

Hi,

Our New River Valley Regional Commission has been meeting monthly via Zoom from April through September (except we did not meet in July). Our next meeting is on October 22.

Up to 8 board members can be on site, in addition to our board chair and 2 staff folks. Most of us attend via Zoom.

We pass a resolution at the beginning of each meeting to meet electronically. Each person can be heard, whether they are Zooming in or physically present.

This method seems to be working fine for all of us so far.

I would not be opposed to allowing members of regional bodies to Zoom in for meetings regularly after COVID. It really could make the difference in someone's ability to participate or not. A lot of time and some expense is saved if you don't have to drive to/from another county. Or, during a meeting, you could participate via Zoom and not have to find a sitter for your kids. Zoom can be an equalizer, if you have the technology to support it.

My personal preference would be for the majority of folks to be physically present for a meeting if that is reasonably possible.

Sitting next to someone from another county/town/city and talking before and after a meeting helps build regional ties and bonds. Our regional commission staffer always made a light meal for us before COVID. Breaking bread together was nice. I miss that sharing of conversation and food in our Zoom meetings.

Susan