

## OUTCOMES

### Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Board Meeting

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

Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 meet the LCIP work plan goals through individual check-ins, review the financials and to update everyone on the latest information on invasive species management, locations and events.

**Attending:** Leah L., Chase C. (Pepin County), AJ L., Doug O-P., Kathy S., Judy Z., Jim A. (Dunn County), Dick D., Dave W., Brad L. (3M), Chris G., and Deb Matson with Amy Alpine (Friends of Putnam Park)

- I. Approval of Outcomes Document from July 25, 2019 Board Meeting

Outcomes were approved by all members with no changes

- 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.

**Jim:** reported on new UW Extension agent, Margaret Murphy, and that he wants to schedule a separate meeting with her with LCIP very soon. **He will make the contact and give LCIP a few dates and times that work for her to come to our office to connect with her.**

**Dick:** some crown vetch is returning, hasn't sprayed lately. He was asking about spraying Japanese knotweed by the Channel 18 cell tower near Colfax, but more research will need to be done before action ensues. Discussion then followed about that the owner might be responsible for control measures since the knotweed is spreading and going inside the building now. There are many herbicides that work on knotweed, but all of them involve multiple year applications. Received a \$3,000 grant from DNR Forestry to treat his invasives on his land. **Is willing to ride with Town of Grant workers to help with their wild chervil control after he makes a connection with them.**

**Dave:** showed the drone and told about how he and Chris were using it. **He would be involved with using the drone to find Amur cork tree populations when the leaves change color.** The window of leaf color change is very short so Chris will keep him up to speed.

**Deb & Amy:** told about plans they have for workdays in Putnam Park along the road. They have good research members in their group that will make their efforts fruitful. They inquired about getting other people to help on workdays. LCIP suggestions were given for other possible interested groups to help such as Boys & Girls Club. LCIP suggested that work projects need to be only 2-3 hours long in order not to lose worker-interest. They also talked about what approach to tackle invasive populations. LCIP suggested to control them by starting at the edges of an area and working into the center, working on the densest areas first, and working on areas that have rare plants that need to be protected. The Trailer was offered for use as well.

**Brad:** 3M is making progress with the black locust cut two years ago **and it is being followed up on now.** **They are working on spotted knapweed control now.** He had trouble reaching 4-Control for assistance with their projects. Another herbicide company was suggested: Habitat Creations, LLC. that does

herbicide spraying also. Has been educating his neighbors on Siberian Elm while taking down a large Siberian Elm on his property.

**Judy:** finding lots of Amur cork tree seedlings in her yard now since much of buckthorn is gone. She, Mame, Chris, & Bob Geide (Menomonie Urban Forestry Board Member) visited the property across 5th Street between Oak Park Circle and the white apartment building in order to assess the cork trees there which may be the center for where cork tree problem started. The size of the cork trees they saw is very concerning with thousands of berries that are ripening now. Nothing much else is surviving in the dense cork tree growth. She attended the Urban Forestry meeting with Chris where Randy Eide made a motion to add the Amur cork tree control into the City of Menomonie ordinances. Randy will ask for help from LCIP to support it as it goes through the committees and final City Council approval over the next two months. Her suggested logic is to use the City's authority when trying to educate/persuade about the "cork tree problem" is that **1) cork trees grow much faster than native hardwoods such as oaks and maples, 2) they steal the canopy and starve nearby oaks of the sunlight, 3) they have no natural insect-predators; 4) the deer don't eat the leaves, 5) their profusion of berries causes a problem of seedling-growth for neighbors.** In discussing how to handle patches of knotweed or other invasives along the highways or in other public places, she suggested using the "adopt-a-highway" trash-collecting model where one person or group would take ownership of the problem, and possibly a small sign could be placed near the plants with some kind of educational message about what's being done in that area. **She will work to develop that idea and bring it to the next LCIP meeting for next steps.**

**Kathy:** is scheduled to go to speak at Towns of Sand Creek & Wilson in Dunn County meetings. She is looking for suggestions on how to work with towns that have no workers or no budget for dealing with invasives. Along with how to make inroads into educating them so they can make environmentally benefiting decisions. She discussed how invasives problems vary greatly for different parts of the county and townships. She continues to hear concerns about herbicide-use from landowners, which may cause other approaches to be used such as heat-treatment ([heatweed.com](http://heatweed.com)) or torching.

