

Public Participation Policy

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1407 et seq. (Act), which provides that every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act, and which provides that a body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings, the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors (Board) has adopted the following policy for public participation at MEAN meetings which qualify as a meeting under the Act:

1. Attendance
 - a. Members of the public are permitted to attend meetings of the Board and committees of the Board which are open to the public.
 - b. MEAN will not require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to a meeting.
2. Speaking
 - a. For meetings at which a public comment period is offered as noted on the meeting agenda, the public comment period will generally be a maximum of (30) minutes and will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. The presiding officer shall have the discretion to adjust the amount of time set aside for public comment, and the amount of time set aside may, at the presiding officer's discretion, vary from meeting to meeting.
 - b. Every member of the public addressing the public body shall begin by stating his or her name, address (unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual) and the name of any organization represented by such person, for the purpose of maintaining a proper record.
 - c. Remarks shall be concise and limited to no more than three (3) minutes unless further time is granted by the presiding officer.
 - d. All remarks made shall be addressed to the Board or committee as a body and not to any individual member thereof.
3. Recording
 - a. The presiding officer of the meeting may designate a location for persons attending, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting or recording the meetings.
4. All members of the public in attendance and those speaking are required to be courteous and respectful to others in attendance and to members of the public body. Members of the public are not allowed to interrupt other speakers or public body members, to threaten the safety of meeting attendees, to behave in a hostile or disruptive manner.
5. Persons in violation of this policy may be asked to leave.
6. MEAN may at any time make and enforce other rules regarding the conduct of persons attending or speaking at MEAN meetings.