

Public Comment Policy Statement:

WHEREAS: The Open Meetings Act NMSA 1978, Chapter 10, Article 15, III Section 10-15-1, Subpart A states “an open public meeting is not necessarily an open forum and, so long as the Act is complied with, public bodies may limit or not allow public debate and may take steps necessary to maintain public order” and Subpart F states “meeting notices shall include an agenda containing a list of specific items of business to be discussed or transacted at the meeting”.

WHEREAS: The New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) desires to provide opportunity for public comment at meetings under its purview;

THEREFORE: In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the policy for public comment at SWCC meetings is as follows:

- All comments will be limited to 2 minutes at the beginning of the meeting during the public comment and compliance will be enforced to ensure timely conductance of SWCC business.
- The SWCC are not under legal obligation to accept, concur with or record any offered public comment(s).
- Appropriate action(s) will be taken as necessary by the SWCC to maintain public order during the meeting.
- The SWCC Chairperson may acknowledge members of the public by comment sign up order, then those who raise their hand to signify they wish to provide comment.
- At the discretion of the SWCC Chairperson, comments not pertaining to the agenda but pertinent to SWCC general responsibilities, may or may not be allowed. Requests to make such comments will only be considered when presented at the beginning of each meeting following approval of the agenda.
- Public comments may also be emailed to the SWCC up to 72 hours before the meeting.

While this policy pertains to conductance of SWCC meetings, public comments may also be submitted at any time to the SWCC as follows:

Email: swcc@nmda.nmsu.edu

Phone: 1-575-646-2642