

OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Board Meeting

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

Thursday, October 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 meet the LCIP work plan goals through individual check-ins, review the financials and to update and engage everyone to the latest information on invasive species management, locations and events.

Present: Brad L., Judy Z., Jim A., Dick D., Dave W., AJ L., Mame G., Kathy S., Chris G., Lee S.

I. Approval of Outcomes Document from September 26, 2019 Board Meeting

All approved the outcomes from 9/26/19 with no changes.

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

Doug: reported via email since he couldn't make the meeting. *Assisted Chris Gaetzke training students in field ID of weeds on CVTC campus in Eau Claire on Oct. 3rd from 7 AM to 12 PM. Planning on assisting Chris Gaetzke with the Thrive Park volunteer event on Nov. 6 from 9 AM to 12 PM. Will assist Kathy and Chris on LCIP Share and monitoring program setup.*

Judy: Attended Menomonie Urban Forestry Meeting where Randy Eide gave a progress-report on the City's cork tree ordinance; after the meeting, spoke privately with Randy saying that the affected parties could be offered a female-only tree removal with and how we need to be understanding about the loss of privacy they will experience and he agreed. Attended the Menomonie City Council Meeting on 10/21 and gave a personal statement during the public comments period of the meeting. The cork tree issue had prominence because there not any other big issues that night. Most Council members were hearing about cork trees for the first time. One question came from Mary Solberg who commented that if removing the female trees was a solution, why not just leave the males? Chris responded that, males can morph into females, and she was shocked. The vote was unanimous to move forward and have the city draw up an ordinance to bring back for approval. Chris did a great job with his low-key approach where he let the group pose questions from where they were at, and not overwhelm them with too much information. Most cork trees have dropped their leaves with the berries now visible. The trees in the Hot Zone are loaded with berries with the female trees easy to see. Helped Chris with the Biodiversity PowerPoint slide show, which is a presentation that will be used to talk about all the negative effects of invasives in the

environment. Will continue to brainstorm how to reach the unresponsive landowners that have cork trees.

Brad: Developing a spraying contract with a professional to treat areas of invasives around the plant. Had Stout students come out and walk the grounds, sent a copy of their 2015 capstone project. The students will develop a comprehensive report for 3M to allow them to make informed decisions on their property around the plant. Has not been able to talk to the Plant Manager yet because she has been busy due to her heavy workload. Will work on meeting with her.

Jim: shared his concerns about building relationships with other groups and how he perceived his interaction with a group of Stout students which he transported by bus to Hoffman Hills recently. He will continue to get the word out on invasives every opportunity he has while driving students and interacting in the community.

Dick: Shared a pressed plant called Field Milkwort which is not common, he found it under a power line. Will have Lee come out to treat an area this fall with herbicide to kill the prolific buckthorn. He's been contacting people with big brush-cutters since Lee had suggested a bigger mower might be helpful to areas of buckthorn. Talked to Dick Hovland, a neighbor about his buckthorn. Collected a lot of native butterfly weed seed and giant beardtongue seed to disperse in natural areas and prairie remnants. Will share his results with the projects he is working on.

Lee: Gave positive input on a huge brush cutter made by Fecon. Chris showed a video of it taking down whole trees while at the same time chipping them. Also added many useful insights during the discussion by others to give advice from what he has seen work throughout the Midwest. Will spread the word on LCIP in places he can help others.

Dave: worked with Chris on the drone to take videos of yellow leaved cork trees in early parts of the month before they fell off. Had some suggestions on how to work with city residents on the cork trees who will need replacement trees after removal. Looking into Arbor Day Foundation, cost-sharing trees with the City, donation programs, etc.

AJ: Hasn't had a chance to do the waterfowl AIS outreach program yet. Will be presenting about the pilot project he works under at DNR at the statewide meeting. Will be part of the state statutory process where funding, etc. could be available. Will be presenting about that at the state County-Conservationist meeting in December. Was in Ashland for the statewide AIS meeting. A lot of his work right now is reviewing the season's projects and preparing a plan for the next season. He will investigate using a Civic Governance approach to organize his 2020 work plan to meet the goals he needs to meet while building active citizens awareness and action alongside him. Is moving offices to a new location that BCR has purchased. Hopes to try to initiate others for funding for LCIP as LCIP partners more with BCR on AIS projects.

