

Stakeholder Group Goal

The goal of this stakeholder group is to formulate recommendations to the North Carolina Mining and Energy Commission that all members of the stakeholder group can support. Where agreement on recommendations cannot be reached, we will document the points of difference of opinion, and share that information with the MEC.

Consensus-Based Decision Making

A consensus-based decision-making process is an effort in which stakeholders seek to reach agreement on a course of action to address an issue. Consensus refers to agreement on some decision by all members of a group, rather than a majority or a select group of representatives. In this stakeholder group, we will try to reach consensus on items that we recommend to the Mining and Energy Commission.

Elements of a Consensus-Based Decision:

- All stakeholders agree with the proposed decision
- No one will block or obstruct the decision
- Everyone will support the decision

Levels of Consensus

- I can say an unqualified “yes”
- I can accept the decision
- I can live with the decision
- I do not fully agree with the decision, however, I will not block it and I will support it

Proposed Ground Rules

Respect the time: We will start and end our meetings on time.

Rule of decision: We agree that the rule of decision is consensus, as described above. If agreement by all participants on an issue is not possible, we will seek to develop a clear and balanced statement of the areas of disagreement.

Everyone is equal: We agree that all participants in the process are equal.

Respect Opinions and No Interruptions: We agree to respect each other’s opinions. We will use gentle candor in comments to each other. We will listen to each other and not interrupt each other.

Keep the facilitator accurate: We agree to make sure the facilitators capture what we meant to say.

Speak when recognized: The facilitator will recognize speakers.

Stay on task: No sidebar conversations.