

# OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

## Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Board Meeting

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

Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, 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 2020 LCIP work plan using a strategic planning process, review the financials, approve changes and new programs that will guide the organization to achieve all the 2020 work plan goals together through partnerships.

**Present:** Jim A., Dick D., Mame G., Chase C., AJ L., Doug O-P., Kathy S., Judy Z., Dave W., Chris G.

- I. Approval of Outcomes Document from December 19, 2019 Board Meeting
- 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 work plan goals.

**Mame:** Shared a publication from the Environmental Defense Fund on farming. Would like to do something in Galloway Creek in Menomonie from 9<sup>th</sup> St. to Broadway Ave. with the trees and shrubs that are growing in the creek bed, including buckthorn, honeysuckle, and box elder. She suggested applying for a grant from the Dunn County Community or Gale Family Foundation to address this issue. The idea would be to survey the area, get landowner permission, remove invasives and replant native species that provide habitat and privacy within the stream floodplain. Will work with Chris on this.

**Dave:** No report from the last month.

**AJ:** Working in the office to get a work project spreadsheet ready for the season. Learning about Civic Governance with Chris and Doug. Reformatted some of the active citizen evaluation and work plan documents to make them more understandable. He will have an intern again this year with Beaver Creek supporting his work. Working with Chris and Doug to develop his 2020 Active Citizen Work Plan draft to meet the goals he agreed to help achieve in the 2020 LCIP Work Plan.

**Judy:** Showed a copy of the Menomonie Recreation Department's publication with LCIP listing she had inserted. Reported on the Menomonie Urban Forestry Board (UFB) meeting that they reviewed the City's proposed Amur cork tree ordinance amendment that will have a hyperlink to the WDNR website Amur Cork Tree regulation and background information for residents. The ordinance review process will also have support Whereas statement that LCIP helped to write and the UFB approved it. It will next go before the City Council for a first reading in March, of which it will be good if LCIP members show up in support. Spoke about her interest in seeing LCIP focus strike more of a balance between restoring native plants and getting rid of invasives. This would include more promotion about where to acquire native species for re-planting on land that is under siege from invasives.

**Chase:** Has been able to do some private land invasive work despite all the other things going on in his department. Discussed how we might get more news into the Durand Courier-Wedge. Will promote the LCIP Landowner Chemical Program for people wanting to get started in invasive control.

**Dick:** Waiting to cut his buckthorn so the berries are on the ground where he believes the robins are less likely to consume them. Due to flooding, he's not been able to get to the trees. Doug mentioned that in his

experience buckthorn berries must go through a bird's gut in order to be viable to germinate. Identified a 40-acre site southeast of Colfax that has manageable buckthorn populations that he will talk with the landowner and report back.

**Jim A:** The Menomonie Chamber of Commerce will be honoring the Jeff Lake family at their annual award banquet with an emphasis on Aldo Leopold's work that LCIP has been sharing on Facebook. He will invite Margaret Murphy (UW Extension Horticulture Coordinator) to the next LCIP meeting at Town of Sheridan because he wants her to be more aware of our work and find ways to partner with her.

**Kathy:** Will wait to give updates on the Governing Issues agenda items later in the meeting.

**Chris:** Signed up for the Hill of Beans donation program at Menomonie Market Food Co-op (a bean is given to each shopper who brings their own bag and the shopper gets to deposit it into one of four containers for nonprofits with the bean being worth a nickel). Amanda from Clark County Land Conservation Department inquired and used the equipment out of the trailer for a workday event on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The event was a success and received a lot of attention on the LCIP Facebook page post. LCIP received a grant of \$35,000 from the Gale Family Foundation that will close the gap needed to fund LCIP into 2021! Working with AJ and Doug to implement the Civic Governance model to write up their work plans and evaluate their roles in LCIP. Attended a grant-writing workshop presented by the Dunn County Community Foundation that was beneficial. Putting together a consortium meeting/s of environmental groups and conservation agencies. Will be presenting with Doug at [Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners Conference](#) in Eau Claire on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Is now connected with Lauren Dupey, the new UW Extension Forestry Specialist for northwest Wisconsin and **will meet with her on Feb 20 from 2:30-4:30 PM, of which all LCIP members are encouraged to attend.** The largest invasives species conference, [Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference \(UMISC\)](#) in North America is being held in Duluth on Oct. 12-14, 2020 and **he encourages all members to attend.** Expressed his gratitude to all the people attending the meeting on how hard they work to educate, outreach and control invasive species throughout the five-county area.

