

Commission Agenda Date: October 21, 2014

Item No. : 31

Discussion of Board policy regarding public comment.

(Information material regarding Tampa Bay Water policy
attached.)

AGENDA ITEM H1



DATE: October 1, 2014
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Barrie S. Buenaventura, General Counsel *BSB*
SUBJECT: Board Policy Regarding Public Comment - *Approve*

SUMMARY: At its September 2014 meeting, the Executive Committee of the Board requested the preparation of an updated policy regarding public comment at meetings of the Board of Directors.
--

RECOMMENDATION: Approve proposed policy.

DISCUSSION: At its September 2014 meeting, the Executive Committee of the Board requested preparation of a new Board policy regarding public comment. The current policy (BD-04) was adopted in 1998. A copy of the proposed policy is attached. It incorporates provisions of Section 286.0114, Florida Statutes, adopted by the legislature in 2013, regarding maintaining orderly conduct and proper decorum in a public meeting. The procedure for requesting the opportunity to speak and the amount of time allocated to each speaker remains unchanged in the proposed policy. In addition, the proposed policy eliminates portions of the current policy that are unnecessary or are addressed in other agency policies. If approved, the proposed policy would take effect immediately and would supersede the current policy.

It is recommended that the Board approved the proposed public comment policy.

Attachment

A handwritten signature in the bottom right corner of the page.

TAMPA BAY WATER	
BOARD POLICY	
TITLE: Public Comment	NUMBER: BD-XX
DIVISION/DEPARTMENT: Tampa Bay Water	EFFECTIVE DATE: XXXX
APPROVED: Board of Directors (Signature of Chairman)	SUPERSEDES: BD-04

I. POLICY

It is the policy of Tampa Bay Water to provide an opportunity for citizens to address the Board of Directors at its meetings on agenda and non-agenda items prior to Board discussion of the agenda. Members of the public shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at Board meetings and shall maintain orderly conduct and proper decorum in addressing the Board in accordance with Section 286.0114, Florida Statutes.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Persons wishing to address the Board SHALL:

1. Complete a Request to Speak Card available at the door to the Boardroom and present it to the Board Clerk at the dais prior to the beginning of the meeting;
2. When called upon by the Board Chairman, speakers shall state their name and address and address the Board for no more than three (3) minutes on any agenda item or any other matter; and
3. If written materials are to be submitted to the Board, provide at least one (1) copy to the Board Clerk who shall make copies available to the Board after the meeting.

B. Persons wishing to address the Board SHALL NOT:

1. Continue speaking after their three (3) minute time period is over;
2. Engage in disruptive behavior; or
3. Make vulgar comments, threatening remarks or personal attacks against any Board member, staff, members of the public, or otherwise.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

The Chairman of the Board shall have the discretion to have any speaker who disregards this Policy removed from the Boardroom for the remainder of that day's meeting.