

Healthy Farms Healthy Lakes

Decision Making Process and Method for Recommendation Evaluation

Decision Making Process

1. Must attend 75% of the Task Force meetings to be eligible to vote for recommendations. Can be a combination of representative and his/her designated alternate for meeting attendance to make the 75%.
2. Will try to achieve consensus (agreement in opinion). Recommendations with consensus move forward from the group.*
3. Where consensus cannot be achieved, take a vote of the group present (if quorum). Decisions that receive at least a 3/4 positive vote of stakeholders present move forward as a recommendation; however, objections will be noted.
4. Where consensus cannot be achieved and the decision does not receive a 3/4 positive vote, the option will be stated with discussion noted of both the positive attributes and concerns for each option.

Method for Recommendation Evaluation

1. After generating and clarifying possible recommendations from the group, have group discuss for each recommendation and frame the discussion around the following **draft** criteria:
 - Does the proposal balance public and private interests?
 - Is the recommendation based on sound science and technical standards?
 - Will this action satisfy the most people, be cost-effective and practical (can be implemented) and help to produce a long-term positive impact?
 - Does the action help us have both healthy farm and lakes?
 - Is the action possible to implement from all perspectives including permitting, technical analysis, practicality and funding?
2. Discussion content will be noted along with the deciding vote.

*Levels of consensus: Once a recommendation is proposed, the group must discover how each member feels about it, and then identify specific concerns in order to move forward. There may be various levels of support for a proposed recommendation, from enthusiastic support, through luke-warm, to ambiguous support.

The framework that this group decided to use for decision making follows:

| Level of Support | Points | Action |
|--|--------|---------------------------------|
| Strong support or agreement with the proposal | 2 | move forward |
| Agreement with most aspects of the proposal | 1 | move forward |
| Ambiguous feeling toward proposal. Feel neutral or wish to abstain from voting for our against | 0 | Neutral vote, no action |
| Disagree with some aspects of the proposed | -1 | Seek modification prior to vote |
| Strong disagreement with most of the proposal | -2 | does not move forward |