**Doug:** The [10th anniversary of the Green Skills event of the Hay River Transition Initiative](#) is March 14th at Prairie Farm High School which he will present at. This year is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day with the focus being on Gaylord Nelson, the founder of Earth Day. He will be at the state celebration on April 18<sup>th</sup> near Clear Lake, WI to give a talk. Working with Chris and AJ to develop his 2020 Active Citizen Work Plan draft to meet the goals he agreed to help achieve in the 2020 LCIP Work Plan.

### III. Address Governing Issues

- Review and approve proposed 2020 Work Plan (All)

Reviewed updated 2020 work plan, had a few minor tweaks and approved it anonymously. Will be attached to the email sent out to LCIP members for use.

- Review 2020 Native Tree and Shrub program (All)

Discussed various aspects of native plants selected such as including deer-resistance on the promotion materials. Discussed where the plants are coming from and how to price them accordingly. Judy wanted to add Wahoo to the plants offered although there was no source readily available. Kathy has ordered all the plants and will take care of online submissions. Doug and Chris will help with organization.

- Discuss Annual Meeting speaker, location, board elections and content (All)

Doug suggested Arthur Kneeland for the guest speaker at the annual meeting on March 26. Kathy suggested Mandy Little as a speaker and Judy suggested Keith Gilland. Chris is booking Old Towne Hall in Menomonie is available with the cost yet to be determined, which would include catering. The officers of Treasurer and Secretary are open and need candidates.

- Review and approve proposed 2020 LCIP Budget and select financial professionals (All)

Annual expenses were reviewed and the proposed budget for 2020 was finalized and approved. To see a copy of the 2020 budget contact Chris. There was discussion on the LCIP CPA and possibly changing operations to include assistance from a bookkeeper. **Two candidates were discussed that Kathy and Chris will meet and assess them.** Suggestions were made about only doing an in-office version of QuickBooks and not online, which has caused some frustrations and confusion in the past.

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

Next month the LCIP meeting will be at Sheridan Town Hall north of Wheeler. Discussion ensued about how to roll out the new endeavor of circulating the meetings throughout the five-county area in order to increase active membership and to educate and outreach, concerned citizens about LCIP's mission, goals and capacity to support sustainability. **Doug, Kathy, AJ, Mame, Dave and Chris will meet to discuss both programs on Feb 3 and 10 at 11 AM.**

- Report financials and take any financial requests (Kathy)

Kathy gave the interim report with no questions asked. Judy suggests trying to locate someone who might be willing to do 'volunteer administrative work' part-time for LCIP. This person might be a retired person with a passion for the environment and increasing biodiversity. A discussion ensued and was supported by all members. **Judy will work with Chris to see options for promotion.**

#### IV. Identify Next Steps

- Next Board meeting is on **Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 1:45 PM** followed by the LCIP Share meeting 2 - 3:30 PM with a social gathering from 3:30 - 4 PM, Dunn County: Sheridan Town Hall E3705 County Rd VVV, Wheeler, WI 54772 (Flyer attached)

**Chris will bring the LCIP display, handouts, projector, laptop, coffee, tea, and water. Mame will bring a snack to share. Dick will bring a snack to share. Other members are encouraged to bring something to share.**

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

Chris 4.9, Mame 4.5, Dave 4.5, AJ 5, Judy 5, Chase 4.5, Dick 5, Jim 4.85, Kathy 4.8, Doug 4.8

- Meeting score average was (1-5 scale) 4.75

Did we achieve the meeting purpose? Yes, entirely with time left over

What worked? Having Doug run the meeting to hold people to time limits and context

What were the gaps? Knowing if LCIP members can reach 2020 goals

Steps to close the gaps? Form committees to meet between meetings to get progress and hold each other accountable

Discuss action items for next meeting **Everyone had action items and committee meetings to attend.**