

The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District rules are amended by adding Rule 1.7 to read as follows:

1.7 Procedure, Conduct and Decorum at Meetings of the Board of Directors

- A. All Regular, Special, and Emergency Board Meetings will be called and conducted under the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code.
- B. Regular, Special, and Emergency Board Meetings are open to the public and to representatives of the press and media. Closed Board meetings (“Executive Sessions”) are not open to the public or the press and only those individuals expressly requested or ordered to be present are allowed to attend Executive Sessions.
- C. Public participation. Written comments may be submitted on any issue at any time. Written comments on posted agenda items must be submitted by 4:00 pm of the business day immediately prior to the Board meeting. Members of the public in attendance at a Board meeting are limited to observation unless the Board requests that a member of the public address the Board or unless the person who wishes to address the Board submits a completed Public Participation Form before the beginning of the meeting. The Public Participation Form must list each agenda item the person wishes to address or any item the person would like the Board to consider adding to a future agenda. A sample of the Public Participation Form is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."
- (1) All public comments (both general public comment or comments specific to a listed agenda item) will be made at the beginning of the meeting during the public comment section of the agenda. Each speaker’s time may not exceed a total of five (5) minutes. The Board may, by majority vote, limit each speaker’s time to less than five (5) minutes when reasonable to do based on the length of the agenda and the number of registered speakers. If translation services are required, the amount of time for the translation does not count against the amount of time available to the speaker and the total time available for the combination of speaking and translation time may not be less than double the time limit.
- (2) Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, including disruptions caused by the use of profanity, racial, ethnic, or gender slurs or epithets, or insults or threatening language directed toward any person. These Rules do not prohibit public criticism of the District, including criticism of any act, omission, policy, procedure, program, or service. Violation of these rules may result in the following sanctions:
- (a) cancellation of a speaker's remaining time;
- (b) removal from the Board meeting;
- (c) such other civil or criminal sanctions as may be authorized under the Constitution, Statutes, and Codes of the State of Texas.
- D. From time to time, the District may conduct public hearings. These rules of procedure, conduct, and decorum shall also apply to public hearings.

Public Participation Form

Instructions: Fill out all appropriate blanks. Please print or write legibly.

NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

If you represent a group or organization, please state the name, address, and telephone number of that group or organization.

Agenda item (or items) you wish to address: _____

NOTE: The public may also bring up any issue that is not on the current agenda as long as that issue is relevant to the jurisdiction and operations of the District but only for the purpose of asking that the issue be placed on a future agenda.

Item (or items) you wish placed on a future agenda: _____

Signature: _____

NOTE: This Public Participation Form must be presented to the Board at the beginning of the Board meeting.