

OUTCOMES

Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Board Meeting

LCIP Office, 700 Wolske Bay Rd Suite #275, Menomonie, WI 54751

Thursday, January 24th, 2019, 2 - 4:30 pm

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

Meeting Purpose: To review the 2019 Work Plan, discuss By-Law changes, review/approve the LCIP Master Plan and review updated 2019 LCIP Budget.

Decision-making by LCIP is based on these Civic 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.

CG Measures for check in and evaluations: Meet the specific purpose and organizational goals of our five county and your individual jurisdiction. Meet civic standards (above) in the process. *How?* Use civic organizing disciplines (integrated into Individual Work Plans and Principle Driven Calendars) to achieve our specific work plan goals. *Timeliness.* Meet specific deadlines related to specific goals and give lead time to organize key stakeholders to achieve those goals-ensuring that the experience is identified with CG.

Attending: Chris Gaetzke, Judy Zimmerman, Mame Gale, AJ Leiden, Cody Goettl, Kelsea Goettl, Chase Cummings, Keith Gilland, Dick Damro, Jim Anderson, Dave Whiteley, Kathy Stahl, Ted Ludwig, Lisa Ludwig, Melanie Yager.

Chris opened by reading the Civic Governance statement and went over the CG standards and measures to center the organization on the reason to meet and how to approach their roles to meet the needs. This will be common for every meeting going forward so LCIP can focus on the process on how to accomplish their goals.

I. Approval of Outcomes Document – December 27, 2018

Reviewed the December Outcomes and made revisions. Members asked to have the Master Plan re-sent so they could review it. Chris said it is on the LCIP Google Docs folder online. Jim suggested that a copy be posted in the meeting room; discussion ensued. Outcomes with revisions 1st by Mame, 2nd by Lisa....all approved.

II. Negotiate agenda and individual check-ins strictly tied to LCIP Work Plan (**5 mins each**)– identify progress in organizing key stakeholders in your jurisdictions and agreed individual action items from the 2019 work plan goals.

Dick: said it would be a good time for the county highway departments to go in with their big arm to go in after the standing Japanese knotweed from 2018, since they have a lot more power to do this kind of work. He referenced 3 big patches that need attention in Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire counties. LCIP has working relationships with Dunn, Pepin and Chippewa County Highway Departments but not any with Eau Claire and Pierce counties yet. **Chris will work with the connections soon to discuss options.**

Dave: wants to get the informational/promotional folders done ASAP. He suggested that a larger order number (~2,500) will be more cost-efficient. The issue is how distribution would take place.

Mame: shared a letter from WCWIPMA that she originally received when first approached by this group in 2013 or 2014. Discussion commenced on how to approach new landowners on dealing with invasives. She would like to work with Dave and Chris on updating the letter for the informational folders. She shared a book on invasives that informs on control and concern about chemicals always changing and the need to update by Elizabeth Czarapata called *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest*. She said she presented to about 30 women at the Menomonie PEO group and is curious whether there's been increased traffic on the website. In response to her great presentation that group wanted to donate to LCIP!

Judy: shared publication from Menomonie Leisure Center that goes home with all area students that now lists LCIP as an environmental organization. She shared Menomonie COOP Market's list of classes and that LCIP could do a class through them. She also shared the Case Study she is writing is almost done that will feature her discovery & removal of cork trees on her property.

Jim: expressed his appreciation for the expertise in the LCIP group and that he is enthusiastic about disseminating it. He mentioned ~147.5-acre Colfax Ferry Pit owned by Dunn County that the future of its ownership is uncertain, how to best manage it or to sell it. He wants us to know that any time there is an issue, he can act as a liaison and he pointed out that the power comes from County committee's actions. He wants us to know that he welcomes any input from LCIP that he can then take back to the Dunn County Board. Wants to showcase 3M's involvement as a good steward for all the work they've done to control Invasives.

Kelsea: enjoys listening to the reports by LCIP members. Worked on cork tree removal and is enjoying learning about the invasive issues with her husband, Cody who was also at the meeting with her. Looking to see if LCIP could help to continue to work with her on projects and incentives.

Chase: Had two contacts with landowners regarding invasives. The first contact is an ongoing Japanese knotweed control project on farmland which is going well, is on the verge of success, wants to continue but have run a little short of funds. LCIP suggested the Landowner Chemical Program to continue the work. The other contact was an organic tomato grower who lost their entire crop from herbicide drift. This grower would like to hold a field day this coming summer that LCIP could be involved in. His staff is updating their work plans and want to incorporate the Edd Maps/ ISM Track database reporting into them. Will continue to work with Kathy and Chris to finalize the changes to the By-Laws, Job Description and Job Contracts since he is one of the three LCIP Board Directors as stated in the 2015 By-Laws.

Keith: reported on the success of the buckthorn removal projects at Riverside Park/Red Cedar State Trail in Menomonie last November. Thinks they got most of the buckthorn and will do follow-up to check the progress. Stated that there are some students working on *Miscanthus* research (Pampas grass) growing in the ditch near the Stout ball fields. Discussion on herbicide use by waterways and potential impacts on groundwater, which is getting a lot of blowback and concerns based on lawsuits about Glyphosates incurred. Will work on setting up future classes/labs on invasive control.

Melanie: no report but had some suggestions on the LCIP Master Plan and giving it a lot more punch. This would include giving greater incentives for sponsors/donors. She also thinks there should be committees to take over some of the tasks so Chris can be out in the field more, such as having a committee prepare the inventory-list and set up a policy manual. Will work on the ad-hoc by-law committee.

