

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rules for Public Meetings During COVID-19 Reviewed in New Online Video

NORTHWEST LOWER, MI – During the COVID-19 outbreak the rules for public meetings are changing swiftly. Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order 2020-21 made sweeping changes to employment activities and all meetings that do not “protect or sustain life.” This comes on the heels of temporary changes to the Open Meetings Act issued last week. A video recorded on March 23 provides critical information for any public meeting that cannot be postponed, while allowing the public and the press an opportunity to hear and be heard.

The video features representatives from MSU Extension, Networks Northwest, and an attorney who describe changes to Open Meetings Act meeting procedures in Michigan as a result of COVID-19, Executive Order 2020-15, and recently adopted 2020-21. The presentation includes options and best practices for remote meetings, meeting prohibitions, and additional resources.

The Open Meetings Act video is available on the Networks Northwest website at, nwm.org/COVID19OMA. The information in the video is valid through April 13, 2020 or until Governor Whitmer’s Executive Orders are modified, expire, or are replaced with a new order.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: networksnorthwest.org/media

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, Small Business Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning

initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our web site, networksnorthwest.org

Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.