

OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Meeting

Thursday, January 28th, 2021, 2 - 4 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: Perform 2021 Strategic work plan exercise, review the financial sustainability, and build up the LCIP region's capacity for invasive species education, outreach and control through partnerships.

Present/Online: Judy Z., Lee S., Mame G., AJ L., Douglas O-P., Sherry Jasper, Lauren L., Brad L., and Chris G.

I. Approval of Outcomes Document from December 17th, 2020 Board Meeting

Outcomes were approved as written.

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.

Sherry: She organized eleven volunteers for their MLK Jr day cleanup where they cut and treated buckthorn and other invasives at Erickson Park. Chippewa Falls City Parks then burned the piles afterward. Chris provided the necessary tools and herbicides for the event. There seems to be a good buy-in from the CF community for further workdays.

Judy: She wants to meet with Pleasant Valley Tree Farm about the conifers they have available for re-planting on land where invasives have been removed. Growing jack-in-the-pulpit plants again this winter. Attended the Menomonie Urban Forestry Board meeting to find out about the status of the Amur Cork Tree ordinance amendment. No progress until more public can weigh in on the ordinance change.

Lee: Reported on efforts to work with Dunn County Highway Department. John Sworski is the current HWY Commissioner he will be working with. Wild parsnip is a focus and using a plant growth regulator like other similar hwy departments are using. Japanese knotweed in various locations were also discussed. Using a heated water machine was discussed for use with more aggressive invasives, although the results are not positive yet. A suggestion was offered about having community members adopt a patch of invasives and stay working with it for a few years. Knotweed still requires further study to find a successful control plan.

AJ: Met with lake associations in Chippewa County who want to work with AIS projects. He is evaluating ideas for future work with interns and what might be possible. He is applying the Civic Governance framework to his work with BCR and LCIP.

Brad: He walked the 3M property last week with 3M colleague David Cotts and found some questionable plants needing Chris's evaluation. 3M wants to restore more land into prairie and is looking to find good seed sources of which Chris recommended a few. Five Star Dairy will be tilling the land for planting, with plans to seed with mostly flowers and pollinator plants. Superior Fresh Family Farms is a great demonstration of restoring and maintaining natural areas.

Lauren: Reported on WI Women's Woodland Owners project. The webinar registration started this past week and they already maxed out for registrants. Chris helped with the first of three presentations on Zoom. In-person tours are being planned for late spring and summer. Chris said there was a lot of interaction and questions on the Zoom call from participants. Doug mentioned Westminster Forum as a model for such education groups.

Mame: Reminded members that she has created a lending library at the LCIP office on relevant topics. She said she had technical problems getting on for the first WI Women Woodland Owner Webinar. She suggested doing a walk down Galloway Creek to assess invasives.

Doug: He has been working with Chris on development plans and transfer of duties.

Chris: Worked on taxes. He reported about 1,000 views on the end of year Facebook highlight video. He had a discussion with Dan Masterpole about managing trails and land in Chippewa County to control invasives. Chippewa County Land Conservation and Forestry Management is interested in having Chris work with small groups and staff. He has been doing a board member search trying to pull leaders from other counties to join LCIP. The question raised was what kind of board make up is desired to move forward. The consensus was that LCIP is transitioning from a working board to an advisory board. He enjoyed his involvement with the Women's Woodland Group and will integrate with a presentation at the third and final 2021 webinar. At a recent special board meeting, one suggestion was to create a trailer-use policy/agreement, of which he did and sent out. He is working with the CPA to finish up finances. He has been meeting with a nonprofit mentor, which is going well. Kathy has been involved with work at Dobb's Landing and the Colfax Red Cedar Preserve & Recreation Area. Chase has started a new position with Dunn County Land Conservation.

