

Resolution of the Flathead Reservation Water Management Board

#frwmb 02: Board Meeting Decorum

Date of Approval: Approved by the Board September 29, 2026

Purpose: Clarify Expectations for Decorum at Board Meetings and During Board Business

Board Intent for Rules of Decorum:

- Provide a safe and secure setting for the Board and the public to attend.
- Enable the Board to conduct its deliberative process without interruption in a manner that can be heard and viewed by all in attendance, both in person and remote.
- Ensure that the public has a full opportunity to be heard during public hearings and open comment periods of Board meetings.
- Facilitate transparency in the conduct of Board meetings so that all persons have the opportunity to observe and hear all of the Board discussion and votes.
- State specific rules of decorum so that all may know the rules in advance and be subject to the same rules.
- Limit interruptions, unreasonable delay, or duplication of comments, presentations, or discussion.
- Develop an atmosphere of civility that is respectful of diverse opinions and allows presentation of positions that vary from the position of others at the meeting without insults or intimidation.
- Balance the need for the Board to conduct effective meetings without the meetings extending for an unreasonable length of time with the need to give a full opportunity for the public to be heard.
- Facilitate Board meetings as business meetings, therefore public comments should relate to the business of the Board and, as such, be addressed to the Board as a whole, which conducts the business of the Board and the Office of the Water Engineer.
- Adopt these rules of decorum as the standard for conduct of meetings of the Board.

use of alcohol or drugs.

- Members of the public shall make every effort to be respectful at all times of those with opposing views.
- No sign shall be displayed in Board chambers in a manner that blocks the view of another person or in a manner that would violate subsection iv above.

Enforcement of Decorum: The Board Chair or Board Vice Chair shall be responsible for maintaining the order and decorum of meetings as set forth in Board Bylaws Section 4.1. The Board Chair or Board Vice Chair may order removed from the Board chambers, or other room in which a meeting of the Board is occurring, any person who fails to observe these rules of decorum:

- The Chair or Vice Chairperson may interrupt any speaker who is violating these rules of decorum or disrupting a meeting.
- The Chair or Vice Chairperson shall attempt to provide a verbal warning to any attendee or particular speaker that may be violating these rules of decorum, but such verbal warning shall not be required as a condition of removing an offender from the Board chambers or meeting room.
- These enforcement provisions are in addition to the authority held by any peace officer in attendance to maintain order pursuant to the officer's lawful authority.
- Any person removed from the Board chambers or meeting room shall be excluded from further attendance at the meeting from which the person has been removed, unless permission to attend is granted upon the motion adopted by a majority vote of the Board.
- In addition, by vote of the Board, any person removed from a meeting may be excluded from attendance at Board meetings for thirty (30) days after such removal. A longer period of prohibition from attendance at Board meetings may be determined by the Board by a vote, if the person has been removed from the Board chambers or meeting room in the past twenty-four months for violation of these rules of decorum, or the Board determines that the attendee's conduct was so severe as to necessitate a longer period of prohibition.

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considered at that meeting. Except that Board members may receive electronic copies of materials from staff displayed on monitors or otherwise made available at the meeting.