**Leah:** went to two BCR workdays on purple loosestrife on the Chippewa River near Eau Claire. They harvested around 12 full garbage bags and disposed them properly. Found an area near New Auburn that had substantial beetle-damage on the loosestrife **so BCR will monitor those areas.**

**Chase:** said he had been extremely busy for why he has missed meetings this summer. Said there has been a setback on highway management of invasives since focus by county turned to building a new highway shop. He is continuing meetings with individual landowners as they come. They are making progress on the five acres of Japanese knotweed site using Vanquish. No progress to report on the ISM Track project. Towns seem to have more of an emphasis on pesticides and nitrates and not invasives lately. **He will work to instill the need to monitor and control invasive species in all his town and county meetings where land management comes up.** He expressed his initial objections to developing an individual Civic Governance work plan.

**AJ:** smaller crew showed up this year to the AIS Snapshot day. They didn't find any invasives but it was a good outreach opportunity. Found a large area of Japanese knotweed by Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club that has been there for years. **He will be reaching out to the group to discuss treatment options. He will also be doing waterfowl outreach education this fall.**

**Doug:** traveled to Washington State and brought back brochures they use at their trailheads about invasives. **He will work with Chris on developing some signage for park areas to promote cleaning**

equipment upon entering and leaving wild areas. He mentioned the main roadside and field invasive between Washington and Wisconsin was Spotted Knapweed.

**Chris:** performed a site visit in New Haven Township about Japanese Barberry that is spreading rapidly. Had a site visit near Corydon Park with neighbors that are restoring the property successfully. Attended an Eau Claire County Towns Association meeting where there were most state and federal elected officials and town officials. That meeting he gave a presentation on common roadside invasives, control work being done, resources available and how to prioritize the plants into township operations. He attended Urban Forestry meeting and was successful in moving them to prepare a revision to their ordinances to include Amur Cork Tree removal with eventual NR40 Prohibited species ordinance enforcement coming later. Now up to speed on the changes at the City of Menomonie Public Works Department, which is a combination of Streets and Parks Departments. Got a tour of CVTC campus in NW Eau Claire where he found 13 invasives with nothing is out of control yet. The facilities manager and lead horticulturalist instructor will work together to setup student and grounds projects to map and control invasives over the next years. **LCIP will be further involved with those projects.** Met with Richard Swenson about his Jarrett Creek property to help Richard continue his efforts to slow the buckthorn and honeysuckle. **Working with Dan Masterpole to create a Chippewa County network and will have a workshop** on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> in Chippewa Falls that will go from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. **Will continue to work with Dave W. on the drone to be ready to use it this fall during work projects.**

**Mame:** (in absentia with Kathy reading her report) asked Chris to prepare an insertion on invasives into the Town of Menomonie newsletter. She had an in-depth discussion with the town board on Wild Parsnip control, why invasives species management is so important and what they can do to model to other townships. In the end she discovered there still is a lot education to take place before consistent action can be taken. **She is willing to continue to pursue to educate them. She encouraged Chris to contact as many townships as possible to get the word out so townships can make sound decisions to slow the spread of invasives, especially in rural areas where populations are small through town newsletters and offering site visits, if possible.** Has learned that flying drones over private property must receive landowner's approval. Welcomes a drone-flight on her property. Learned from Chris how to torch garlic mustard and acquired a torch but will need help since it's a two-person job. **Is currently at the MN State Fair with an intention to review all invasive and DNR booths to gather information to share with LCIP.**

### III. Address Governing Issues

- Review 2019 LCIP Budget (Chris)

Everything is on track for meeting budget goals.

