

OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Board Meeting

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

Thursday, November 21st, 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: Chris G., Dave W., Jim A., Dick D., Mame G., Doug O-P., Chase C., Lee S., AJ L., Kathy S., Judy Z., Lindsey K. (Landmark Conservancy)

I. Approval of Outcomes Document from October 24, 2019 Board Meeting

All approved the outcomes from 10/26/19 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.

Brad (via email): *3M Menomonie had 4-Control out this week to do some spraying of our shelter belts closest to the plant for buckthorn and Siberian elm. I'd like to meet with Chris after Thanksgiving to discuss how to manage those shelter belts going forward as they are mainly Siberian elm and will need to be addressed further.*

Doug: attended the Thrive! Park event had lots of snow, so the amount of work accomplished was less than hoped for. They found many Burning Bush plants, which are an aggressive invasive due to the profusion of seeds that birds spread. He suggested the Wahoo shrub is a little-known native alternative (Outback Nursery in Hastings, MN has them).

Mame: commented on the proposed Menomonie Cork Tree Ordinance article published in the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram and was on the front page of the Dunn County News could have been reviewed by us before being published. The article was a great way to get public awareness on invasives in our area.

Dick: talked to a neighbor Dick Hovland about buckthorn. 4-Control sprayed extensively at his place that was covered by his WDNR forestry grant.

Jim: drove a busload of Menomonie High School students to Hay Creek (near Knapp, WI) and had a chance to learn about the work done there on the trout and stream habitat restoration. He drove the students to work with Chris on buckthorn at the SDMA Environmental Site just south of Knapp, WI.

Dave: no report. Ready to use the drone when the weather is favorable. **Will be working with Doug, Kathy and Chris on the LCIP Share meetings and monitoring program setup.**

Judy: attended the Nov. 13th Eau Claire Community Foundation grant writing workshop with Chris. After a lot of reflection, she reached out to Isaac Weix to talk about the many cork trees on his 5th Street apartment property. She received positive results since she presented herself as a concerned neighbor who, after removing 24 mature cork trees, now finds hundreds of seedlings sprouting in her yard since the neighbors' cork trees are still actively producing berries. Isaac then said, "Go ahead and take them all out and he would like us to inform Pete Weiss at American Edge that manages the property". She will work with Chris to help bring Pete up to speed on this issue. Removing the cork trees can wait until next season, since funding needs to be secured and it's too late to stop seed-production this year. **Will work on marking female trees this winter with other members while some berries remain on the trees.** She attended the Menomonie Urban Forestry meeting on the Nov. 20th, where the cork tree ordinance was on the agenda although it had not yet been written. The Urban Forestry Board (UFB) also discussed how to work with those not on the committee who wish to be included in their work by using a public comment period before each meeting starts. The UFB profusely praised the work Keith Gilland and his UW Stout students did at Miller Park removing buckthorn. The status of the City Gravel Bed Tree Nursery is that all the trees have been removed and re-planted around the city and that they planned to double the size of the nursery next year. They discussed whether they should let private parties purchase trees from the nursery with the main concern being that private nurseries would object. She proposed the idea of having "tree nursemaids" to help property owners' plant and establish new trees & shrubs. **She will continue to consider ways to elicit cooperation from neighbors regarding cork tree removal.**

Kathy: discussed her ideas for writing winter articles and took suggestions. The group suggested an article on native alternatives to invasives. She raised the issue of the Tyrone Xcel property that is being held up by the Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee. LCIP should support the sale of the property to WDNR in any way possible.

Lindsey (Landmark Conservancy): discussed land preservation issues and grassroots engagement. She said that while the DNR cannot acquire any more land, they will support work being done on the land. Political dynamics can be difficult, but they are working on a fee-title acquisition at the Colfax Ferry Pit. They are doing climate resiliency analysis of their large NW Wisconsin region. Has observed that there is not enough cohesiveness amongst various area groups/agencies and said there is a need to foster 'synergy' amongst all our various groups/agencies if we are going to have lasting impacts on the environment. Landmark's main funding comes from member-donors, foundations, grants, and they oversee >200 conservancy properties. She lives on Otter Creek near Wheeler and welcomed LCIP to come and give their advice on how to manage it. **Chris will make a site visit to her place in the spring.** She encouraged a Holiday Gathering to help our conservation groups better connect and get to know each other. She will work with Chris to organize it.