III. Address Governing Issues

- 2021 Work/Strategic Plan discussion

The Work Plan was discussed at the special board meeting. A discussion pursued on how the Plan might change considering transition with board members, and limitations placed on meetings. AJ reported on how Beaver Creek is handling the current situation regarding face-to-face limitations, resulting in several video presentations created by Beaver Creek. Many of the items on the Work Plan may be restricted now but many of them Chris will be able to carry out on his own. Doug pointed out the LCIP 10-year milestone (2011-2021) and how LCIP has expanded and changed. This milestone should be highlighted at the 2021 Annual Meeting on March 25th. Chris wants to work on an expanded 3 or 5-year plan for LCIP.

- Executive Director Annual Review update

All agreed he had done a great job. Regrets were expressed that they could not fully offer him what he had requested regarding the upgrades in his contract, but the 2021 contract was signed. Everyone is looking forward to being able to raise more funds so the outlook will be more positive. Chris's mentor has encouraged soliciting funds more from individual community members who may be well-connected versus relying so much on grants. The mentor also suggested recruiting board members who are well-entrenched in the community such as more professionals with each board member bringing in a targeted amount such as \$10,000. The mentor suggested how to communicate more effectively with members, which is important to individually foster relationships with members rather than sending group emails. He said that 80-90% of fund-raising happens at the end of the year and that this must be considered as far as soliciting and then thanking people.

- Report financials, finalize 2020 LCIP Budget, and approve proposed 2021 budget

Kathy was not able to attend. Chris went over the report. A second round of PPP funds will be applied for before the February meeting. The 2021 budget and report were approved.

- Invasives Monitoring Program update and next steps

In a recent meeting, it was discussed that a spring education training will take place that the IMP committee is planning. There were 12 mentors and 26 members with a total of 38 volunteers involved in the program this first year. Doug suggested LCIP is building a model that other state CISMA's could use. There are lots of online

resources that LCIP has made available. Chris suggested a video-watch party that could be done together to plan future activity. Most of the IMP participants plan to stay on into next season. Chris prepared and will send out a 3M press release report on the IMP for the newspapers.

- DNR WMA grant progress report and next steps

The goal is to look at the properties and collect data before they get worked on again. Chris is working with Keith Gilland from UW Stout on CAPSTONE projects that would involve Stout students gathering data and building reports on the vegetation at both sites. There will be an invasives workshop in early June to present different options of control. Control work in test plots will happen this spring.

- Board member updates

Doug and Mame said they are ready to step down although they want to stay involved in other roles. Judy is also hoping to transition out when a new secretary is found. The mentor suggested having a list of duties prepared for future potential board members. Chris has developed that list and potential roles to fill. He will use that document to review with new potential board members. There are openings on the LCIP Board in 2021 at the Annual Meeting in March for the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and a Regular Board Member for a total board up to seven. Chris Gaetzke (Founding Member), AJ Leiden (Regular Board) and Judy Zimmerman (Secretary) will remain on the board for 2021. The goal is to have at least four board members committed at the Annual Meeting.

- 2021 Native Plant Sale Committee report

Doug reported that LCIP has decided not to continue having the plant sale and will instead be reaching out to former customers and the entire email listserv to give them a list of nurseries where they can get plants. Chris will be creating this list of nurseries that can be trusted with regards to not selling invasives. That list will be sent out before the February meeting.

IV. Identify Next Steps

- Next meeting is on **Thursday, February 25th from 2 - 4 PM on Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87002828042?pwd=bThjTXZ0L1I1R1dXUVk0U2ptRjhNdz09>

Meeting ID: 870 0282 8042 Passcode: 012345 Phone: 312-626-6799

V. Evaluate the Meeting and *Work Plan Objectives*

- Meeting score average was (1-5 scale) 4.90

Mame 4.9, AJ 4.9, Lee 4.9, Sherry 4.95, Judy - pass, Brad 5.0, Doug 4.8, Chris 4.9

Did we achieve the meeting purpose? Yes

What worked? Stayed on task and worked through governing issues quickly

What were the gaps? Not getting all the answers needed to go forward on certain tasks/goals

Steps to close the gaps? Work with members to gather information to make decisions on goals/tasks/needs.

Discuss action items for next meeting. Action items for each member were laid out and will report at the next meeting.