

OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Board Meeting

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

Thursday, December 19th, 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 finalize the 2019 LCIP work plan with an end-point evaluation, review the financials, approve changes and new programs that will guide the organization to setting achievable 2020 work plan goals that will engage all members.

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

I. Approval of Outcomes Document from November 21, 2019 Board Meeting

All approved the outcomes from 11/21/19 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.

Douglas (via email):

1. Working with Chris and AJ to help strengthen our implementation of civic governance procedures with more clear communication.
2. Assisting the board with the first-year evaluation of our Executive Director's (ED) performance.
3. During the new year I plan to assist the ED with a variety of tasks. These could include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Seeking financial support from additional foundations.
 - b. Assisting the ED with presentations at a variety of locations.
 - c. Helping with educational field trip opportunities with both student and adult learners.
 - d. Chairing LCIP monthly board meetings.
 - e. Assisting both the promotion and logistics of moving monthly board meetings to locations throughout our five-county area.
 - f. Helping implement the new assessment tool to help identify the scope and severity of emerging invasive issues so that each county is better prepared to respond to those threats.
 - g. Assisting as needed at the annual meeting.

Is proud to be serving as the chair of LCIP and to be engaged in this extremely important effort to make others aware of the problems due to terrestrial invasive plants and aquatic invasive species (AIS). Thank you to all who are willing to serve, both as staff and volunteers. I'm sorry I had to miss this important meeting due to family obligations.

Mame: Was in contact with the [Cornucopia Institute](#) of Viroqua, WI through reviewing their publication called "The Cultivator". **She wants to follow up with Helen Kees, a**

Cornucopia Board member who lives in Durand, about working with the group and hosting a 2020 LCIP Share meeting at Helen's farm.

AJ: Gave two presentations the past month in Stevens Point & [Lake Amacoy](#) in southern Rusk County. These presentations discussed his pilot programs that are DNR grant funded and are now funded for 2020. He also discussed how the pilots worked out, talked about some of the AIS, discussed grant funding opportunities, how AIS work gets organizational-infrastructure funding from WI recreational gas-tax (boating) whereas terrestrial invasives do not get such tax funding. Discussed starting a native plant replacement program at Beaver Creek for landowners that have Yellow Iris plants to take out, especially on Lake Wissota. He will also be starting AIS surveys on trout streams in most of the counties he serves.

Lee: stated that he has been trying out a new herbicide called [TerraVue](#), which has similar results as Milestone with less environmental harm. A discussion ensued about the timing and size of invasive plants for having the best outcome with herbicides, which makes a big difference in results. Talked about Wade, Larry, Craig Oehmichen who make up [Short Lane Ag Supply, LLC](#) and experts in their field from Colby as possible annual meeting speakers.

Judy: Noticed Stokke Trail off Hwy 29 has a new look with the black locust gone that had been flagged by Chris in the spring. These invasive trees were taken down by the City of Menomonie Park and Street departments to be used by a local sawmill and custom house builder for railings, fence posts and decking. The next Urban Forestry Board meeting that she will attend is Jan. 15th where it's likely that the City's cork tree ordinance will be presented for their approval. Discussed the Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce membership with no indication of joining. Showed a draft of the inquiry/sponsorship letter with proposed attachments that she and Chris are working on. Gathering online lists of businesses to send the request letter out to in early 2020.

Brad: Spoke about the invasives in the remaining shelterbelts at 3M ag fields that were once pine plantations and now are primarily woody invasives. Wants to develop a plan to work on both removing invasives and re-planting with native shrub species. Will work with Chris on this. Discussed how to get water to new plantings and other needs if this project is given approval. The next 3M event will be on Earth Day or April 22, 2020. LCIP will need 1-2 people to bring the booth and talk to 3M employees about invasives on and off their campus.

Dick: Wants to just cut down his female buckthorn so the berries will be on the ground to keep the birds from going after the berries but hasn't started yet.

Jim A: Discussed the importance of partnerships and sharing information with the community to continue to raise awareness and build knowledge to make sound land management decisions. Gave his feedback on the value of LCIP to be a member of the Menomonie Area Chamber, which was that LCIP should wait until the chamber gets their organizational structure settled.

Kathy: passed since her updates were will be discussed in the Governing Issues section.

Chris: Met with Pete Weiss of American Edge realty about the Isaac Weix property. Said it was a good opportunity to get Pete up to speed on Cork trees and ready for the future projects. Walked through some farm property in Eau Claire County to give information and suggestions on how to manage the invasives on-site. Someone from Facebook contacted him about buckthorn or black locust on her property in Menomonie. He went to her house to cut and treat it who then she gave LCIP a \$50 donation. Thanked the Board for the thorough evaluation they did of him. **Is currently researching local QuickBooks/CPA/Bookkeeper experts in hopes of improving LCIP financial management.** Has booked a 50-minute workshop at Senior American Day on the UWEC campus June 2, 2020.

Chase: No report

III. Address Governing Issues

- Perform end-point evaluation of 2019 Work Plan and review proposed 2020 Work Plan (All)

Quickly reviewed the 2019 work plan and filled in final accomplishments. Then reviewed the proposed 2020 work plan and adjusted. **Chris will add the updates and then email out to the LCIP members for review before the next meeting. Chris wants to finalize the 2020 work plan at the January meeting.**

- Approve LCIP Operational Calendar document (All)

Was approved by board to be working document to track the monthly needs of the organization.

- Finalize order for 2020 Native Tree and Shrub program (All)

Discussed whether to continue providing native plants through a spring program. Judy suggested we instead promote the native-plants greenhouse in River Falls. An idea was also discussed to have an open sale for 1 to 3 days without people being required to pre-order. Other ideas were proposed with a decision to continue with this program and possibly order what was purchased last year with a slight increase. **Kathy said she and Chris had learned a lot about how to reduce the time input and will put together a list of plants with Douglas to order.**

- Finalize 2019 LCIP Budget and review proposed 2020 LCIP Budget (Chris)

Reviewed the spreadsheet prepared by Chris. Looking for a new CPA who is easier to communicate with and possibly more affordable. Chris recommended going to QuickBooks desktop due to difficulties using the online version. **Suggestions of Jim/Steve Ackerlund of Colfax as a CPA, Nohre & Co CPAs of Eau Claire and Casey Sutliff of Boyceville as a bookkeeper.**

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

Chris will meet with Kathy, Doug and Dave in January about this program and setup meetings.

- Report financials, finalize 2020 employee contract and take any final requests (Kathy)

Kathy reported on the financials. She will send out the final December Treasurer report in early January. Finalized 2020 employee contract and will make a final copy to have Chris sign before the next meeting. Nobody had any final requests for the 2019 budget.

IV. Identify Next Steps

- Next meeting is on **Thursday, January 23rd from 2 - 4:30 PM**, LCIP Office, 700 Wolske Bay Rd Suite #275, Menomonie, WI (Monthly Board Meeting finalizing member roles, 2020 Work Plan and Budget)

V. Evaluate the Meeting and *Work Plan Objectives*

No meeting evaluation was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM in order to attend the Landmark conservation and agency holiday gathering/celebration at Lucette Brewing Company.

Congratulations everyone on another great year!