

Electronic Voting Testing and Next Steps



Council Motion – April 2022

Motion: To pilot an electronic voting system for Council and Council committee motions that have opposition. All roll call votes shall be by electronic voting. Results shall be recorded and included in the minutes. Staff to select appropriate software and timing of implementation and modify the SOPPs as necessary.

Motion carried twelve to three with two abstentions.



Meridia Electronic Voting System

- Works for hybrid meetings (virtual and on-site members) - uses internet connection for remote participants, secure radio signal in room
 - On-site members use a clicker (Yes/No/Abstain)
 - Virtual members access voting via web app
- Flexible display and tabulation options



These are the two options that we are going to present during the live demonstration

- Showing votes by name as they are being recorded
- Showing the results of the vote by name after the vote has closed



Live Demonstration

Considerations for next steps

- How would the Council like to proceed?
 - Move forward with some selected committees?
 - Anticipate phase in period
 - Consider logistics of the actual votes
- At this time, we do anticipate modifications to the SOPPs being necessary
- Once we get the process in place, it could save time and provide additional transparency.



Background Slides

Excerpted from Council SOPPs

3.2.2 Quorum and Roll Call Voting

A majority of voting members constitutes a quorum (MSA § 302(e)(1)).

Decisions of the Council are by majority vote of the voting members present and voting (except for proposed removal of Council members which requires an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the members). An abstention does not affect the unanimity of a vote.

A roll call vote will be held on any motion before the Council at the request of any voting member. Votes for the approval of management plans or plan amendments and other roll call votes are recorded by name of Council member and how they voted. A vote may not be taken until the motion before the Council is recorded in written form visible to each Council member and the public present.

Excerpted from Council SOPPs

3.2.2 Quorum and Roll Call

Decisions by consensus are permitted except where the issue is Council approval of a/an:

- (a) FMP;
- (b) Amendment to a FMP;
- (c) Proposed regulation;
- (d) Secretarial FMP or amendment; and
- (e) Council finding that an emergency exists involving any fishery.

[Gulf-Council-SOPPs_August-2022.pdf \(gulfcouncil.org\)](#)

Excerpt from Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

16 U.S.C. 1852

MSA § 302

104-297

(5) At the request of any voting member of a Council, the Council shall hold a roll call vote on any matter before the Council. The official minutes and other appropriate records of any Council meeting shall identify all roll call votes held, the name of each voting member present during each roll call vote, and how each member voted on each roll call vote.