

# OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

## Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Meeting

Thursday, August 27<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.

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

### I. Approval of Outcomes Document from July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 Board Meeting

Outcomes were approved as written by all members.

### 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.

AJ: Working on signing cooperative agreements with all his counties in West Central Wisconsin to be able to have a full contract to work next year. Summer interns are wrapping up work that was successful.

Dick: Reported on some spruce trees on his property that had died. Worked with the intern, Kyle on mapping invasives.

Dave: Reported that Chris crashed the drone, but it is repaired and ready for more recording.

Kathy: Reported on spraying activities at various public and soon to be public properties. Has been out mapping invasives for the IMP program. Encouraged everyone to test their well water for coliform bacteria, nitrates and other pollutants and then report them publicly since there is a lack of data. The Colfax testing lab costs about \$20 a basic sample. Just call them to get a bottle for testing. UW Stevens Point is also good to use and Chase recommends them because they will share data.

Chase: Has been working on the designated committees. Emerald ash borer has arrived in Pepin County. He has worked with 4-Control on some areas. Pepin County has a new highway commissioner and that wants to work on Japanese knotweed populations. Signed AIS education, outreach and control projects to AJ with Beaver Creek Reserve through a DNR grant.

Keith: Is working on hosting an invasive species removal lab this fall like he has done in the past for now unless there are restrictions put in place.

Doug: Has two small patches of Burnet saxifrage on his property to eradicate, of which the flowers look like Queen Ann's Lace. TerraVue is a product that would work to control this plant. TerraVue seems to work on anything that Milestone works on but only better. That herbicide also shows a 90% effective rate on knotweeds. Hosted an IMP volunteer on his property to help to give confidence in invasive identification.

Lee: Reported on St. Croix County and how they are managing their roadways (both county and state). Chippewa County will be treating half of their roads with a plant growth regulator each year to control weeds and reduce mowing. Working with UW Madison on a wild parsnip germination tests of seeds that have been treated with herbicide at different times and rates. Will report back to LCIP when the results come back.

Judy: Reported on an article in Volume One about UW Stout's new hot water machine for use on Invasives and weeds in garden beds. She suggested LCIP keeps in touch with UW Stout on how well it is working and try to get a demonstration. She attended the Menomonie Urban Forestry meeting, where the Amer Cork tree ordinance was briefly discussed, and the language has been slightly changed. Randy Eide said it is now just one sentence long, stating that all Amur cork trees had to be removed, not just the females. Randy will be introducing it to the city council, once it is possible for more public input, i.e., face-to-face meetings and that, due to the delay, the ordinance likely will not be going into effect until spring of 2021.

Jim: Is serving on Dunn County's Planning, Resource, & Development Committee (PRD) and at that meeting, they reported positively on LCIP's work. PRD has decided they will partner with Beaver Creek Reserve like Pepin County has for AIS education, outreach and control. PRD expressed their appreciation for LCIP's work on aquatics and other actions being taken by LCIP. Dunn County is also updating their Comprehensive Plan and they would like public input on what should be added. The best contact for this is Dan Prestebak. The next PRD meeting is September 8<sup>th</sup> and it would be good to talk to Dan before then.

Chris: Met with Asa from Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP) to record videos on woodland management and invasive control tips that will be linked to the LCIP website. He met with the Eau Claire highway commissioner and staff. They want to move forward on control options since they have not been able to keep up with weed control. Chris is waiting to hear back from them. He went out with Kyle to use the drone and will plan to do more drone work in the fall when the leaves are changing to detect the yellow Amur cork tree leaves before they fall. He met with the Eau Claire gardeners club and they wanted more info, which he provided. Ben Skelton is a new person that Chris met through the EC garden club that will help LCIP with problems. He attended a grant-writing workshop held by WCWRPC. He presented at a Woman Woodland Landowners Event in Clear Lake, WI. There have been 800-9,500 views each of the videos he and Kyle did. He made a site visit a property near Doug's place, where they were afraid of having jumping worms, but proved not to have them. Earthworms were eating all the leaf material (duff) in the woods, which is what happens in woodlands that worms have been introduced in (they were not native to North America and were brought here by Europeans). Connected the Andersen window folks with the Ferry Pit committee for potential workdays. He is working on some mentoring for the IMP program. He finished the girdling and removal of the rest of the Amur cork trees on the Weix property. He took a walk around the Phalen Park property and where he found some mature cork trees and a lot of young cork trees that need to be removed. Working on multiple areas in Erickson Park with the Chippewa Falls Girl Scouts to re-treated and removed from previous work by Leinenkugel's in 2017. He and Kyle worked on purple loosestrife along Hwy 79, north of Boyceville which had made a resurgence from a few years ago. There was about a pickup load removed. He has done a lot of mapping of common invasives in the area. Kyle's last intern day is tomorrow. He and Kyle cut the seed heads of a patch of non-native phragmites on Hwy 12 just north of Fleet Farm in Menomonie that will need to be monitored. Started working on the DNR WMA grant planning.

### III. Address Governing Issues

- Invasives Monitoring Program update

Had about 12 participants in the latest advanced training which was recorded. AJ commented that the digital format is challenging and not as good as outdoors-work. Reporting is going on until leaf drop. There are plans to have a December event to review results and celebrate the work of all the volunteers.

- Wild Chervil and Wild Parsnip mapping update

Some mapping occurred but was a little late. Dick thinks the road workers should change the way they mow from one-swath in the spring and two-swath in the fall to two-swath in the spring and one swath in the fall to reduce invasives ability to seed out. Jim suggested that the fiber-optic cable-layers may be spreading invasives.

- Board member update

Chase made a statement about his involvement and that he would like to find a replacement for him on the board. The group congratulated him on all his efforts the past 9 years. LCIP will look for a board replacement organizer from Pepin, Chippewa, Eau Claire or Pierce county.

- Fall project and event planning

Discussed options for safe projects and how to plan for events. Will proceed with caution and keep people safe in small groups outside.

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

Kathy expressed concern about the budget for 2021. There is a need to acquire grants and donations to fully fund 2021. Please consider options and let Chris know your ideas. Lee stated of organizing the results and resources LCIP can do with/for each of the five counties to make a basis for asking for yearly support to fill those needs without hiring a staff member. Chris will work on gathering that list and preparing it for 2022 budgets.

Judy asked about the mid-year Executive Director evaluation that was scheduled.

#### IV. Identify Next Steps

- Next meeting is on **Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 2 - 4 PM on Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81676020103?pwd=cTltbnBPVG5CSEhzRIA5MGNuejRnUT09> Meeting ID: 816 7602 0103 Passcode: 012345 Phone: 312 626 6799

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

AJ 5.0, Chase 5.0, Dick 5.0, Jim 4.95, Dave 5.0, Lee 4.95, Judy pass, Chris 4.95

Meeting score average was (1-5 scale) **4.97** Average

Did we achieve the meeting purpose? Yes

What worked? Stayed on task, set next steps, finished early and informative

What were the gaps? Finding new folks to be members and active, budget needs.

Steps to close the gaps? Work with Chris to fill the gaps and to continue to spread the word through networking and engaging people as much as possible.

#### **Discuss action items for next meeting**

Chris will be preparing an IMP update

9/9 at 4:30 – 6:00 pm Landmark Conservancy Annual meeting

8/31 at 1:00 pm Erickson Park control project – anyone can join