

Boat Act Advisory Committee Public Meeting Guide –

Opening Statement

The Chair gavels the meeting to order:

Procedure for Public Meeting

- The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) liaison will present the specific regulatory request and a tally of comments for and against the regulatory request.
- Testimony in favor of the proposed regulation will be called for and then testimony in opposition of the proposed regulation.
 - **Presenting testimony:**
 - Comments will be limited to 5 minutes for individuals.
 - If speaking for an entire group, such as, a community or an organization you will have 15 minutes to present your position:
 - Identify what group you're represent.
 - If you have any handouts to support your position, please present them to the DNR Coordinator when you arrive and before the meeting begins.
 - If you have an electronic presentation on a CD or USB/Thumb-Drive, please give it to the DNR Coordinator when you arrive and before the meeting begins.
 - Your testimony should be specific to the official regulation request.
 - When presenting testimony, please speak into the microphone, state your name clearly and spell it for the court stenographer.
 - When you are testifying, address the Committee and Chairperson only. There should be no exchanges between the person testifying and members of the audience.
 - No one in the audience should address the Committee unless recognized by me. We will do our very best to give everyone an opportunity to speak.
 - If you disrupt the speaker or the meeting, the NRP officer may escort you from the meeting.
- Natural Resource Police Testimony. The NRP officers generally have much insight into an area as well as data on arrests, warnings and accidents to support their comments.
- DNR Shoreline Conservation report if applicable, will be considered by the Committee.

After hearing all the testimony, the Committee will break for lunch.

Deliberations and Votes

- During deliberations, you are welcome to stay and observe. However, you may not comment unless called upon by the chairperson.
- Following deliberations, the Committee will vote on a recommendation for each request. Remember, the Committees charge is to make recommendations to the Secretary; we do not have the final say over a regulatory request.

Possible outcomes of the Committee's deliberations:

- Take No Action, which means the committee rejects the regulatory request and recommends no change to the waterway. If the Secretary accepts this, then the request cannot be resubmitted for three years.
- Accept the regulatory request.
- We may vote to accept the regulatory request, but with modifications.

Next Steps

1. Staff then prepares a formal presentation of the Committee's recommendation for the Secretary for each regulatory request.
2. The Secretary may accept, reject or modify a Committee's recommendation.
3. If the request is accepted, the proposed regulation will continue through the legal process and become law, effective during the next boating season.
4. If the Secretary modifies the Committee's recommendation, the new proposed regulation will move through the legal process and may be accepted or challenged by the petitioner.
5. The progress of any proposed regulation, one that is approved by the Secretary, may be tracked on the DNR Boating website under Regulations.