

## OUTCOMES

# Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Meeting

Online through Zoom LINK: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/564531049> Meeting ID: 564-531-049

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 2 - 4pm

**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 discuss needs and progress of the 2020 LCIP work plan, review the financials, and build up the LCIP region's capacity for invasive species education, outreach and control through partnerships.

**Attending virtually:** Brad L., Judy Z., AJ L., Kathy S., Chase C., Doug O-P., and Chris G. (Doug led the meeting)

### I. Approval of Outcomes Document from February 27, 2020 Board and Share Meetings

Discussed the structure of future virtual meetings. The idea was suggested to have the meeting divided into two parts, with the first part being for business, and the second part to share more widely with the email list. Since virtual meetings are a new format, we are still working on how to proceed.

### II. Negotiate agenda and individual check-ins only tied to LCIP Work Plan Goals not listed on the agenda (5 mins each)- identify progress in organizing key stakeholders in your jurisdictions and agreed individual action items.

**Brad:** Has not yet determined a 3M grounds work plan for the year.

**Chase:** Activities are pretty much on hold right now. Looking at getting spraying maps updated for the Pepin County Highway Department through the yearly transect survey coming up. He is hoping that the current situation will benefit the invasive removal since the County has been focused on groundwater issues.

**AJ:** Beaver Creek is currently shut down. Been working from home. The issue of funding with all nonprofits is a growing concern since their facility is shut down. He has been hiring interns.

**Judy:** Suggested getting the "Volume One Family" publication, that is available for free, to list LCIP in their Resource Guide. She hopes that the Amur cork trees at the apartment on 5<sup>th</sup> Street (Weix's) can be cut down before they leaf out. She also said there are a lot of young cork trees in the woods by her where it would be great to have a work-party to remove them. The cork trees sprouted from the big mature female trees taken out three years ago.

**Kathy:** With the arrival of spring, that it is a good time for Chris to be publicizing that he could visit property owners to do a survey of invasives and include a request for a donation.

**Doug:** Spent a lot of time cancelling out the Green Skills event that was planned for Prairie Farm. He will be making some informational videos with Chris.

**Chris:** Working on getting things updated. He showed the new TEAMUP online calendar, which was well received. He worked with the new accountant to get up to speed. Yesterday was part of the round 3, DNR NR-40 all-day meeting where they discussed which plants need to be classified as invasives. The meeting was recorded and will be available soon. There were ~160 people attending the Western Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association Event held at UW-Eau Claire where many handouts were made available and his presentation was well received. The Red Cedar Watershed Conference took place at UW Stout, which was one of the last public events to be held before the shutdown. State Rep. Rob Stafsholt was there and said he would come to a future LCIP meeting. Chris showed some photos of a 160-acre tract of land in northern Dunn County, where there is a request for the farm to be surveyed and remediated with a WDNR grant. Currently there are cattle there that eat the invasive buckthorn and other shrubs/trees. Chris will work on the grant and send it out for review to the LCIP board. He also went to Downsville to see the Managed Forest Land that has had Amur cork trees there and found many 10-15-foot-high cork trees that should be controlled. Chase knows the landowner and will send over his contact information or call him directly to see what the next steps might be. Watched a webinar on woody invasives by NAISMA, which had information on techniques for how to treat plants. He contacted Luisa who now heads the Dunn County Master Gardeners group. This group might be a good source to find an office volunteer for LCIP. He reached out to Charlene at the Kinnikinic River Land Trust about finding a location for the Share

meeting this coming November 19<sup>th</sup> and to build a partnership with the similar organization. Was part of the Dunn County NR Intern hiring meeting where he helped choose the 2020 intern.

### III. Address Governing Issues

#### - Review and implement 2020 Work Plan and mission in our current state

Reviewed the work plan goals which will be discussed at the April meeting in detail.

#### - Review 2020 Native Tree and Shrub Sale status

Plants will be coming to Kathy's place where she will divide them up into bundles for pickup and will use a cooler to hold them. About half are spoken for and any leftovers will be used in Colfax at the Ferry Pit. Chris will send out an email to promote the final plants to be sold.

#### - Discuss postponed Annual Meeting speaker, location, board elections (Elect AJ) and content

Chris decided to move the annual meeting to at least the end of May or June with the hope that we can gather by then. Election of AJ to the LCIP Board will be postponed until then.

#### - LCIP Share mtgs/events and citizen monitoring program planning update

The last meeting at Sheridan Town Hall had 3 townships attending and 20 attendees. The follow up publicity was also accurate with a major article in the Colfax Newspaper by LeAnn Ralph who attended the meeting.

There was a monitoring program committee meeting scheduled on Zoom for Wed. April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am.

#### - Report financials, review 2020 LCIP Budget and take any financial requests

Concerns were expressed about the initial 24% loss in the Stifel funds due to the downturn in the economy. Chris will investigate the Payment Protection Program stimulus package from the Federal Government to help retain those lost funds. No financial requests were discussed. An all hands-on deck of the LCIP Board was issued to find funds to retain the 2020 budget and beyond.

### IV. Identify Next Steps

#### - Next meeting is on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2 - 4 PM on Zoom. The link will be shared soon.

Chris suggested having brief weekly check-in meetings on Thursdays at 3:00 pm via Zoom until it is safe to meet in person again. Chris will send out the Zoom link before the scheduled time.

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

- Meeting score average was (1-5 scale) 4.81

Did we achieve the meeting purpose? Yes

What worked? Zoom meeting format

What were the gaps? Not being able to meet in person (personal preference of most) & not everyone that usually participates was present.

Steps to close the gaps? Send out the link for the next Zoom Meetings early.

Discuss action items for next meeting. See yellow highlighted action items above.

Brad 5, Kathy 5, Judy 5, Dave 4 - prefers in person meeting, Chase 5, AJ 5, Doug 4.5, Chris 5