

## Governing Document for the Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership

**LCIP Identity Statement:** *LCIP is a civic non-profit that reaches goals toward invasive species awareness and control efforts by using Civic Governance to educate and organize the civic infrastructure needed to govern for the common good.*

**LCIP Mission Statement:** To control invasive plants by fostering partner cooperation and community action.

**Process:** As members of LCIP work together as a civic organizing entity, they also work within their personal jurisdictions and with their neighbors to foster civic governing principles outside LCIP. Working one-on-one with key community stakeholders, members learn about other points of view that help shape the next steps in addressing a particular problem and in finding solutions to the shared problems of invasive species management.

### **Civic Organizing Principles:**

**Human Capacity** (to govern for the common good)

- *Every individual is a policy maker and has the capacity to know what is good, to grow in that knowledge, to govern for the common good, and to be a co-producer of justice in the world. Civic Leaders are obligated to organize the civic infrastructure to achieve this outcome.*

**Democracy** (A system of governance that requires citizens to govern for the common good)

- *Rule by “the people” is the best system of human governance. All stakeholders organize a civic infrastructure to govern for the common good and produce justice in the tension between individual and diverse interests.*

**Active Citizenship (Civic Leadership)** (Role that obligates all stakeholders to govern for the common good)

- *An active citizen is a governing member. In a democracy, citizens are obligated to govern for the good of the whole. In return for their contributions, citizens share in the rewards of a just society. Civic Leaders are obligated to organize the infrastructure needed for individuals to be active citizens in institutions of family, faith, community, work, learning and governance.*

**Political Competence** (mindset and skill needed to carry out obligation of active citizenship)

- *Politics is the “work of the citizen”. All citizens are responsible to develop the political competence to define problems, produce solutions, and establish policies in light of civic principles and standards while achieving their particular goals. This mindset and the civic skills needed to carry out the role of active citizenship is dependent upon civic leaders who organize the capacity for key stakeholders in their jurisdiction to carry out the obligation of active citizenship.*

**Institutional Efficacy** (Societal structure needed to sustain democracy and develop active citizenship)

- *In a democracy, institutions of family, faith, work, community, learning, and governance sustain the democratic values of our society and ensure the capacity to govern for the common good. Civic leaders and active citizens know they are obligated to produce the civic institutions and infrastructure necessary to sustain democracy as a just system of governance.*

### **Civic Organizing Standards:**

- All those impacted by the problem are stakeholders and help define the problem in light of civic principles and the realities of their situation.
- All stakeholders are accountable for contributing resources (leadership/time, knowledge, constituencies & dollars) to solve the problem.
- All stakeholders are engaged in decision-making and policy-making that contributes to the common good.
- All stakeholders implement policies grounded in civic principles in the places where they have the authority to act.

### **Civic Organizing Disciplines:**

- Civic Governance Policy Document-Primary policy document
- Civic Leadership Development-Means for implementing Policy Document while achieving goals. (Civic Organizing Agency)
- Power Analysis-Guides Strategic Planning
- Work Plan-Implements agreements
- Used to advance work plan:
  - Principle Driven Calendar
  - Public Meeting
  - Public Evaluation
- Civic Policy Making- Evidence supports Civic Governance Policy Agenda-calling for investment in civic leadership development.

**Stakeholders:** Any interested citizen that has a desire to expand their capacity to govern, influence public policy and resolve complex problems for the common good of invasive plant management and education are welcome and desired.