

Natural Resource Commission Meeting Public Participation Procedure

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend Natural Resource Commission (NRC) meetings and offer public input at the designated time. Additional opportunities for public input are, also, provided through rulemaking public comment periods.

It is the intent of the Commission to provide adequate opportunity for citizens to offer public comment at its meetings while balancing the constraints of time and conducting official business. As a result, the Natural Resource Commission has adopted the following procedure to implement 571 Iowa Administrative Code 1.5(2)(c), which governs meeting decorum by providing the NRC Chair with the authority to facilitate public participation as necessary. The public participation period is a time for the Commission to listen; they do not normally engage in dialogue during public comment, but welcome and encourage citizen input.

The following is information related to public participation at an NRC meeting.

1. At in-person meetings, speakers must fill out a Public Speaker Form in order to speak at the NRC meeting. The Chair will use the forms to call on the person(s) to speak. The Form asks for the speaker's name, address, organization affiliation (if any), and topic of interest. If public participation is occurring electronically (via telephone or video conference), no form is needed, but the Form information will be requested verbally by the Chair.
2. Prior to public participation, the Chair will announce the allotted amount of time each speaker may present. Time allotted may range up to five minutes.

The Chair reserves the right to establish limits to public input on any issue (e.g.: if multiple persons request to speak on one particular issue, the Chair has the discretion to adjust the allotted time per speaker and/or the number of speakers).

3. Speakers may present at the scheduled public participation time or make a special request to the Chair to speak when a particular item is being discussed. The NRC Chair has discretion when presentations will occur.
4. When the NRC Chair verbally opens the public comment period, speakers shall speak from the presentation table (if physically able), state their name and address, and speak to subject matters listed on the agenda or an issue related to the duties and responsibilities of the Commission.

If the speaker is presenting via telephone or video, the NRC Chair will specifically invite comments from those attending electronically. The Chair will ask speakers to say their name and address prior to providing their comments.

5. Speakers are to be constructive and concise. Public disturbances, outbursts, personal attacks, threats, or other disorderly conduct will not be tolerated.
6. Speakers are asked to provide written materials in advance of the NRC meeting, preferably one week in advance, to the NRC Board Administrator. Materials presented to the NRC become public record.

For further information regarding the NRC and meetings, please visit <https://www.iowadnr.gov/about/boards-commissions> or contact the NRC Board Administrator at the IA DNR (515-725-8200).