

North American Weather Modification Council

Meeting Procedures Public Comment and Media Operating Policy

Summary. This document establishes the policies and procedures for running aspects of the meetings of the North American Weather Modification Council (the “Council”).

Purpose. The purpose of the Operating Procedure is to ensure the orderly conduct of Council business while allowing public and media access and comment on agenda items of relevance to the Council.

Scope. This procedure does not cover all meeting procedures. It only provides guidance on public and media access and comment. The Council Bylaws provide guidance with regard to other meeting procedures.

Supersession. This is the first version of this Operating Policy.

Authority. At the Council meeting which took place April 17, 2007, in San Francisco, California the topic was first raised for discussion. At the meeting of September 13-14, 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah the issue was further discussed and there was agreement to begin researching the issue. At the meeting of October 21, 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah, Joe Busto moved to approve the draft procedure. Mark Schneider seconded the motion, and the motion carried by voice vote.

Definitions.

A **Member** is one of the four categories of membership as defined in the Council Bylaws.

A **Member of the Public** is an individual or organization who is not a Member of the Council.

The **Media** is the traditional print and broadcast technologies such as television, film, and radio that are intended to reach large audiences by mass communication, it can also include internet technologies such as social media and blogs, and other methods such as self-publishing authors, cell phone technologies and other communication technologies and means which may be later developed.

1. The President of the Council has the following powers and responsibilities with regard to Members of the Public:

- A. Deciding when a Member of the Public or the Media can attend and/or participate in a meeting of the Council.
- B. Deciding whether to add a Public Comment section to the current agenda.
- C. Deciding to add one or more items to the agenda of the next meeting.
- D. Deciding whether to allow, and to what extent limit, public comment, such as limiting comment to agenda items only.
- E. Using the security services of the facility where the meeting is being held to ensure a secure meeting environment is provided for the Council members.
- F. Consulting with the Board of Directors to discuss the security of the meeting in light of public attendance. If the environment is deemed unsuitable, then with approval of the Board, the President may adjourn the meeting.

2. Access by the Media or Members of the Public and the recording of meetings.

Inquiries by the Media or Members of the Public to attend meetings shall be directed to the Board of Directors at least 10 days prior to the meeting. The President of the Council shall have the power to allow or disallow the requested attendance at the meeting after the President has consulted with one or more of the members of the Board of Directors of the Council. The Media may record a Council meeting only with the express approval of the Board of Directors should the Board deem it in the best interest of the Council. No Member of the Public may record any part of a Council meeting under any circumstance. The President has the authority to ensure that a Member of the Public is not recording the meeting.

3. Appearances before the Council.

Members of the Public or Media which are allowed to appear before the Council at a meeting shall do so when asked by the President to do so at the time the appropriate agenda item is called. Members of the Public or Media allowed to appear before the Council may address the Council on matters within the specific agenda item which they have been allowed to address, further being subject to the time limits established below. The President has full discretion to limit public comment on items not within approved agenda items being addressed.

4. Time limits upon presentations.


Members of the Public or Media addressing the Council shall be limited to five minutes at each meeting. Should more than one Member of the Public be present representing one organization, the total time allowed to all such Members of the Public representing one organization shall be limited to ten minutes if more than one representative wishes to speak. Each Council Member may speak for no more than three minutes on each matter a Member of the Public or Media has raised before the Council. The President of Council or the Board of Directors by majority vote may allow additional time to any speaker. Total discussion on any issue raised by a Member of the Public or Media shall not exceed sixty minutes per meeting.

5. Availability of Public inspection of Council material.

The President shall make available, for inspection by request by Members of the Public or by Media who have been approved to attend and/or participate five days prior to the commencement of the Council meeting, copies of the meeting agenda, minutes, or other documentation to be presented for discussion or consideration at the meeting.

If other materials including reports are presented by Council Members at the meeting, should sufficient copies be available, the Council shall make available copies of such materials for inspection by Members of the Public and Media who have been allowed to attend and/or participate in the meeting.

Approval. This Operating Policy was approved by motion and vote at the October 21, 2015 meeting of the NAWMC.

Signed: 
Mark D. Schneider
Secretary – Treasurer

Date: 11/18/15