- Invasive species LCIP Share events planning (All)

Discussed LCIP-Share events and how to set these up. Kathy offered to help after the 9/11/19 Workshop along with AJ and Doug. **Chris will setup a meeting with this committee on 9/12/19.**

- Upcoming Events setup -8/28 WI Wetland event cancelled, 8/30 Leinenkugel event at the brewery and 9/11 Chippewa County all day workshop (All)

Leinenkugel Event - **Dick will help Chris. Dave may do a demo with the drone if invasive work will take place. Chris will work with Dan Masterpole to setup venue and final agenda items for Chippewa County Network and Learning Workshop in Chippewa Falls on 9/11/19. Anyone interested in the workshop please RSVP or willing to help set it up contact Chris.**

- Report financials and take any requests (Kathy)

Financials report by Kathy. She is still struggling with the online Quickbooks, so she will meet with Chris to discuss next steps.

- Civic Governance (CG) Individual Work Plan discussion (All)

Discussion ensued on the status of trying the Civic Governance model pilot and the potential use of the individual work plans Chris proposed a few weeks ago. Chris discussed the call for sustainability of the organization, which to date has been solely reliant on many dedicated volunteers, members and board members individual commitments. These dedicated volunteers, members and board members all contribute what they can and when they can with the methods they are currently familiar with. Their efforts are to be applauded and contributed to the success of where LCIP is today!

Chris then mentioned that the CG model can help provide a universal, organizational structure to keep the organization focused to meet the needs of the many communities that LCIP helps that are constantly battling invasive species. Chris mentioned that continued progress is crucial as the organization has recently reached a new level of capacity. This universal structure (CG) can strengthen the efforts of all the partners involved. Chris's proposed some next steps could be to take all the partners the organization that have been involved with in the past and bring them together to form reliable and consistent partnerships that will sustain the organization no matter who is at the table making the decisions. Since resources need to be used as efficiently as possible with the small budgets allotted to the work of all the environmental organizations works with, CG can offer to meet that need.

The complexity and wording of the individual workplans caused many objections raised by several core members and board members. Chris offered to explain the work plans to anyone interested. Concerns were made that by adding further tasks onto LCIP volunteers may cause losing them altogether. Chris mentioned that he was sorry if he offended or insulted anyone's efforts with LCIP. He stated he never intended to come across that way. Chris then stated that the full use of the IWP and the CG model is for individuals that want step into community organizing roles, so it doesn't resonate with all people. The call of trying out the individual work plan (IWP) is a tool to have any LCIP members that want help to organize their goals to meet them in a systematic way. This approach has worked very well with Chris, so he wanted to share it with the board and active members. This offer to try out the individual work plans doesn't state anyone is locked in, but just attempting to try a universal systematic approach to achieving the organizing LCIP. In return, LCIP members can use the IWP to meet their goals and mission statement that no other organization is currently pursuing.

Both Doug and AJ agreed to develop their own individual work plans using the format Chris provided. Chris will follow up and support their efforts as much as they desire. If anyone else wants to try to develop their own IWP contact Chris. If this approach doesn't fit into LCIP's needs, then a re-assessment will have to take place. Any other questions can be directed to Chris or anybody else involved in the CG groups in WI and MN.

#### Identify Next Steps

- Next meeting is on **Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** from 2 - 4:30 PM, LCIP Office, 700 Wolske Bay Rd Suite #275, Menomonie, WI (Monthly Board Meeting)

#### V. Evaluate the Meeting and *Work Plan Objectives*

- Meeting score average was NOT TAKEN DUE TO THE MEETING RUNNING OVER 4:30 PM AND THE NEEDS TO BE RE-ASSESED FOR EVALUATION PARAMETERS.

Go over LCIP meeting evaluation:

Did we achieve the meeting purpose? What worked? What were the gaps? Steps to close the gaps?

*LCIP progress evaluation up against the 2019 LCIP Work Plan - January-December (1-4) with 3.0 goal for the June mid-point evaluation and 4.0 the goal for end-point evaluation in December. Jan 2.0, Feb 2.24, April None, May 2.75, June 2.92, July 3.15, August \_\_\_\_\_* **Discuss action items for next meeting.**