

Rationale for 4/27/12 Proposed Revisions by Bob Adair
TCEQ Tax Relief for Pollution Control Advisory Committee Bylaws

- Article 2.1 – “School district or junior college district” is added to align with the addition to Tax Code §11.31(n) by House Bill 2280 of the 2011 Legislative Regular Session.
- Article 3.2
 - “Mail or e-mail to Executive Director staff before the Committee meeting with said election or” is deleted based on prior committee discussion and my understanding the majority of the committee prefer not to allow votes before a Committee meeting.
 - “Or other acceptable technology” is intended to include technology other than telephone call ins that TCEQ may currently have or will have in the future, such as teleconference from a laptop or smart phone with voting features. It’s my intent the Committee or TCEQ can decide which technology is “acceptable”.
 - “Proxy votes will not be allowed” is added for clarification. This seemed to be a consensus from our 2/15/12 Committee meeting.
 - “Re-elected” replaces “reappointed” as this section relates to election of the Presiding Officer, not reappointment to the Committee.
- Article 4.2 – “Publicly posted agenda items” (i.e., posted on TCEQ’s web site) are on every agenda. “Reading of the minutes from the last meeting” is deleted as approval of minutes is handled via e-mail between meetings to allow faster posting of the minutes on TCEQ’s web site. Therefore, we do not read minutes from the last meeting during the Committee’s public meetings.
- Article 4.3 – “And state their purpose for attending” is deleted as this doesn’t seem to assist the Committee or TCEQ. Audience members may simply want to observe in case issues arise or maybe they’re in town for other business and want to learn a little about our business. Whatever the reason, I’m okay not asking everyone to disclose why they’re in the audience. If that’s a requirement of TCEQ, I’ll withdraw this proposal.
- Article 5.2 – “Address motions generally in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order” replaces “call for a second. Wait for a member to second the motion. If there is no second, the motion will be lost.” “Generally” is included to imply the Presiding Officer is not required to strictly follow Robert’s Rule of Order, but the general reference seems a good substitute rather than describing the process of motions. Also, although most motions require a second, some do not (e.g., point of order, objection to the main motion, parliamentary inquiry, to name a few).
- Article 5.4
 - “And other issues within the purview of the Committee” is added to recognize the Committee votes on more than just advice to the Commissioners. E.g., we vote on approval of minutes after every meeting.
 - “Absentee votes may be cast by telephone, electronic mail, or other acceptable technology” is similar to the addition proposed in Article 3.2, except e-mail is added to reflect our common practice of voting on minutes via e-mail. “After a motion has been presented” clarifies what I believe is the preference of the Committee. It’s also consistent with Robert’s Rules of Order.
 - “Proxy votes will not be allowed” is added for the reason indicated in Article 3.2.