



Cannabis Advisory Council

March 29, 2024

Welcome

Review Open Meeting Law

Elect a Vice Chair

Vote on Per Diem Policy

Brief Implementation Update

Legislation Walkthrough

Public Comment

Please unmute once your name is called for attendance.

Council Duties – 342.03 subd 4

The duties of the advisory council shall include:

- (1) reviewing national cannabis policy;
- (2) examining the effectiveness of state cannabis policy;
- (3) reviewing developments in the cannabis industry and hemp consumer industry;
- (4) reviewing developments in the study of cannabis flower, cannabis products, artificially derived cannabinoids, lower-potency hemp edibles, and hemp-derived consumer products;
- (5) taking public testimony; and
- (6) making recommendations to the Office of Cannabis Management.

Data Practice and Open Meeting Law Reminders

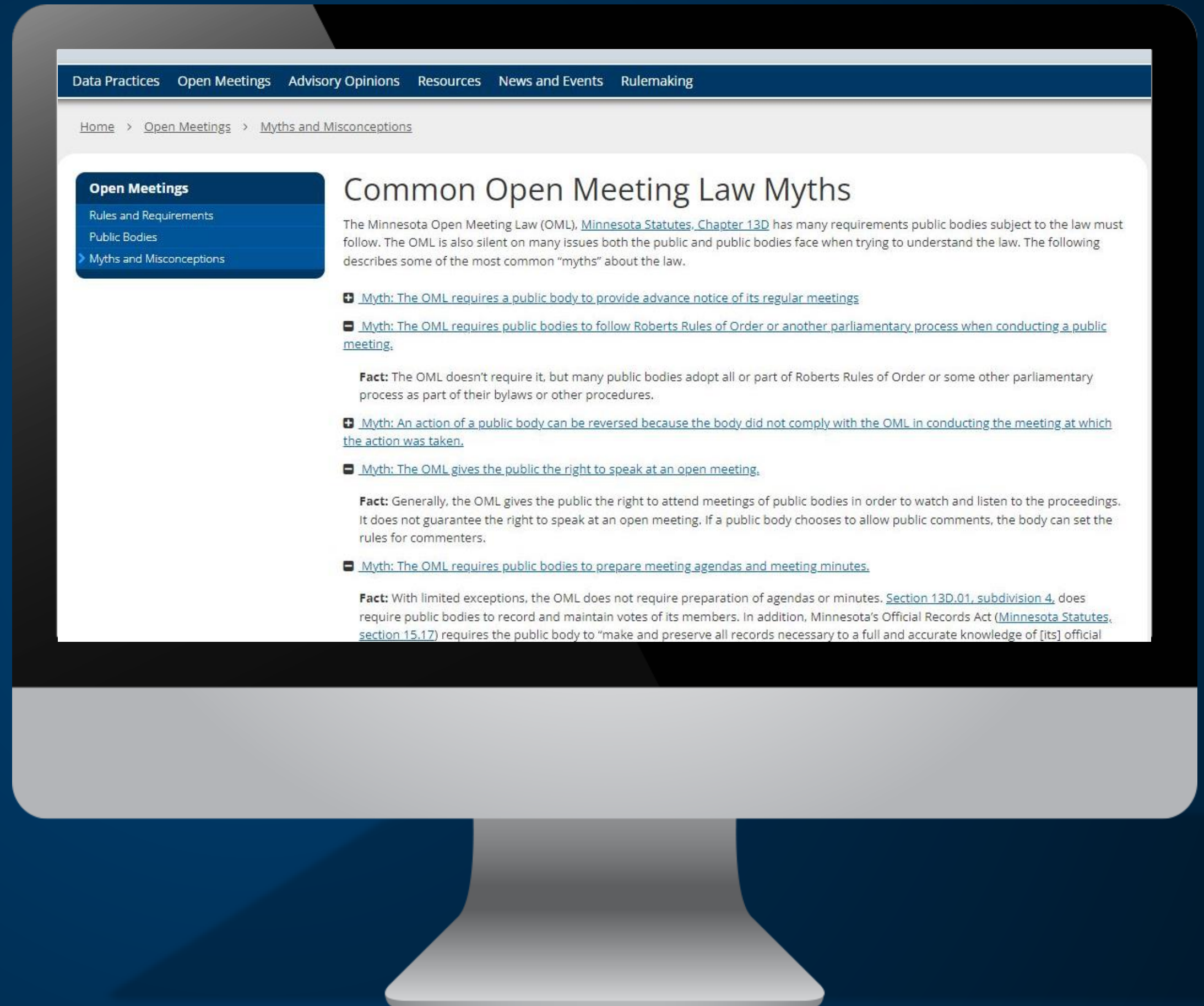
Eric Taubel | General Counsel

Open Meetings Law

- Under 342.03, Subdivision 3, paragraph (c): “Meetings of the advisory council are subject to chapter 13D.”
- What is Chapter 13D?: Minnesota’s Open Meetings Law (OML)
- What does this mean for this body:
 - All Cannabis Advisory Council meetings are open to the public.
 - A meeting occurs whenever a quorum (majority) of the public body is present and discusses official business.
 - In some cases, email may constitute a public meeting when the message contains a quorum of members and involves discussion of council business. (See Minnesota Data Practices Office, Advisory Opinions 13-015, 09-020).

