



Legislative Council on River Governance

RULES

Article I. Name

The name of this organization will be the CSG West Legislative Council on River Governance.

Article II. Mission

The Council of State Governments West's Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) is a cooperative, bipartisan association of state legislators from Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. The mission of the LCRG is to unite the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington behind a proactive, nonpartisan agenda of legislative action and communication aimed at protecting natural resources, preserving state authority and enhancing river governance in the Columbia and Snake River Basins. The LCRG will prioritize issues in which citizens of member states have a compelling interest, over which member states can legally exert state authority, and on which multi-state action is likely to be more effective than action by any individual state.

Article III. Membership

- A. The Council is comprised of state legislators from Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.
- B. Each state's official delegation shall consist of four (4) legislators appointed by the appointing authority or authorities in each legislative chamber. Any number of additional *non-voting* members may be appointed.
- C. The process for appointments to each state's delegation shall be determined by the legislative leaders in that state. Those leaders shall also determine the process for selection of alternate members (such as in the event of an appointed member's absence), and how, if ever, proxy votes are to be handled.
- D. The responsibilities of members include, but are not limited to, representing their respective state legislative bodies in LCRG meetings, casting votes on Council matters, submitting proposals for consideration by the Council, supporting the Council's decisions, and advocating, educating and informing others about the actions of the Council. Council members shall notify and inform their respective legislatures of any policy positions or declarations taken by the Council.



Article IV. LCRG Chair: Eligibility, Selection and Removal

- A. The Chair must be a current council member. The Chairmanship shall rotate among the four LCRG member states annually.
- B. When the Chairmanship rotates to a member state, that state's delegation shall make its nomination for the Chair at the Council's annual meeting.
- C. With prior reasonable written notice and an opportunity to be heard, the Chair may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the members (11). If the Chair is the subject of removal consideration, the immediate past Chair will provide the written notice and will preside over the removal portion of the Council meeting.
- D. If the Chair is removed, a new Chair shall be nominated by the delegation from the same member state.

Article V. LCRG Chair: Powers and Responsibilities

- A. The Council Chair will provide leadership and guidance to the Council. This includes the development of a process for identifying annual objectives and priorities.
- B. The Chair shall call and preside over all Council meetings.
- C. The Chair shall assign responsibilities to CSG West staff as appropriate.
- D. The term of the Chair is one year, commencing at the conclusion of the Council's annual meeting. If the Chair cannot complete his or her term, a new Chair from the same state shall be nominated by that state's delegation to complete the term.
- E. The Chair is a member of the CSG West Executive Committee and shall report to the Executive Committee, at the CSG West Annual Meeting, on the activities of the Council. The term of membership in the Executive Committee is one year, beginning January 1. The powers and duties of Executive Committee members may be found in Article III of the CSG West Rules.

Article VI. Task Forces

- A. The members of the Council may, from time to time, establish task forces in substantive areas of continuing interest to the member states.
- B. The purposes and responsibilities of such task forces shall be defined and revised as necessary by the Council Chair.



- C. The members and leadership of task forces shall be determined by the Chair, in consultation with the appropriate legislative authorities representing the member states and affiliate members.
- D. Unless otherwise restricted by the membership of the Council, task force membership shall be open to legislators, legislative staff, other elected or appointed officials, and private sector representatives from the member states. Task force chairs shall be state legislators.
- E. All task forces shall report to the Council membership at such times as may be determined by the Chair.
- F. Any policy position recommendations generated by a task force are subject to the approval of the membership of the Council and, as appropriate, to prior review by other entities authorized herein.
- G. All task forces created pursuant to this rule are subject to dissolution at any time by the Chair.

Article VII. Voting and Quorum

- A. A quorum is required for a vote on any motion, resolution or policy statements. A quorum is 3 voting members from each member state (or their proxies), for a total of twelve (12) members.
- B. Members shall attempt to reach consensus on any motion, resolution or policy statement. If consensus cannot be achieved, the Council shall adopt its positions by a two-thirds majority of voting members and proxies (11 members).
- C. A roll call vote may be requested by any voting member.
- D. If a state's delegation abstains from a vote or does not achieve a majority within its voting members on a matter decided by vote, the delegation shall have the right to have its state's name and logo removed from the letterhead transmitting or containing the policy position. Any abstaining or disagreeing state, by agreement of two or more of its voting members, may include a brief statement with the policy position.

Article VIII. Policy Positions and Resolutions

- A. Policy positions or resolutions may be proposed by any individual legislator or group of legislators from one or more of the member states.
- B. Proposed policy positions and resolutions should be submitted to the Chair and CSG West staff no fewer than forty-five (45) days prior to a scheduled meeting. Proposed policy positions and resolutions not submitted for prior review may be considered at a Council meeting only if a quorum is present (in person or by phone), and a majority of the members and proxies present consent.



- C. Any resolution or statement of any kind that purports to be the policy of the LCRG shall be adopted by the membership in accordance with the voting guidelines articulated herewith. Prior to such approval, policy recommendations by any task force are to be considered only recommendations of the task force and not an official position of the LCRG.

Article IX. State Staff Coordination

- A. Each delegation shall designate a non-member lead staff person, whose name and contact information are to be provided to CSG West. This legislative staff person will assist CSG West staff in communicating with Council members and planning meetings.

Article X. CSG West Staff Support

- A. CSG West will provide staff support to the Council. This includes planning and staffing meetings and conference calls; coordinating communication among members; responding to requests for information from members and legislative staff; maintaining records of meetings, minutes and official communications; and executing decisions made by the members.

Article XI. Meetings and Events

- A. The Council shall meet annually or by order of the Chair. The location of annual meetings shall rotate among the four member states.
- B. Participation in Council meetings and events is not restricted to members. However, policy statements and decisions may be made only through a vote by members or their proxies.
- C. The Council may also sponsor periodic issue conferences or other events, the focus and frequency of which shall be determined by Council members. Each event shall be chaired by a lead legislator or legislators, who shall be appointed by the Chair.
- D. Unless restricted by an action of the LCRG membership, participation in LCRG meetings shall be open to all elected and appointed federal, state, and local government officials, their staff, affiliate members, the media, representatives of the private sector and other invited guests.

Article XII. Rules: Adoption, Amendment, Repeal and Suspension

- A. The LCRG Rules may be amended or repealed at any Council meeting provided that a notice of such amendments is filed with the Chair or CSG West staff at least forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting. Upon receipt of a copy of the proposed amendments, CSG West staff will forward copies thereof to the members of the Council.



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THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

- B. LCRG Rules may be amended or repealed at any Council meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members (11). These rules shall not be suspended at any time, except by unanimous consent of the membership.

Adopted July 25, 2017 in Portland, Oregon.

