

Member Engagement and Transparency Policy for the Hood River Watershed Group

I. **PURPOSE.** The Hood River Watershed Group (HRWG) aspires to be a broad inclusive organization, inspiring the community to engage in watershed stewardship and catalyzing both individual and collective action. To this end it is the policy of the HRWG to strive in every way practical to operate as an open and inclusive organization in all aspects of its programs, operations, and governance.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Member Engagement

The HRWG will use multiple approaches to engage community members and solicit their input regarding the projects and program direction of the HRWG.

The HRWG will actively develop and maintain a broad and inclusive membership base that reflects both a range of geographic areas within the Hood River Watershed Group's service area, as well as a diversity of community interests, including but not limited to:

- Natural resource management (forestry, fisheries, wildlife, conservation)
- Agriculture
- Recreation
- Community organizations
- Business and industry
- Urban and rural residency
- Water development, management, and conveyance
- Local, state, tribal and federal government

The HRWG will engage with the community by convening semi-regular (*e.g.*, monthly except July, August, & December) community meetings, which may feature an educational presentation or tour, bring watershed partners together, and provide an opportunity for members to give input on proposed projects and actions related to the HRWG's mission. The HRWG will also establish non-board advisory committees, including at least two standing committees:

- A board development committee composed of board and non-board members will be tasked with providing input and taking actions on recruiting new board members as terms expire and opportunities arise.
- A technical advisory committee composed of natural resource managers currently or previously engaged in watershed restoration and conservation will convene to discuss and collaborate on watershed restoration, conservation, and monitoring projects.

B. Member Attendance at Board Meetings

Members of the HRWG and the public will be able to observe meetings of the Board of Directors under the following guidelines:

- The Board president may establish a period for open public comments, questions, and discussion during any meeting of the Board of Directors.
- Except where noted, non-board members of the public will be observers, not participants or decision-makers in Board meetings.
- The Board president retains the discretion to exclude or remove public observers from any Board meeting.
- Members of the public will be excluded from any portion of a Board meeting that goes into an executive session to protect the confidentiality of the matters that will be considered.

C. Member Access to Records

The HRWG will ensure that records of all Board meetings and Board decisions, except where noted, will be made available to the public either proactively or upon request.

- The Executive Director will coordinate with the secretary and the Board of Directors to post general meeting minutes and decisions on the HRWG website after those minutes have been reviewed and accepted by the Board.
- Individual members of the public may request any records and decisions of the Board not otherwise readily available. All such requests for records will be directed to the Executive Director.
- The Executive Director will work with the president, secretary, or other officers as needed to provide any requested records in a timely manner.
- Any records or decisions made during executive sessions of the Board are restricted to ensure the confidentiality of the matters contained and will not be available to the public or any non-board member unless specifically released by the Board of Directors.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of Hood River Watershed Group on August 30, 2022

Signature: _____  _____ Date: __09/13/2022_____

Title: Secretary_____

Date last reviewed: August 30, 2022