

Proposal for Decision-Making Process Addendum to BMP Review Protocol

Once a BMP Expert Panel has completed its assessment of a practice and prepared a report, that report must be reviewed and approved by the sector workgroup, the WTWG, and the WQGIT.

It is the responsibility of the Panel Coordinator and/or Sector Workgroup Chair to send the Expert Panel report to the sector workgroup, the WTWG and the WQGIT at least ten business days in advance of a meeting in which they are requesting action. Once the sector workgroup approves a panel report, the panel will be dismissed and cannot be re-convened at the request of, or by another workgroup/WQGIT, without approval of the Panel and the WQGIT Chair.

Workgroup or WQGIT members are requested to notify the Workgroup/WQGIT Chair within 48 hours prior to meeting if they intend to register a major objection to an expert panel report, and request time on the meeting agenda to explain their perspectives. In cases where an objection is not identified at least 48 hours before a meeting, the Chair may choose, at his or her discretion, to ask the Workgroup or GIT to vote to approve the report. Although the goal is consensus, the report can move forward with a majority vote.

If a member does not feel satisfaction that their objection has been addressed, they may request that the Chair table the action until the next meeting of the Workgroup/GIT. It is understood that some members may realize during the meeting that they have objections to the report, and may also request the Chair table decision on the report until the next meeting. If this should happen, members will be provided two weeks extension to provide their comments to the coordinator.

In the interim between the two meetings, the objecting member(s) shall work with the respective Panel Coordinator, Panel Chair, Workgroup Chair, and sector coordinator to resolve the objection, including drafting clarifying text or proposing an alternative option. The responsibility for coordinating this process falls to the member(s) raising the objection, and not the Chairs or coordinator.

The second meeting shall be structured to achieve consensus. If this is not possible, the Chair will decide whether to allow the objecting member to offer an alternative option and take a formal vote on both of them.

In the event that the Expert Panel recommendation(s) are modified by the WQGIT, a separate section will be added to the Expert Panel final report explicitly detailing the original Expert Panel recommendations and how those recommendations were modified as reflected in the final report. The WQGIT coordinator will be responsible for providing that section to the Sector Workgroup Chair who will be responsible for ensuring that it is entered into the final panel report.