

# Procedure for Consideration of Proposals<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Introduction and presentation of proposal/analysis

- SRC members can ask questions, but discussion comes later (after a motion).

## 2. Summary of any written public/SRC/RAC/AC comments

## 3. Public/advisory group/agency testimony

## 4. SRC recommendation

- A. A motion is required for the SRC to take up a proposal for formal recommendation:
  - Motion should be stated in the positive to avoid confusion (“I move to support \_\_\_\_.”)
    - If the choice exists, the motion should specify whether support is for the proposal “as written” or “as modified by OSM.”
    - The main motion could be to support a modified version of the proposal (“I move to support Proposal ## with modification to \_\_\_\_\_.”)
  - Motion must be seconded before discussion takes place.
- B. Any modifications/amendments to the main motion – even friendly ones – also need to be in the form of a motion and follow the same process of a second and a vote.
  - Voting on friendly amendments can take place by unanimous consent<sup>2</sup>.
- C. SRC Discussion/Justification – the Chair states: “It has been moved and seconded to [restate motion]. Is there any discussion?”
  - Only SRC members may participate in the discussion once a motion is on the floor.
  - Discussion should include a justification for supporting/opposing the motion/proposal:
    - Is there a conservation concern? How will the recommendation address the concern?
    - Is the recommendation supported by substantial evidence such as biological information and traditional ecological knowledge?
    - Will the recommendation be beneficial or detrimental to subsistence needs and users?

## 5. Final action

- An SRC member calls for the question. In which case, the Chair should confirm that there are no objections or unanswered questions before moving on to the vote.
  - Or the Chair can say: “If there is no further discussion, the question is in order.”
- The Chair restates the final motion, then holds the vote – “The motion before us is [state motion]. All in favor say I (or raise hand). All opposed, same sign (or say nay). Are there any abstentions<sup>3</sup>?”
  - Votes can be done by roll call if the vote appears close.
  - A simple majority vote (more than half) of those voting is required for a motion to pass.
    - Tied votes fail.
    - Abstentions do not factor into the vote count.

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<sup>1</sup> The same general principles of motion, second, discussion, and voting also apply to other SRC actions.

<sup>2</sup> Unanimous Consent: On routine matters such as “friendly amendments,” adopting an agenda or an election with a single candidate, voting can take place through “unanimous consent.” In this case, the Chair may state “I am going to ask for unanimous consent. If there is no objection, the motion will be adopted.” [Followed by a pause to allow anyone to object.] If there is no objection, the Chair then states “Since there is no objection, the motion is adopted.” Silence signals agreement. If someone objects, they only need to state, “I object,” and a vote will be held.

<sup>3</sup> Abstentions: To abstain is to refrain from voting. For example, if someone lacks knowledge of the topic (e.g., minutes from a prior meeting the member did not attend) or has a conflict of interest.