

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized green leaves and stems on a purple background. The leaves are elongated and pointed, with some showing internal vein details. The stems are thin and branch out, creating a natural, organic feel.

Sustainable Foraging Task Force Webinar

Senator Pha

Agenda



Welcome and
Introductions



Minnesota
Sustainable
Foraging Task Force



Membership



Statutory Purpose



Scope of the Task
Force



Testimony and
Public Input



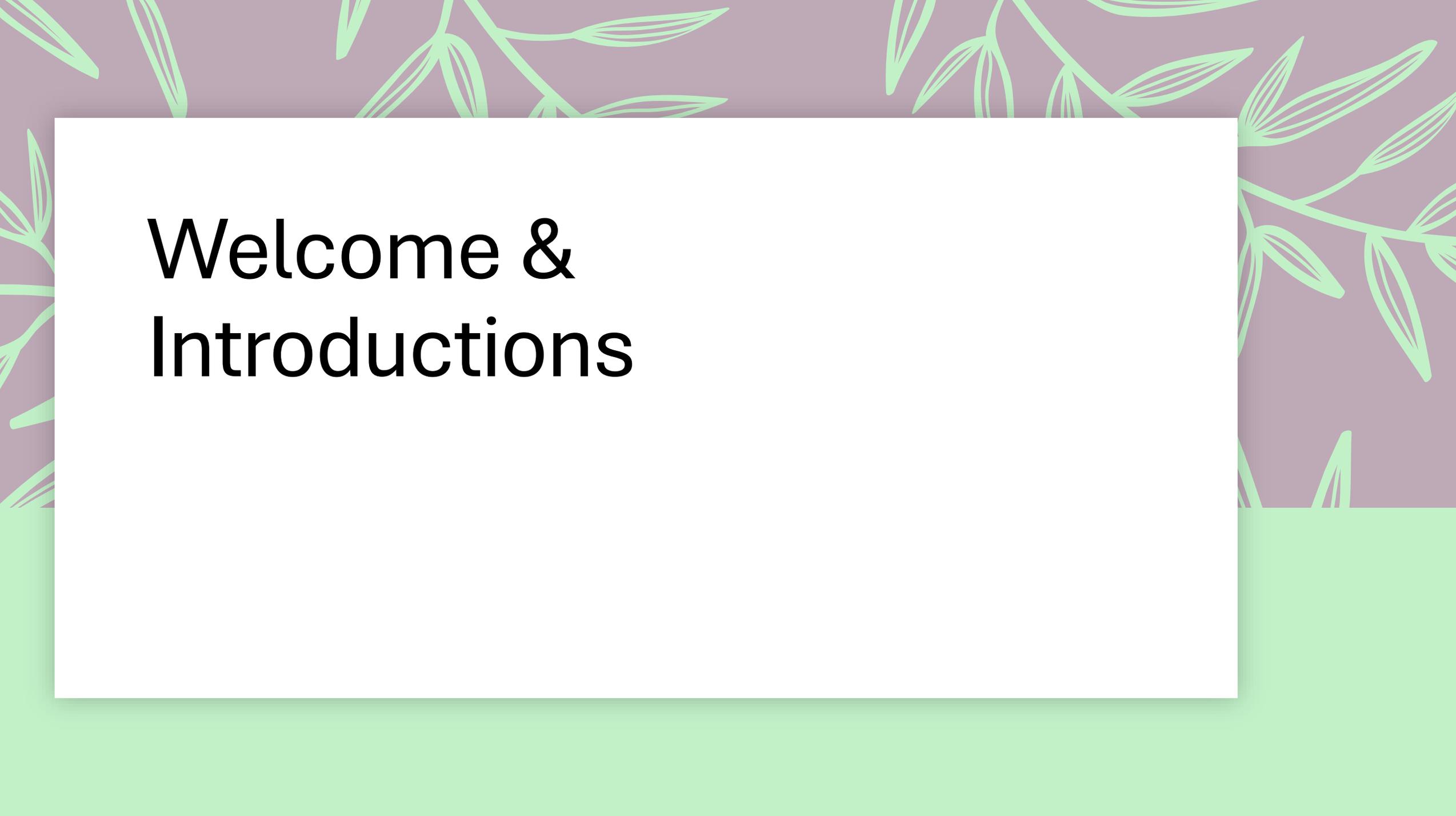
Recommendations



Next steps



Report



Welcome & Introductions

The Minnesota Sustainable Foraging Task Force

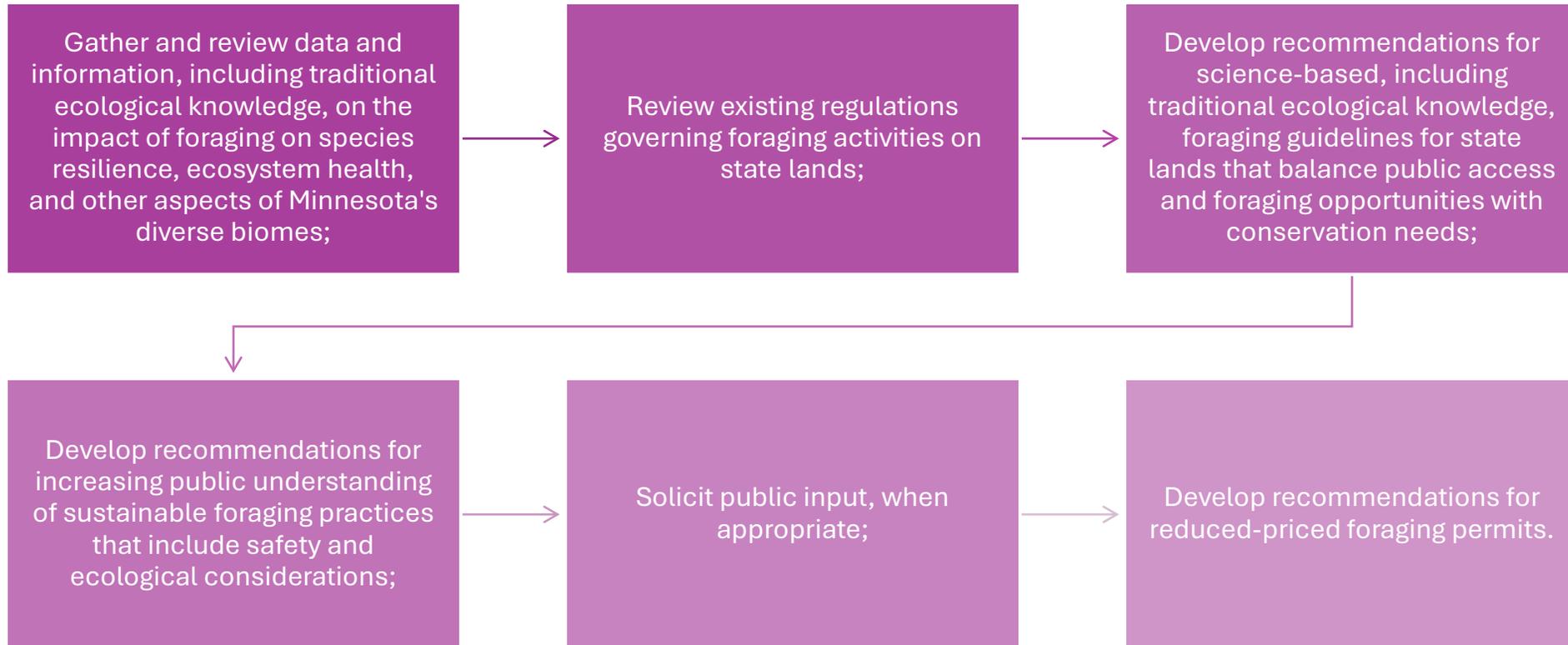
**The Task Force was
created through
legislation in 2025.**

**The 18-member Task
Force met 11 times over 6
months.**

Membership

Name	Appointing Authority
Senator Susan Pha, Chair	Senate Majority Leader
Representative Roger Skraba, Vice Chair	Speaker of the House
Kelli Bruns	Commissioner of Natural Resources
Representative Alex Falconer	Democratic-Farmer-Labor Caucus Leader in the House
Dale Gentry	Commissioner of Natural Resources
Senator Steve Green	Senate Minority Leader
Angela Gupta	Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota Extension
Bradley Harrington	Commissioner of Natural Resources
Nibi Ogichidaa Ikwe	Member of the Minnesota Ojibwe Tribe appointed by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
Greg Kvale	Commissioner of Natural Resources
Peter Martignacco	Minnesota Mycological Society
Rebecca Montgomery	Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota
Kristen Poppleton	Commissioner of Natural Resources
Ingrid Schneider	Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota
David Schultz	Minnesota Foraging Alliance
Luke Skinner	Commissioner of Natural Resources
Matt Wappler	Commissioner of Natural Resources
Gary Wyatt	Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota Extension
Vacant	Member of the Minnesota Dakota Tribe appointed by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

Statutory Purpose



Scope of the Task Force

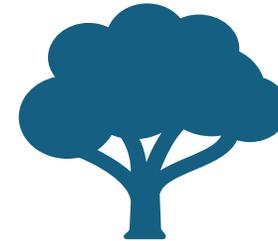


In-scope

Terrestrial and aquatic plants

- Including fruit, nuts, flowers, leaves, stems, and roots

Mushrooms



Out-of-scope

Wild rice

Wild ginseng

Animals (including insects)

Maple syrup

Other “special forest products” like spruce tops, pine boughs, etc.

