

ERIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT PUBLIC COMMENT AND MEDIA POLICY

The Erie County Conservation District welcomes responsible input from the general public on conservation matters in Erie County. It shall be the policy of the District Board to accept public input during monthly meetings. The following guidelines will be followed to receive comments and questions:

- Advance notice for public comment is preferred, but not required. An individual may make an advance notice for comment by contacting the District prior to the meeting.
- Individuals wishing to comment should register with the Secretary prior to the Call to Order, and when speaking should identify themselves, state their address, and indicate the topic to which they wish to speak. Presentations must be concise and respectful.
- If a group intends to comment on an issue, the Chair will ask for one (1) spokesperson to state commentary on behalf of the group.
- The Chair reserves the right to set reasonable time limits to receive comments from the public on a specific issue and to divide the time equally among those who wish to speak. The Chair reserves the right to grant time extensions and can reduce time limits due to redundancy or lengthy comments.
- There is no obligation for the Chair or Directors of the Board to respond to comments or verbally engage with the speaker.
- Inappropriate behavior such as outbursts, disorderly, disrespectful, or boisterous conduct will not be tolerated at the board meetings, nor will speakers who monopolize the floor or who are repetitious. The Chair will issue one (1) warning to the individual(s) responsible for the inappropriate behavior. If not heeded, will ask the individual to sit down or leave the meeting.
- Representatives from the media are welcome, but will remain on the perimeter of the meeting room and will respect any requests of the Chair to keep themselves or their equipment from interfering with the Board activities or the audience's participation.

Following these guidelines will help the District Board provide reasonable opportunity for residents of Erie County to participate in these public meetings as outlined in the PA Sunshine Law, Section 710.1, *Public Participation*.

Approved September 20, 2018