AJ: working with many different groups in Chippewa County on some AIS projects. He informed the Little Lake Wissota Improvement Association board about controlling Yellow Iris, which is a wetland invasive. He is interested in setting up a Beaver Creek Reserve, wildflower replacement program as an incentive after removal of invasive species. **Will be surveying trout streams in his area for aquatic invasive species.**

Chase: the Pepin County Land Conservation Department, annual tree and shrub program sale has dropped non-natives and will now only carry native species. They took off Norway Spruce although it was popular. The program is now available via online purchasing on the [Pepin County Land Conservation website](#). He reported that internal dynamics in programs account for some of the resistance to working on invasives although this can vary greatly depending on the personnel hired. **He will continue to push for invasive species education and control where he can.**

Lee: is working with townships and counties is sporadic based on interest of using herbicides and depends greatly on who is in control of management decisions. He promotes educating town and county roadway managers and staff on the cost-reduction of spraying herbicides and plant growth regulators versus the typical multiple, mowing routines. The question remains on how to let people know where wild chervil is growing in their area. Monitoring through roadside surveys will be important and then areas affected can be notified so rapid action can be done before the plants spread further. **Suggested that LCIP create a newsletter that townships can then use to mail out to their residents for education purposes.** Outreach seems to be harder these days with not as many local publications, but this newsletter could be impactful.

Chris: thanked Lee for storing the LCIP chemicals for the winter. Is working with Eau Claire Master Gardeners to educate them on invasives versus native plantings at their annual conference this winter. Helped organize about 100 Stout students under Keith Gilland's direction to Miller Park to remove mostly buckthorn as well as a few cork trees over three days. Went to a private property in northern Chippewa County to give advice on managing a large tract of property with only one landowner. Worked to clear all mature buckthorn with the Menomonie High School on the north side of their Environmental site property. Also worked with about 50 students at their High School grounds by the tennis courts to remove about 0.75 acres buckthorn and honeysuckle. He has set up a presentation with the Senior American Day program in Eau Claire in summer 2020. **Will continue to work with Kathy, Doug and Dave on developing the 2020 LCIP Share meetings along with a roadside invasive monitoring program.** Introduced the 2020 projects and events document draft to the members. **Working on developing additional funders and grants to support the LCIP budget needs for 2020.**

III. Address Governing Issues

- Review LCIP Work Plan for preparation for the end-point evaluation and 2020 Work Plan in Dec. (All)

Briefly reviewed the 2019 work plan. Chris encouraged everyone to review it carefully to then wrap up any necessary progress to complete it. Then a discussion started about how use the 2020 work plan to have a long-term impact since the organization is becoming so cohesive. Discussed how when students participate in outdoor work, there is a secondary effect in that parents can be impacted to learn about control issues and so on. **Chris will work to track the outcomes of the projects and events LCIP does that ignite further action in the communities through a Google Drive Document.** Chris introduced the proposed 2020 work plan to the members to review and comment on. **This work plan is to be finalized by the January 23rd meeting.**

- Discuss LCIP Operational Calendar document (All)

Chris presented the draft version of the first LCIP Operation Calendar to show the main tasks and duties to accomplish each month. There were no changes suggested, just thankfulness of getting the document put together. **Chris will work with board members to finalize the document by the end of December.**

- Review 2019 LCIP Budget and introduce proposed 2020 LCIP Budget (Chris)

Chris reviewed the 2019 budget and explained expenses. Overall it looks like the organization will be under budget by around \$6,000. The board will have to decide what to do with the budget surplus. **Chris sent out the proposed 2020 budget to the board and active members to review and finalize by the December 19th meeting.**

- LCIP Share mtgs/events and monitoring program planning update (Kathy, Dave, Doug, Chris)

The above listed board members met to discuss details and desires of each upcoming 2020 program. Chris showed the updated documents that outline each program and a discussion was had on them. The organization thought they are both needed to be implemented in 2020 so the committee will continue to meet to finalize the new programs. **Chris will send out a request to meet at the LCIP office to continue developing details to implement the programs in 2020.**

- Report financials, introduce proposed 2020 employee contract and take any requests (Kathy)

Kathy reported the final October Treasurer Report and the interim November Treasurer Report. No further discussion on those documents. Then a discussion about creating a solicitation letter or packet to area businesses to include information about past accomplishments to gain as much local support as possible. **Chris will work with Kathy and Judy on this.** No discussion on the proposed 2020 employee contract occurred since the organization doesn't know the total funds to work with yet. **The board will meet to discuss plans to have a performance evaluation of Chris, discuss the 2020 employee contract and final available funding for setting the 2020 Budget.** The board will also hold a performance evaluation of Chris before the December 19th meeting. **Chris will send out a request for input on what plants to buy for the 2020 LCIP Native Plant and Shrub Sale.** An order should be placed by the end of December.

IV. Identify Next Steps

- **Next meeting is on Thursday, December 19th from 2 - 4:30 PM, LCIP Office, 700 Wolske Bay Rd Suite #275, Menomonie, WI** (Monthly board meeting with end-point evaluation and setting up 2020 plans, programs and documents)