

# PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CWB GOVERNANCE MANUAL

## SECTION 3.3.2 DECISION-MAKING

APRIL 29, 2018

### Original/Current:

#### 3.3.2 Decision-making

- Members will work to achieve consensus as much as possible.
- For routine, procedural, minor and non-controversial decision making the Board will use “general consensus” decision making to move forward efficiently in meetings. If decisions are complex or substantive or if there is significant disagreement among members then the decision making process will be according to Robert’s Rules of Order.
- In consensus decision making a motion, a second, and as required discussion will take place before calls for a response on the motion.
- In consensus decision making a position of “I can live with that” can contribute to consensus.
- Members will be mindful and make best efforts to act in accordance with the “Ground rules” itemized in Attachment 1.

### Proposed Revision:

#### 3.3.2 Decision-making

The Board will use “general consensus” decision making to move forward efficiently in meetings. In consensus, the whole group examines the problem, discusses possible solutions and then works together to develop a solution which everyone can support. A motion, a second, and, as required, discussion will take place before calls for a response on the motion.

In keeping with the Principle of Nutsamaat (Section 2.3) and the Ground Rules for Members (Attachment 1) the Co-chairs and members will make their best effort to achieve full consensus at all times, with guidance drawn from the purpose, mandate and principles of the organization (Section 2)

If full consensus is not reached, the co-Chairs will defer the matter for further discussion: a) at the following meeting; b) if a timely decision is required, to later in that same meeting or; c) the next available opportunity. Efforts will be made in the interim to discuss, review and revise the motion as appropriate to reach a solution that all members can support.

If members disagree with a motion, but wish to support the group to move forward, they may “stand aside” and allow consensus to proceed. In this case, the minutes will record the number of people who stood aside but mark the motion as “carried” by consensus.

If any member disagrees with a motion and does not stand aside, then consensus is not reached. At this point, the co-Chair may close the consensus process and put the motion to a vote. In a vote, the motion passes if it has the support of all those present minus up to two members.

## **Attachment 1 – Ground Rules for Members**

**(For reference – unchanged from current manual)**

1. Members accept the responsibility to educate themselves on issues and come to meetings prepared for discussion.
2. Members will recognize the legitimacy of the concerns and interests of others, whether or not they are in agreement with them.
3. Members will seek to share discussion time, encouraging everyone to participate fully.
4. Members will seek to state their own concerns and interests clearly, listen carefully to others, and explore issues from all points of view before forming conclusions.
5. Members commit to:
  - Creatively searching for opportunities.
  - Speaking with respect and courtesy and not interrupting. This includes not holding side conversations when others are speaking.
  - Suspending judgments and assumptions and checking rumours prior to drawing conclusions.
  - Attempting to reach consensus on major decisions.
  - Advocating for the adopted plan.
6. All members will be mindful of the impacts of their public and private statements will have on the climate of this effort; particularly the spirit of attempting to solve problems collectively. Members shall also take special care to differentiate between representing the CWB versus personal opinion when writing or speaking independently.