More Information About OMLs:

- <https://mn.gov/admin/data-practices/meetings/>



You are (also) subject to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act!



Elect a Vice Chair

- To make a nomination please raise your hand
- We will call on each raised on to identify nominees
- Once identified each nominee will be given the opportunity to speak to their qualifications and perspective
- After all nominees are introduced, we will take a roll call vote where each member gets to vote for 1 nominee
 - In the event of a high score tie – those tied nominees will be voted on by another roll call vote

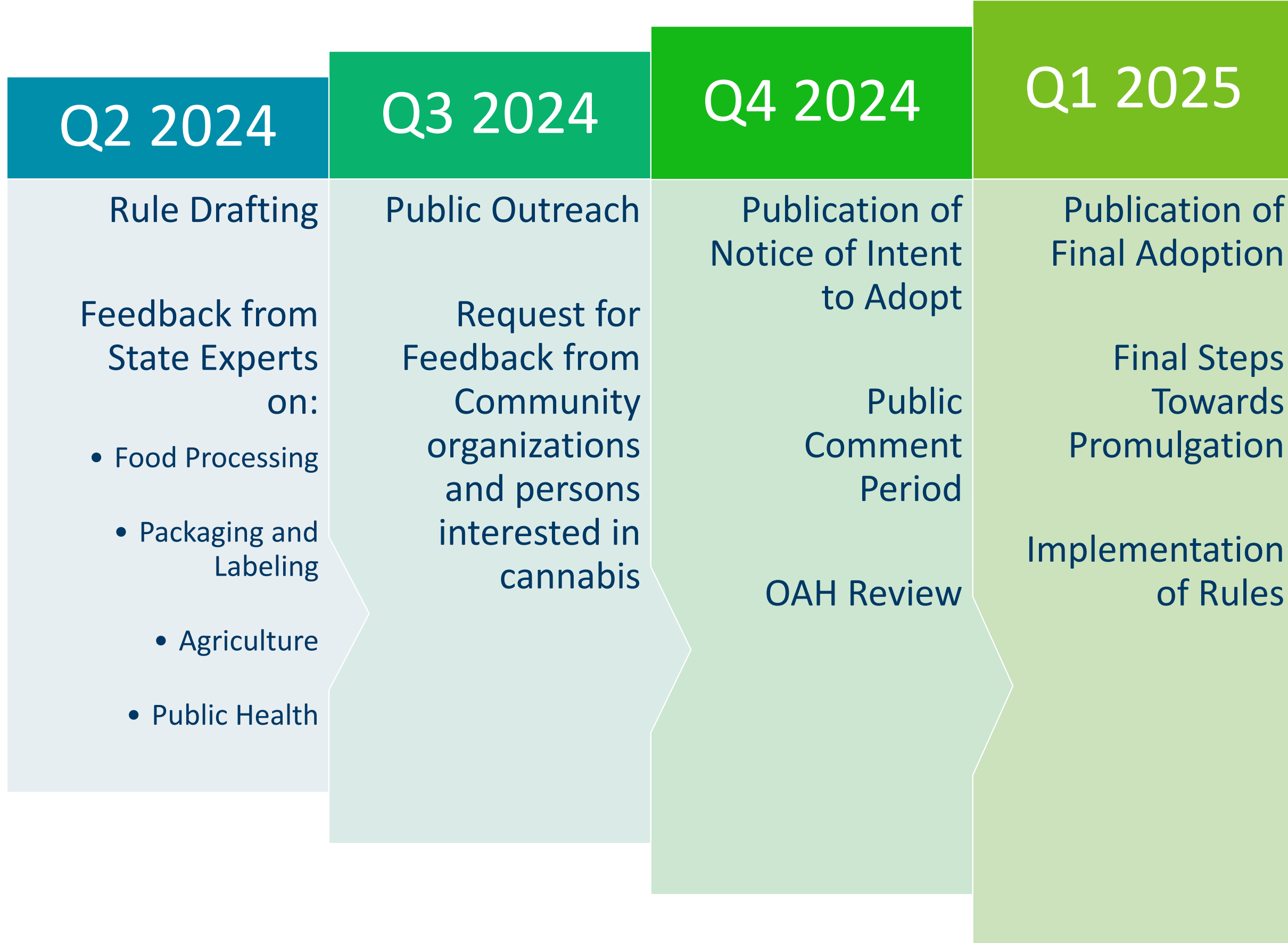
Vote on Per Diem Policy

Draft Policy is included in your packet, sent out this morning –

- Reimbursable expenses:
 - Travel
 - Mileage and Lodging
 - Meals
 - Flat rate
 - Childcare
 - Must be preapproved
- To receive Per Diem you must register as a Vendor

