

Consensus

Process & decision making

CPG Meeting, San Diego, September 2014

Steps in Consensus Decision-Making Process – Part 1

Issue is raised

Discussed by the group

Proposal is developed (often by subcommittee)

...

Proposal is put on the agenda

Steps in Consensus Decision-Making Process – Part 2

Proposal is presented to the group and then --

Questions?

Comments, Discussion?

Major objections?

Minor concerns?

Hearing none, we have reached a decision.

Part of the Process

- Amendments, modifications are the norm
- Straw poll is often used
 - Let's have a show of hands: who is comfortable with the proposal as it is, and who would be more comfortable if we tweaked it a bit. (Vote)
 - Are there any strong objections to spending ten minutes right now modifying this?

Roles

- Facilitator
- Timekeeper
- Nametaker
- (Temperature taker)

Ground rules

- Pot-luck etiquette
 - No one has seconds until everyone who wants to has firsts
- No interruptions except for:
 - Points of clarification
 - Points of process
 - Points of humor

Some ways consensus is different

- Role of timekeeper more important
- Discipline is more important
- Attitude towards subcommittee is different
- Agenda should indicate if something is a “discussion” or “decision” item
- Decisions can take longer to make, but shorter to implement

Questions?

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