

# **Decorum Policy**

## **PEDERNALES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

### **Policy #####**

#### **1. Purpose:**

As a democratically-controlled and Member-owned Cooperative, Member participation in Pedernales Electric Cooperative (“Cooperative” or “PEC”) affairs is valued and respected and individuals should be allowed to state opinions. Meetings or functions of the Cooperative whether conducted on or off premises shall be conducted in a professional and courteous manner.

#### **2. Scope:**

This Policy applies to all Participants at meetings of the Board of Directors and any other business meeting or function of the Cooperative whether on or off PEC premises.

#### **3. Definitions:**

For the purposes of this Policy, “Participants” collectively includes Cooperative Board Directors, employees, Members or any other attendees at PEC business meetings or functions.

#### **4. Policy Statement and Implementation:**

4.1 PEC Business Meetings or Functions. Participants in any business meeting or function shall maintain an environment free of abusive, slanderous, or bullying behavior. To protect the security and safety of persons attending such meetings, all Participants shall respect an individual’s physical space and refrain from any form of physical intimidation or abuse. Any behavior demonstrating or threatening violence, attack, or physical abuse is not tolerated.

4.1.1 Meeting Participants may not display placards, bumper stickers, signs or other campaigning, or political advocacy materials within the premises of a meeting or function, other than those materials displayed on the individual Participants’ body or clothing. Campaigning and Electioneering for PEC elections is governed by the Cooperative’s Election Policy and Procedures.

4.1.2 Meeting Participants shall refrain from disruptive or distracting behavior. Personal or character attacks, or improperly sidetracking the attention of other Participants with subject matter that is irrelevant to PEC or unrelated to PEC are examples of disruptive or distracting behavior.

4.2 Board of Directors’ Meetings. PEC Board of Directors’ meetings are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Policy and the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*, as practicable, and “Procedure for Small Boards” (for example, *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* § 49 (11th ed. Cambridge, Mass.: Perseus Publishing, 2011)).

4.2.1 All Participants wishing to address the Board during the designated portion of a Board meeting shall sign a registry identifying themselves prior to speaking, and

shall open their remarks by stating their name and whether they are a Cooperative Member. Time allotted by the Board for each speaker cannot be shared or allotted with other speakers. The allotted time shall include and commence from the beginning of the speaker's remarks and include any time that passes during questioning or colloquy between the speaker and the Board. Additional time may be granted to a person by the Board President, or upon a majority vote of the Board.

4.2.2 When any Member or Participant wishes to provide written or demonstrative materials to the Board or others, such Member or Participant must, prior to the meeting's start, provide the information to the Board Secretary or their designee for distribution.

4.2.3 Participants shall refrain from disruptive or distracting behavior. Personal or character attacks, speaking out of turn, approaching or standing at the Board meeting dais without the permission of the Presiding Officer, or improperly sidetracking the attention of other Participants with subject matter that is irrelevant to PEC or unrelated to PEC are examples of disruptive behavior.

## **5. Procedure Responsibilities**

5.1 PEC Business Meetings or Functions. Directors and Employees shall maintain order and preserve the decorum of any business meeting or function conducted on or off the Cooperative premises.

5.2 Board of Directors' Meetings. The Presiding Officer shall maintain order and preserve the decorum of Board of Directors' meetings as provided in this Policy. Each Board Director shall cooperate with the Presiding Officer in preserving order and decorum, and no Participant shall, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings of the Board, nor disturb any person while speaking.

## **6. Enforcement**

6.1 When Member or Participant behavior violates this Policy, is severe, or threatens physical safety or property, the Presiding Officer, CEO, or responsible Cooperative employee may require the Member or Participant to leave the PEC premises, meeting, function, or discussion.

6.2 Repeated or Severe Violation.

6.2.1 PEC Business Meetings or Functions. Upon repeated or severe violation of this Policy, the Board of Directors, CEO, or their designee, may prohibit a person from attendance at PEC meetings, functions, or discussions. The duration of the prohibition shall be based upon the severity and nature of the violation.

6.2.2 Board of Directors' Meetings. Upon repeated or severe violation of this Policy, the Board of Directors may prohibit a person from attendance at PEC Board meetings. The duration of the prohibition shall be based upon the severity and nature of the violation.

## 7. Superseding Effect

This Policy supersedes all previous policies and memoranda concerning the subject matter. Only the Approver may authorize exceptions to this policy.

## 8. References and Related Documents:

Open Meetings Policy

*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (11th ed. Cambridge, Mass.: Perseus Publishing, 2011).

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Amendment Dates:	September 21, 2014
Adopted by:	Board of Directors
Applies to:	All Participants at meetings of the Board of Directors any other business meeting or function of the Cooperative whether on or off PEC premises.
Administrator:	Board of Directors and CEO
Superseding Effect	This Policy supersedes all previous policies and memoranda concerning the subject matter. Only the Approver may authorize exceptions to this policy.