



Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (NEWIP) Bylaws

Article 1 - Identity/Mission

The name of the organization shall be the Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (NEWIP). NEWIP serves Waupaca, Outagamie, Winnebago, and Brown Counties and the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin as a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA). NEWIP's mission is to coordinate management of invasive species through community-wide collaboration, education, mapping, and control.

Article 2 - Cooperators

Cooperators are all interested parties and may include municipalities, governmental and non-government organizations, businesses, or individuals interested in furthering the mission of NEWIP.

Article 3 - Members

Members are signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Membership is available to any individual or organization that is interested in furthering NEWIP's mission. Members may be added or removed at the charge of the Steering Committee with a majority vote at any regular business meeting.

Article 4 - Steering Committee

A. Steering Committee Membership

Any NEWIP member has the option to further participate in NEWIP through Steering Committee membership. In the case of organizational membership, only one individual from the organization may pursue Steering Committee membership. Steering Committee members are expected to attend meetings, where they will vote on issues and project/business decisions. Steering Committee members will be elected by the Committee with a majority vote and will serve a two (2) year term with the opportunity to renew. Steering Committee members may be removed from the Steering Committee with a majority vote. Alternatively, Steering Committee members may request to be withdrawn from the Steering Committee at any time.

B. Steering Committee Structure

NEWIP is directed and managed by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee consists of seven to thirteen (7-13) seats. Four (4) of these seats shall be filled by representatives of each county, appointed by either the County Conservationist or County Land and Water Conservation Committee. One (1) of these seats shall be filled by a representative of the Oneida Nation, appointed by Oneida Nation Environmental Health and Safety. One (1) seat shall be filled by NEWIP's fiscal agent, Golden Sands RC&D. This appointment will be made by the Forest/Wildlife/Agriculture Committee within Golden Sands RC&D. One to seven (1-7) at-large member seats will be filled by NEWIP members nominated and elected by the Steering Committee. Up to six (6) of these at-large seats may remain vacant until a member is identified to occupy the seat.

C. Executive Steering Committee

The Executive Steering Committee consists of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and NEWIP's fiscal sponsor representative. The Steering Committee will elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson will facilitate Steering Committee meetings. Upon absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall conduct meetings. If both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent, the meeting may be conducted by NEWIP's fiscal sponsor representative. Appointments to the Executive Steering Committee expire with the Steering Committee member's two (2) year term. Appointments may be elected or renewed with a simple majority of Steering Committee Members for both Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

D. Steering Committee Meetings

The Steering Committee will meet at least one (1) time per year. Additional meetings may be called by an Executive Steering Committee member of the NEWIP coordinator. Each Steering Committee member will be notified of meetings at least 30 days in advance through mail, phone, or electronic means.

In general, all members and cooperators are welcome to attend NEWIP Steering Committee meetings and participate in discussion. However, the Steering Committee has the right to enter a "closed session" where only Steering Committee members may be present. Minutes will be taken at each meeting, and the NEWIP coordinator is responsible for archiving minutes.

Decision-making during Steering Committee meetings shall be completed through thoughtful and respectful discussion reaching a general consensus whenever possible. Following discussion, a vote shall be taken and requires a majority for acceptance. Only Steering Committee members may vote on items during meetings. There must be a quorum of at least half of the Steering Committee members for a vote.

Article 5 - Fiscal Sponsorship

Golden Sands RC&D will act as NEWIP's fiscal sponsor and manage all administrative and support services. As NEWIP's fiscal sponsor, it is responsible for all grant reporting, coordination, and administration of the organization. The NEWIP coordinator will provide regular project and budget

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updates to both Golden Sands RC&D Council's Forestry/Wildlife/Agriculture Committee and NEWIP's Steering Committee.

Golden Sands RC&D shall have authority over and full autonomy to make decisions regarding all NEWIP-affiliated employees, but shall consult with the NEWIP Steering Committee regarding any personnel matters involving NEWIP-affiliated employees. Fiscal sponsorship may change to a new organization, or NEWIP may choose to become its own 501(c)3 nonprofit. This transition is subject to change by a 2/3 vote of the Steering Committee. Either NEWIP's Steering Committee or Golden Sands RC&D's Council may sever the relationship providing all grant deliverables and contracts have been met.

Article 6 - Coordinator

Where funding allows, Golden Sands RC&D shall employ a paid Coordinator responsible for seeking grant funding, implementing programs, satisfying grant deliverables, and furthering NEWIP's mission. The Coordinator shall attend all NEWIP meetings and take direction from the Steering Committee.

Article 7 - Compensation

Members and cooperators shall not be compensated by NEWIP for participation in the partnership. The fiscal sponsor will manage funds and may only distribute authorized funds to provide reasonable compensation for services rendered.

Article 8 - Amendments to Bylaws

Amendments to the NEWIP Bylaws can be made at any Steering Committee meeting but require a 30-day notice of the proposed change(s) and of the meeting date. Amendments require a 2/3 vote for acceptance.

Article 9 - Dissolution

NEWIP may be dissolved by a 2/3 vote of all members. Upon dissolution of the group, the Steering Committee shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of NEWIP, forfeit all of the assets of the organization to Golden Sands RC&D.

Effective Date:

The effective date of these Bylaws and any future amendments shall be posted below:

Date Accepted: January 28, 2021