Rulemaking Update

Eric Taubel | General Counsel



Timeline



Implementation Update

Implementation Resource

- Recorded webinar from Jan. 30, 2024
- OCM website:
<https://cannabis.state.mn.us/aboutus/infoession.html>

Implementation Team & OCM Staff

- Implementation team & permanent OCM staff
- Nearly 65 staff members in total (cross agency teams, MDH/Office of Medical Cannabis staff; Office of Cannabis Management staff)
- Hiring continues/posted positions
 - Licensing Program Manager
 - Compliance and Enforcement Manager
 - Regulatory Laboratory Services Coordinator
- MN Careers webpage:
<https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/>

Licensing Application System Implementation

- 2nd iteration of design phase is complete
- Design work accomplishments
 - Application process
 - Renewal process
 - Application form
 - Complaint form
 - Identification of critical data and required forms for applications
 - Workflow automations
 - Notifications
 - Integration for mapping and banking
- Next steps
 - 3rd design iteration with focus on rulemaking changes, enforcement
 - Conference room pilot testing – rounds 2 and 3
 - Design build out for external views of license and enforcement data
 - Language wrapper
 - Reporting
- Program for a “voice of customer” to aid in informing the user experience of the systems

- Advocate Engagement
- Legislative Proposals
- Engagement Updates and resources
- Speaker Engagement Bureau
- OCM Insider Newsletter
- Rulemaking Public Engagement Sessions
- Tribal Engagement

Looking Ahead

- Hiring and on-boarding permanent OCM staff
- Finalize location for OCM office and plan for occupancy
- Build out of license application software and seed-to-sale tracking system
- Rule drafting
 - Analyze survey input, continue drafting, plan for public engagement on early draft language
- Tribal compacting
- Working group for model ordinance
- Transition planning for Office of Medical Cannabis



OCM Legislative Recommendations: HF4757/SF4782

Sophie Leininger | Government Relations Director

The goal of our legislative recommendations is to strengthen the underlying foundation of Chapter 342 and to build upon the intent of last year's legislation as developed together by legislators and advocates.

Goals of Legislative Recommendations

1. Strengthen our work to ensure a timely and successful cannabis market launch
2. Create a framework to regulate cannabis effectively over the long term
3. Prioritize public health and safety
4. Strengthen social equity provisions that are foundational to Minnesota's cannabis law
5. Expand protections for medical cannabis patients and their caregivers and support continuity in access
6. Incorporate learnings from other states, particularly as it relates to legal decisions that have adversely impacted market launch

Development of Recommendations

To inform these recommendations, OCM has utilized feedback from:

- Public surveys
- Dozens of engagement opportunities
- National research
- Legislators, advocates, and industry experts

Legislative Recommendations

1. Improve the Application and Licensing Process
2. Streamline the Supply Chain
3. Strengthen Social Equity Provisions
4. Support Market Launch with Early Temporary Licenses
5. Accelerate Transition of Office of Medical Cannabis and Hemp-Derived Enforcement
6. Expand Protections for Medical Patients
7. Technical Revisions



Improve Application and Licensing Process



Expedites licensing process and prevent bottlenecks and delays



Reduces financial risk for applicants



Prevents phantom businesses

Streamline the Supply Chain



Consolidates adult-use and medical supply chains



Establishes medical retail endorsement



Contains costs for adult-use consumers, patients, and operators

Strengthen Social Equity Provisions



Vetted license selection process



New license classification



Improved flexibility in ownership and financial opportunities

Support Market Launch with Temporary Licenses



Creates early mover opportunities for social equity applicants



Allows applicants head start on rigorous application process



Summer 2024 launch of application process for vetted lottery

Accelerate Transition of OMC and Hemp-Derived Enforcement



Transitions Office of Medical Cannabis and the hemp-derived enforcement authority to OCM on July 1, 2024



Creates continuity for current business owners in the hemp-derived cannabinoid industry



Protects continuity for medical cannabis patient access

Updates to Medical Cannabis Program and Expansion of Protections



Enhances protections for patients, caregivers, and persons in the medical cannabis registry program



Establishes Certified Medical Cannabis Consultant



Eliminates undue burden for caregivers

Technical Revisions



Protects consumer safety and clarifies authority



Ensures access to research in coordination with higher education



Aligns OCM authority with other state regulatory agencies

Public Comment

- If you'd like to make a public comment, please use the raise hand function
- We will call on people in order
- Please limit your comments to two minutes
- If we do not get through the entirety of public comment, you may submit your comments in writing to cannabis.council.ocm@state.mn.us and they will be shared with the council and posted on the website.

Thank You!

Charlene Briner

Interim Director Office of Cannabis Management