

Definition of Consensus for YRBWEP 2009 Work Group Integrated Water Management Approach

Consensus is defined in terms of agreement along a continuum. Work group members may register the degree of their agreement with the language in any of the six columns:

1	2	3	4	5	6
Endorse	Endorse with a minor point of contention	Agree with reservation	Abstain	Stand Aside	Formal disagreement but will go with the majority
“I like it”	“Basically I like it”	“I can live with it”	“I have no opinion”	“I don’t like it but I don’t want to hold up the group”	“I want my disagreement to be noted in writing but I’ll support the decision”

(Adapted from: “Facilitator’s Guide to Participatory Decision-Making,” 1996)

Notes: 1) Agreements with scores ranging from 1 to 6 is considered “agreement by consensus.” 2) Blocking (disagreeing and not supporting the decision) is not consensus.