

Tips for Public Comment During Municipal Meetings (M.A.P.)

- Remember the goals:
 - o Immediate Goal - For the council or committee members to pass a resolution opposing the Wharton State Forest Motorized Access Plan NOW.
 - o Ultimate Goal – To permanently and completely stop implementation of the M.A.P., and have any affected roads reopened as soon as possible. A compromise is not acceptable; the mass closure of roads is not acceptable under any terms.
- It doesn't matter if the resolution isn't listed on the meeting agenda, it is perfectly acceptable and common for "add-on" resolutions to be passed based on issues that arise during the meeting.
- VERY IMPORTANT! When you speak, make sure you tell the governing body that we want them to introduce and pass the resolution TONIGHT. Use the word "we" instead of "I", we're all working for the same outcome, and we're all in this together!
- Bring several copies of the Medford Lakes resolution with you, in case the council doesn't have it. If it appears they don't have a copy, ask permission to give them one.
- Pick-up an agenda when you enter the meeting, and read it so you know how many opportunities there will be for public comment, as well as at what points in the meeting they will occur. Don't miss your opportunity to be heard! Don't leave until the either a resolution is passed or the meeting ends, there may be another opportunity to urge them to act.
- If it appears there are supporters of the resolution in the room who are not going to speak, quickly ask the room (as you are raising your own hand), "Quick show of hands - how many people here tonight want the council to pass a resolution opposing the M.A.P.?"
- Be firm but polite. When speaking, try to keep your statements as clear and concise as possible.
- If someone from "our" side is being disruptive or rude, try to get them out of the room, for example by asking to speak with them outside. Once outside, explain that rude behavior reflects poorly on us all, and will only hurt our cause.