

Governing Document for Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association

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

TMLIA Mission Statement: Increase awareness of water quality issues, advocate resource protection, and celebrate our rivers and lakes through community engagement and diverse partnerships.

Purpose for Civic Organizing Approach: Every member develops ownership in the organization in order to maintain the capacity to address complex public issues, making TMLIA a viable and resilient organization for the long term.

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 Skills:

- Critical thinking: Distinguishing objective reality (facts) from subjective reality (interpretative) as both relate to achieving our principles and common goals.
- Open-ended questions to engage different perspectives.
- Strategic listening to determine and clarify self-interest as it relates to common goals.
- Suspending judgment to understand divergent points of view.
- Ability to negotiate and compromise while staying accountable to civic principles.
- Fostering constructive tension to work through values that are each good in their own right but often conflict (e.g. freedom and equality).
- Holding self and others accountable for following through on agreement