



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION POLICY

1005 – Public Participation and the Natural Resources Commission (Revised: 09/12/2013)

Supersedes:

1005 – Public Involvement in Activities of Department, dated June 10, 1993.

Purpose:

The Commission is dedicated to ensure the public right to participate in and be fully informed of the natural resource management decisions made by the Commission and the Department, and implemented by the Department of Natural Resources. This Policy describes the means by which the Commission and the Department will encourage public participation in the Commission's operations.

Policy:

The Commission is a public body subject to the Open Meetings Act, the Administrative Procedures Act, and the public notice and engagement requirements established in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) of Michigan, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.101 et seq.). It will conduct its business in compliance with these governing statutes and applicable administrative rules.

The Commission will conduct monthly, public meetings in locations throughout the State of Michigan. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in these public forums and to use the Department web site for information about the Commission, its members, schedule, meeting locations and meeting minutes:

<http://www.michigan.gov/nrc>

The Commission may establish committees of its members to address policy, finance, administration, wildlife and fisheries management, or other issues in greater depth than may be possible for the full Commission. Committees will operate in an advisory capacity and are not decision-making public bodies. Committee meetings and committee meeting minutes will be open and available to the public, as required by law.

The Commission may establish public appearance guidelines, so that an equitable and reasonable opportunity is provided for anyone who has an interest they wish to bring before the Commission. The Commission will make every attempt to accommodate all individuals who wish to speak and may set timeframes for speakers as necessary in order to encourage and allow maximum public input. In the event that several speakers are present to speak on the same topic, the Chair may ask that a representative be selected to speak on behalf of all those present.

Related Reference:

Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261-15.275 - <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Act-267-of-1976>

Administrative Procedures Act, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 et seq. - <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Act-306-of-1969>

1005 – Public Participation and the Natural Resources Commission is hereby approved.

J.R. Richardson, Chair

Effective Date