Testimony & Public Input

Foraging Educator Panel

- Spoke of importance of foraging culturally
- Wanted the foraging of more plants legalized

5 Public Listening Sessions

- Diverse group of the public between age and ethnicity
- Wanted the foraging of more plants legalized
- Saw permit system as a barrier

Washington County Parks

- Testing out new foraging system
- Foraging allowed of any plant in specific park areas with free permit

Wisconsin DNR

- Allow foraging of fruits, nuts, mushrooms, wild asparagus, and watercress

Meeting with MIAC Executive Board

- December 3rd, 2025, in Morton, MN
- Shared the Task Force's work
- Invited input and ongoing communication

Recommendations

Consensus Recommendations for the DNR

- Proactive study of foraging and its impacts in Minnesota
- Develop education and training to support best management practices for foraging
- Use plain language to provide clear and accessible information that makes it easier for the public to understand statutes and rules on DNR-managed state lands and waters
- Improve DNR's permit process for foraging on DNR-managed state lands and waters
- Establish a mechanism for DNR to engage regularly with foraging stakeholders

Majority Recommendations for the Legislature

- Develop a new statute that codifies foraging for personal, non-commercial use as a legitimate recreational and cultural activity on DNR-managed state lands and waters
- Establish a five-year evaluation period during which limits on new foraging policy will apply

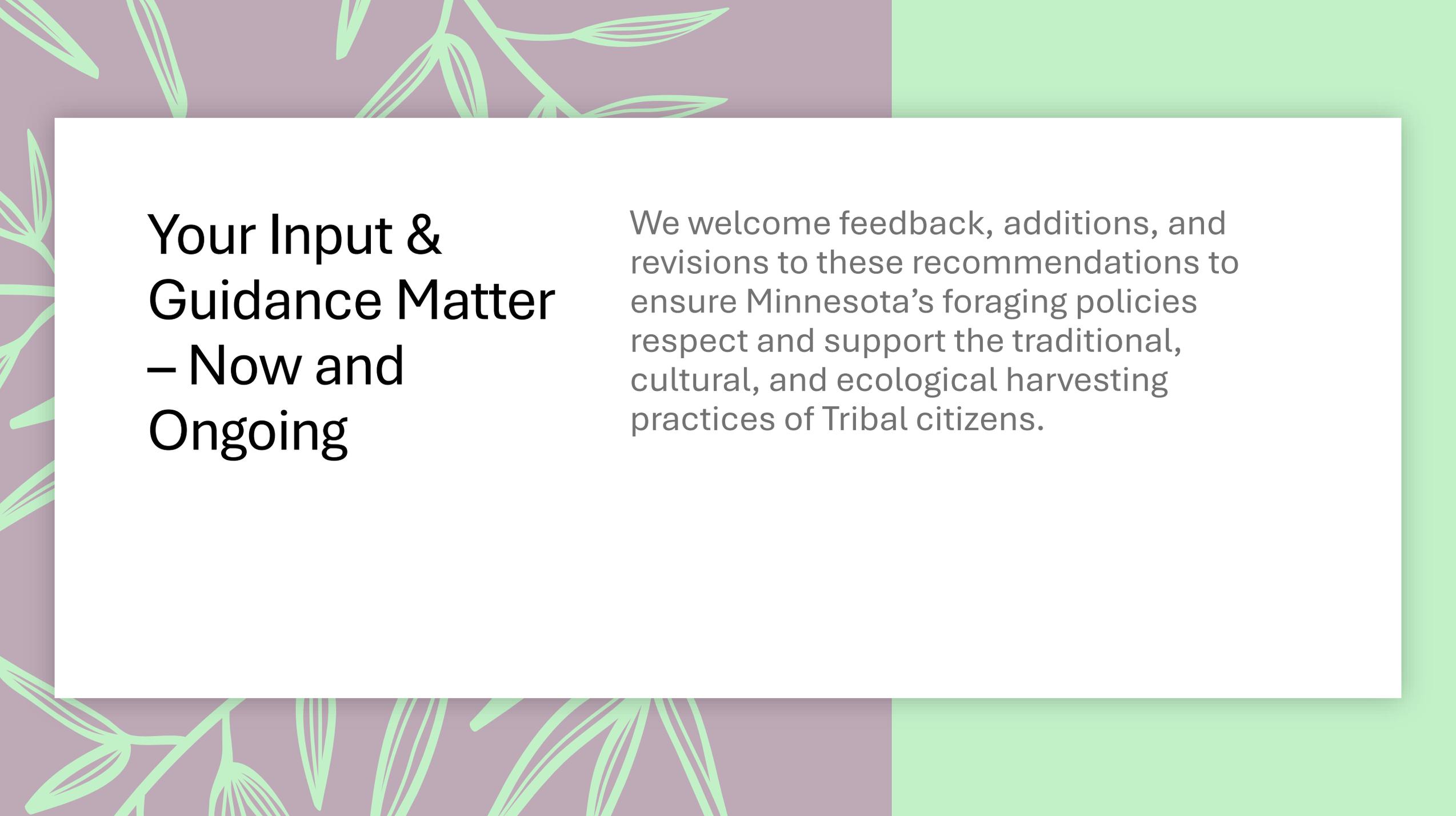
Next Steps

Legislative Bill

- Introduce this year by Sen. Pha in the Senate and Rep. Skraba in the House
 - House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
 - Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee

Report

- Found at the Task Force's website:
 - <https://www.lcc.mn.gov/foraging/>
- Will be submitted by the end of the month



Your Input & Guidance Matter – Now and Ongoing

We welcome feedback, additions, and revisions to these recommendations to ensure Minnesota's foraging policies respect and support the traditional, cultural, and ecological harvesting practices of Tribal citizens.

Questions & Discussion

For follow-up questions or additional input, please contact:



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