

October 7, 2019

Online Input Committee Report—Year 2

Online Voting Exploratory Committee members:

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Regarding changes to the process used to receive input from the public on DNR and WCC questions, the OIC recommends no significant change from 2019, but the following changes/improvements should be made to the current process

While the use of Survey Monkey to collect online input went well and was well received by both the public and the WCC, we do think there's always room for improvement.

The OIC would still recommend the following for implementation in 2020:

- Add a third option besides **YES** and **NO** such as **NO OPINION** or **NOT APPLICABLE**
- Changes to the RVN: Incorporate the "county code" into the RVN

Put the website/link info for the survey on the paper with the RVN

Make the RVN shorter and send less to each county

- Test possibility of using a scantron reader to tabulate the in-person input results to effect cost savings.
- Add information to the Hearing Officer scrips about using the RVN
- Create signs/posters for each county to use to help identify the location of the hearings
- Linking the DNR's background information to the questions in the online version

The following ideas would need some further consideration from department staff:

- Requiring the hearing officer to use the presentation
- Link in short videos on how to use the RVN

Additional options to consider regarding resolutions:

The Online Input Committee felt strongly that the online submittal of resolutions would lead to better, more accurate information being presented to the public through the resolution process. Resolutions submitted online could be accepted year-round and by reviewing the resolutions prior to having the public react to them, problems could be identified, and solutions suggested. Online submittal of resolutions could be implemented in several ways or through a stepped approach.

Resolution Option 1: No change—Resolutions would continue to be taken the night of the hearing if they meet the criteria and only the in-person participants would provide input on them.

Resolution Option 2: Year One (2020) - Online early submittal with deadline and county still provides input—Resolutions would be submitted online and vetted through the county for accuracy and problems that may be identified. There would be an online deadline so that resolutions for 2020 would be reviewed and uploaded for public viewing. Hard copies would also be posted for in-person input at each county's hearing. Authors could still be required to be present. Hard copies would also be posted for in-person input at each county's hearing. Resolutions brought to the hearing could be accepted, however the county chair would have to be clear about the numbering for those as they would follow the advanced submittals. This would be a good option to be used for a stepped approach moving toward online submittal only.

Year 2 (2021) – Online submittal only. A Code of Procedures change could be implemented to have all resolutions submitted by a deadline prior to the spring hearings. This would allow for resolutions to be posted in advance of the spring hearings for review, but also added to the online input form for participants with an RVN. There would be no in person taking of resolutions and if people in the county wanted to review and provide input on the resolutions, they could use the RVN and go online to view them.

Note: Resolutions deadline for both years would need to be near March 1 to give counties enough time for reviewing formatting, edits to be made, and resubmitted for posting publicly at least two weeks prior to the spring hearings.

Resolution Option 3: Eliminate the county input step—Have citizens write their ideas and solutions (resolutions) and have them go directly to the Rules and Resolutions Committee to disseminate to the committees. Then if the committees think the idea has merit, the committee can either work with the author or on their own, write a questions for statewide consideration.