Mame: Shared a letter that Judy Ferguson wrote about cork trees. Is looking to find ways for un-responsive landowners to act on the female cork trees that continue to spread their seeds in areas that have been worked on. Asked about locally available products for buckthorn control and other invasives. Shared an article about the interaction of invasives. Also shared her insights on the article in a spinning magazine

about dying fabric with buckthorn. Discussed about her Japanese lilacs. Suggested getting Ann Pierce, Arthur Kneeland and Jason Granberg as speakers for the LCIP annual meeting.

Kathy: Met with the Town of Wilson in Dunn County to see where they were at in addressing roadside invasives. She saw a need to do monitoring first. Suggested developing an LCIP monitoring program along with a training program to teach citizens and town officials/employees how to identify invasives effectively in the area. She listed several steps to unfold such a program. She finds it difficult to go to township meetings and ask them to fund control programs when there has not been any monitoring done for detection. She emphasizes the importance of education programs for advancing an awareness of native plants versus problem plants by doing an inventory of what is there before moving forward aggressively on control programs. She compared her idea to the Monarch Butterfly advocacy programs with their way stations around the state. Suggested using students to help with control programs to fulfill their community service hours. **Will work with Chris and Doug to lay out program details in a committee meeting before the next board meeting.**

Chris: talked to Mark Renz about water hemp as a potential invasive species. Mark was not concerned water hemp would be a problem. Responded to legislators about the wild parsnip epidemic. Has heard concern about this at the Eau Claire Garden Club where many members have been harmed. Leinenkugel staff and hired contractors are at work to remove invasives along the creek by the Leine Lodge. Discussed the upcoming workdays that will wrap up the year of projects. Gave an update on the Bohemian Knotweed situation in Elk Mound. Did a presentation with Doug at CVTC in Eau Claire and there was much more active involvement this time along with action planned to take the LCIP trailer and do a control project. Performed a site visit at Chippewa County Land Conservancy (CCLC) site next to Lake Wissota which has Yellow Archangel/Lambian weed. CCLC will now take next steps with the guidance of Chris's suggestions. Went to Maiden Rock to tune up the work being done by volunteers and DNR staff including prescribed burns. This work will help many rare plants there. Gave a presentation on biodiversity at the Menomonie high school. Worked with Luisa on effective controls for Jumping Worms that was shared on Facebook that got over a 5,700 people informed from 43 shares. Has noticed the LCIP Facebook page is approaching 200 likes and averages hundreds of views each week. **Will continue to follow up with projects and initiatives and then report at the next meeting to address work plan goals for himself.**

III. Address Governing Issues

- Review LCIP Work Plan (All)

Ran through the Work Plan to see where the organization sits with a few months to go. Found out most of the goals are met or in the process of being met by the end of the year. Attendees of the meeting committed to working hard the rest of the year to meet as many goals as possible. **Will be going over the Work Plan end-point evaluation at December meeting. Doug, AJ and Chris will also use the Active Citizen Work Plan evaluation to see what was accomplished using the Civic Governance policy document/**

adapted LCIP Governing Document, work plan, agenda and support from the Interstate Civic Governance Organizing Agency.

- Review 2019 LCIP Budget (Chris)

Chris reviewed the budget and discussed the email sent out to board members calling out details to the budget. No questions or suggestions were brought up.

- Invasive species LCIP Share events planning update (Kathy, Doug, Chris)

No additional meetings were held over the past month to have an update. The attendees all agreed to continue to lay out the next year in a way to outreach to each of the five counties that will bring better awareness and action from the many willing citizens that want to make a difference. Kathy, Doug and Chris will meet to discuss next steps before the November meeting.

- Upcoming events setup – Menomonie High School, UW Stout control projects, winter agency mtg (All)

Chris discussed the upcoming plans for each of the last control projects. He asked for assistance at each event to help to get all the volunteers actively participating and the most out of the opportunities to control invasives in small, isolated areas. No response from any attendee to assist except for Doug to help at the Thrive! Park event.

- Report financials and take any requests (Kathy)

Kathy reported the interim October report and the final September report. No changes or suggestions were made.

IV. Identify Next Steps

- Next meeting is on Thursday, November 21st from 2 – 4:30 PM, LCIP Office, 700 Wolske Bay Rd Suite #275, Menomonie, WI (Monthly Board Meeting)

Discuss LCIP Work Plan, last control projects and 2020 Goals and Initiatives.

V. Evaluate the Meeting and *Work Plan Objectives*

- Meeting was discussed as productive and encouraging for all the work everyone puts into the organization to spread the word, not the plant!

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 None, Sept None, Oct- great progress

Discuss action items for next meeting.