AJ: gave a report on his Beaver Creek/DNR AIS workplan for the future. Will have a meeting with Chris to discuss partnering more in 2019. Is interested in doing presentations to any interested groups and manning a booth for LCIP.

Ted: no report

Lisa: no report

Kathy: further discussion on the Colfax Ferry Pit possible land conversion to a public park. Discussed Dunn county's prairie area adjacent to Menomin Park, which is full of invasives with Jim to help formulate a plan to maintain and reduce invasives. **Will continue to work with Chris to get all office operations up running and paid for.**

Chris: was invited up to the St. Croix-Red Cedar CWMA group recently in Cumberland which is doing well to give a presentation on LCIP and how we can help each other grow and be sustainable. They are having Wade come and talk about the bio-control, spotted knapweed seed and root mining weevils at their next meeting. They also put the warning out about Golden Creeper as a new invasive like Japanese Hops plant. They are also working on a realtor-package for new home-owners plus a curriculum for middle school students to educate them about invasives. Their group is like LCIP was several years ago, so he gave pointers on where to go and who to get involved.

The LCIP insurance agent asked Chris to do a presentation to the Sunrise Rotary Club on April 25th at Old Towne. **He is working to pin down 2 earth day events for schools.** Jim Swanson did an interview with Chris and will do an article for Dunn County News on LCIP changes. Went out to a new site just SE of Irvington where Chris randomly identified about 2 dozen cork trees in which the landowner will cut and treat himself. Jarin and Brett worked over Christmas break on two properties near Mame's. Discussed the upcoming summer bus tour with Jim and suggested we get county board members from the townships to ride the bus.

III. Address Governing Issues

- Review and approve LCIP Master Plan (All)

Had a discussion on this plan, but nobody had reviewed and commented enough on it since December to move forward or add anything. The biggest point to add to the plan is an introductory page on the NEED for invasive species management.

- Review 2019 LCIP Budget (All)

Everything is set up/paid for to date with \$2,200 leftover from office set-up, \$1,500 will be spent for Bob Cropp's office tables/furniture. Mike Fekete will be doing accounting work and mentoring LCIP on Quickbooks Plus online which will be used.

- Discuss By-Law changes (All)

LCIP originated with 3 founding directors of Kathy, Chase and Chris in 2015. Chris suggested having a 7-8-member board of directors that would include all the officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer). **One suggestion is to put bylaws on Google Drive so anyone can edit or offer changes. Chris will do that for online editing before the next meeting. A meeting on the by-laws was set for Feb 4 at 10 AM. An ad-hoc committee was formed of Mame, Dave, Melanie, Chris and Kathy to discuss and update the by-laws.**

- 2019 Work Plan review (All)

Chris did a quick overview of the work plan that was discussed at the December meeting. No changes were made and will be discussed further and approved in February. **Every member should review the work plan and come with comments to approve it at the February 21st meeting.**

- Report financials and requests (Kathy)

Financial Report given by Kathy. To see details, look below in **Attachment A.**

- Civic Governance update (Chris)

Mame suggested we look at our investment in civic governance so there was discussion on the success/failure of the model with two failures so far. LCIP is a demonstration project and has been trying to work using Civic Governance since 2014. To learn more, check out: Activecitizen.org. LCIP is really striving to use a consensus process that Civic Governance uses instead of Roberts Rules of Order with "firsts" and "seconds" on motions. **The organization decided to go full into using the Civic Governance model and will no longer be using Roberts Rules in the future.**

IV. Identify Next Steps

- Next meeting is on **Thursday, February 21st** from 2 - 4:30 PM, LCIP Office, 700 Wolske Bay Rd, Suite 275 Menomonie, WI 54751 (*Review 2019 LCIP Work Plan, projects and roles*) Will have ACT Table to use.

V. Evaluate the Meeting and *Work Plan Objectives*

- December 2018 meeting score average was **4.9**

Go over LCIP meeting evaluation: scores from 4.8-5.0 with average of **4.91** of 8 members scores.

Did we achieve the meeting purpose? Yes

What worked? Check ins and discussions What were the gaps? Getting everyone in the room and around the small display table at the new office. Steps to close the gaps? Have new table by next meeting and have shorter check-ins.

LCIP progress evaluation up against the LCIP Work Plan (1-4) January 2.0 since there is a draft plan for the year

Discuss action items for next meeting. **ALL YELLOW HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS ARE ACTION ITEMS TO WORK ON BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING.**

Attachment A: November 30, 2018-January 23,2019 Financial Report

Balance Sheet as of January 23, 2019

- RCU Checking Online = \$5,085.60
- Outstanding checks = \$69.88
- RCU Checking Quicken = \$5,015.72
- RCU Savings = \$145.49
- RCU Civic Governance Savings = \$1,264.44
- Stifel Money Market = \$206.73
- Eaton Vance Floating Rate Account = \$74,907.44

Expenses

- LCIP expenses = \$5,184.84
- ACT grant expenses = \$3,481.98
- Shrub project = \$225.00
- Total expenses = \$8,891.82

Income

- RCU Interest = \$4.60 (Civic Governance savings not included)
- Stifel Money Market Interest = \$0.10
- Eaton Vance Floating Rate Dec & Jan Reinv Dividend = \$708.65
- Total income = \$713.35

Grants

- ACT Grant = current cost over grant funding = \$493.00
Overpayment to students = \$309.00
Actual ACT costs over grant funding = \$184.00
DNR Grant #2 (\$11,140.00) LCIP Paid = \$11,288.26