

Proposed Policy for Making Decisions Concerning Public Position Statements by WATR

Section 1. Definition of Scope of Policy. We are talking about position statements by WATR concerning, for example, ordinances, pollution incidents, and actions taken by public officials, individuals, or corporations. Approved positions will be entered into the WATR administrative files, listed on the WATR website, and can be published as a letter to the editor. This policy outlines how WATR intends to go about making such decisions about those positions and statements.

Section 2. Origin of Proposals. Anyone can propose a resolution for a position statement by WATR. Ideas might be proposed in a regular meeting, during one of the lunch meetings, in a committee, during an Executive Council meeting, a Board meeting, or simply in a conversation between two WATR members. The Board urges that members submit proposals for a WATR position in writing to (1) the Conservation Committee, (2) the Staff, or (3) to a Board member—in that order of preference.

Section 3. Group Responsible for Putting Position Statement in Written Form. Since most of the public statements made by WATR concern conservation and resource issues, the Conservation Committee is a logical forum for detailed discussion of these issues. The staff will generally forward ideas for position statements to the Conservation Committee. The Conservation Committee will refine the proposed idea or put the proposed idea into written form and publicize their result among the members for feedback. Sometimes the staff will prefer to handle the issue themselves and produce a written position statement. Also, the Board may want to prepare the statement. Whichever of the three groups--Conservation Committee, staff, or board—has the most interest in the issue is encouraged to take the lead in developing the draft position statement.

Section 4. Final Decision on Statements. Position statements may be passed by WATR and cleared for publication in either of two ways: by a minimum of two-thirds of the total number of members of the Board or by a minimum of two-thirds at a Membership Meeting of WATR with a quorum of 15%.

In the case of board approval, the Executive Director will deliver the text of the position statement by e-mail, telephone, or in person, and give the board members 72 hours to respond with approval or disapproval. At the end of the 72-hour period, if two-thirds of the board members have unanimously expressed approval, the position statement is approved for publication. However, if at least one member disapproves, the position statement is not approved. The statement can be rewritten and resubmitted. The statement can be discussed at the next board meeting or at a special board meeting called for that purpose in accordance with Section 5 of Article V of the Bylaws.

In the case of approval at a Membership Meeting, the meeting must have at least 10 days advance notice by an e-mail message that contains the full text of the position statement. Members are responsible for making sure that the WATR office has their correct e-mail address.

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