

OUTCOMES DOCUMENT
Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Meeting
Thursday, February 25th, 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: Review work plan goals and progress, set up Annual Meeting, 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., Laurel K., Keith G., Dave W., Richard D., Jim A., Chase C., Cindy H., Douglas O-P., Sherry J., Lauren L., Brad L., and Chris G.

I. Approval of Outcomes Document from January 28th, 2021 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.

Judy: She attended the Menomonie Urban Forestry Board meeting last week. Randy Eide said he will be bringing the updates to the nuisance tree ordinance forward to present to the city council soon. At this point, the ordinance revision will require only female Amur cork trees in the city to be removed. She will work with Chris on writing a letter to the City of Menomonie in support to the ordinance change.

Chase: Is the new Dunn County, County Conservationist. His position in Pepin County which he held for the past 12 years has been filled by Jessica McMahon, who is the new contact there. He mentioned to contact her in a few months when she gets settled.

Jim: He announced there will be a 'harmful bloom' webinar on March 3rd at 2:00. He asked if there will be an invasive bus tour this summer since he is not renewing his bus driver license this summer.

Sherry: She heard from the City of Chippewa Falls that they are continuing to clean up Duncan creek.

Lee: He said that Chippewa County put on a good herbicide program and he emphasized that counties should put pressure on the state to do more. He just finished his work with one of the committees that is advising DNR to revise NR 40. Lee also said Mark Renz is thinking about putting some tours together soon.

Cindy: She is just sitting in today to learn and connect.

AJ: He talked about an AIS program "Below the Ice" that looks at zebra mussels and other non-natives impacts on the environment. He is hoping to do more field events this year.

Lauren: They are 2/3 of the way thru the Wisconsin women woodland landowners' program webinars. Chris will be speaking at their next webinar on March 23rd. They will be making promo materials and sending out to area residents. They are looking for volunteer leaders for their hike on the Red Cedar Trail on Saturday May 1st at 9 AM.

Brad: 3M will be tackling Invasives and re-planting one acre of prairie. Once the weather gets warmer, he will have Chris out to figure out some plants they found during a recent walkover.

Mame: She mentioned she has been learning a lot this winter through various webinars. She wants to get Galloway Creek cleaned up and is working with Chris on a plan. Randy Eide is in support and will bring up the project with the city and try to get matching funds from them. One of the get-togethers of the Wisconsin Women Woodland Owners program will be at her place this spring. The Gale Family Foundation will fund \$20,000 per year for the Galloway project if accepted by the City of Menomonie.

Dave: He plans to again use the drone with Chris for all projects this year.

Richard: He discussed habitat work at his place, including dealing with some large female buckthorn trees. He recommended Mark Mosey for the LCIP board, since he will be retiring from Colfax High School (Biology Teacher) this spring. He commented on the Emerald Ash Borer is spreading in Menomonie.

Keith: He has spent most of his time at the Ferry Pit where he is thinking about doing a controlled burn. He is interested in helping with the Galloway Creek cleanup with his students and classes. Their previous cleanups have been popular and successful.

Doug: Has been working on the various committees and will continue after he steps off the board next month.

Laurel: Chris introduced Laurel who lives in Trempealeau County, just south of Eau Claire. She is interested in continuing to clean up buckthorn, garlic mustard, and honeysuckle on her 100-acre farm. As she is available, she will participate with LCIP. She has taught an environmental class at UW Eau Claire and has a variety of animals on her farm. She offered to host an event or meeting at her educational farm.

Chris: He has been working with Chippewa County land conservation to do some workshops and training this year. There would be work with many public land user groups like the Ice Age Trail Alliance, ATV, Snowmobile and Hiking groups. He will be meeting next week regarding non-commercial plant committee for the final time for the future NR40 revision. Lee asked if the counties are hiring weed-inspectors, especially for wild parsnip, which are needed. Lee recommends inspectors coming from LCIP rather than having a full-time position by the counties. Jim said that getting any new positions thru the county is not likely, but this idea may be more feasible, using LCIP. He will be attending the road right-of-way webinar on March 4th put on by the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association and the UW Madison, Renz Weed Science Lab. Chris has found a grant database program called Grant Station that will be used to find specific grants to support LCIP's work. Laurel, Lauren and Judy all agreed to work with Chris on grant writing and editing.

III. Address Governing Issues

- 2021 Work/Strategic Plan discussion

Chris went through the list and made some priorities to the major commitments LCIP has made to grants and projects. These priorities will be to the Invasive Monitoring Program that involves county, city and township engagement, DNR WMA Woodland management workshops and tours, private and public land walkovers with management suggestions, the webinars, tours and workshops with the Wisconsin

Women Woodlands group, finding members to fill the soon to be vacant board positions, and acquire sustainable funding.

- Financial Reports

Chris gave the financial report, and it was approved as delivered. The current year funding has not been fully secured. Send suggestions or talk with Chris about joining the fundraising committee so work can continue as planned.

- Annual Meeting planning and discussion

March 25th for 2 hours, have a guest speaker from UW Stout, be on zoom, have a small group break-out session, elect officers/board, be recorded, and will celebrate LCIP's 10th anniversary. There is a hope to have an in-person celebration this fall when many restrictions should be released.

- Invasives Monitoring Program update and next steps

The IMP Committee is looking for additional mentors now. A press release was printed in the Colfax Messenger. Kathy and Chris did some data sorting and now will be presented to the townships, cities and county highway departments for action. They are considering early May to begin this year's online and in-person training and program expansion.

- DNR WMA grant progress report and next steps

The latest grant information was shared. Looking for some case studies of before and after. Chris is having a conversation with Mark Renz about the most current buckthorn and honeysuckle control methods and assistance with live events. The interim grant report has been sent to DNR for updates and reimbursement of Chris's time. There has been no progress in getting students to take on this research for their CAPSTONE class at UW Stout. The WMA committee will meet to discuss field days and figure out needs for test plots and contractors.

- Board member updates

Brad L. from 3M has offered to take over as LCIP treasurer and will move into the position in March. Ginger Wierman from Chippewa Falls, the current Lake Wissota Garden Club President is looking at joining the LCIP board as well. Chris learned that Dick Herbert, the Chippewa Falls Parks Director is retiring and may someday be a board member along with many other recently retired professionals.

IV. Identify Next Steps

Next meeting is the LCIP ANNUAL MEETING celebrating 10 years that will commence on Thursday, March 25th from 2 - 4 PM on Zoom. All members will be invited as well as anyone who has interest in LCIP's organization and community partnerships. Chris asked to promote the meeting as far as possible so the conversations can be well rounded from a variety of citizens and organizations.

V. Evaluate the Meeting and *Work Plan Objectives*

- Meeting score average was (1-5 scale) **4.94 Average from 13 scores.**

Did we achieve the meeting purpose? Yes, with time to spare for conversation at the end.

What worked? Interacting with one another on every agenda item or check in

What were the gaps? Not having check ins from every regular attending member

Steps to close the gaps? Please send check ins to Chris before the meeting so he can give them to the group

Discuss action items for next meeting: Almost everyone had at least one action item to work on before the next meeting in March.