

Statutory Provision

(5) The council may appoint technical advisors with specific scientific, technical, legal, and similar expertise relevant to the council's responsibilities. Technical advisors may participate in any council meetings, committees, or subgroups created by the council but shall not vote on recommendations made by the council to the department or legislature under subsection (7).

Background

The official WUAC member appointments structure, in place now statutorily, was largely a reflection of the original appointments structure passed in 2009 as part of the Part 327 program. However, the last iteration of the WUAC, which operated outside of that original statute (due to an Executive Order decommissioning the original WUAC), was designed by the DEQ (the past iteration of the WUAC was an advisory committee to the DEQ) to have a larger membership. With the larger membership to the WUAC, came engaged participation from many individuals which significantly aided the WUAC in accomplishing its charges. While the current governing statute for this WUAC again narrowed the scope of official members, it provided a provision where the WUAC can appoint technical advisors to aid it in its responsibilities. The appointment of technical advisors by the WUAC is a means to once again gain the active engagement and participation of a broader set of qualified individuals the WUAC will need or benefit from in accomplishing its responsibilities.

Proposal

At any time, WUAC members may contact WUAC Co-Chairs to recommend the addition of a new technical advisor(s). The recommendation should identify the individual(s) and their contact information, their professional status, their realm of expertise and which components of the WUAC work their assistance is anticipated to assist, a CV for the individual(s), and indicate whether the individual is willing to accept this role and committed to contributing the time necessary to be a productive contributing advisor to the WUAC process. The recommendation should also identify any known possible conflicts of interests that the individual(s) may have that might interfere with or bias their participation with the WUAC.

WUAC Co-Chairs will present any recommendations received to the WUAC Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will preliminarily review these and perform any necessary follow-up to support bringing the recommendation to the WUAC at subsequent meetings, and providing time on meeting agendas for the WUAC to discuss and vote on them. Technical advisor appointments will require approval by the WUAC voting members at a normal meeting of the whole.

Once appointed, Technical Advisors may participate in any council meetings, committees, or subgroups created by the council but shall not vote on recommendations made by the council to the department or legislature. Technical advisors will be added to the normal contact lists of the council for purposes of informing them of all council meetings and committees or workgroups.

If at any time, WUAC members perceive any “grievances” against a Technical Advisor (e.g., chronic failure to participate, unprofessional or counter-productive behavior) WUAC members may communicate these concerns to Co-Chairs or Executive Committee members. Any such communications will be conveyed with the full executive committee, who will then review, discuss and/or monitor, and seek remedy as deemed appropriate. If the executive committee determines that a Technical Advisor’s appointment should be discontinued either for unresolvable cause or simply that the specific expertise provided is no longer relevant or beneficial to the WUAC’s work and not anticipate to be the near future; or if the Technical Advisor requests to be removed from the position; the executive committee will make a recommendation for this to the WUAC at a normal meeting, and approval by the WUAC will be required by the WUAC.

If WUAC members believe participation by certain individuals, fitting the description of Technical Advisors, is beneficial to meetings, committees or workgroups arising before formal Technical Advisor recommendations and appointment approvals can be executed, they may invite them to participate. This should be communicated to Co-Chairs or committee Chairs if possible prior to meetings they are asked to participate in, and WUAC members should communicate whether or not an official Technical Advisor appointment will be recommended (or if their participation is to be more “short-lived” and temporary for specific work items).