12:04 P.M.