

Citizen Resolution # 131322

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Do you favor the Conservation Congress working with the Department to ensure remote access to all public meetings; WCC, DNR, NRB and CDAC etc.?

There has been an explosion of interest in the role of public participation in natural resource management and environmental decision making. Public participation should be advocated in natural resource management to meet a variety of goals. Public participation has three components: the right to participate in environmental decision-making processes, the right to information concerning the environment and activities affecting it, and the right of access to justice. This goes back to the development of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress mission statement by Aldo Leopold. However, the success of participation in achieving these goals is highly variable, especially dependent on both societal and institutional structure. Oftentimes, rural residents are multiple hours away from Madison/Dane County and must often take a day off of work, find childcare, and spend quite a bit of money on transportation. Public transportation from rural counties is basically non-existent. Citizens must be able to exercise their democratic right to public participation and be able to comment on issues that affect them, wildlife, fisheries, and public lands. And field questions that can't be done via written comment. Alternatively, urban residents also face these same issues when committee meetings are in Northern counties during workday hours etc. The DNR and NRB has done a great job ensuring that people can participate, even given stay at home orders and this pandemic over the past two years. Now that we are seeing a reduction in restrictions in public places, it just makes sense to continue to support our citizens' ability to attend public meetings due to safety/health issues, financial considerations or transportation.

Would you support the CC making sure all meetings are available to the public remotely?

Additional Information provided by author:

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.