

OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Annual Meeting (10 Years)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89845454230?pwd=V3ZNCW1Xbnd0TWFNy0VRL05MSkdKUT09>

Meeting ID: 898 4545 4230 Passcode: 012345 Phone: 312-626-6799

Thursday, March 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: To give an organizational update, review of the 2020 accomplishments, celebrate 10 years of existence, discuss the 2021 plans and to engage partners. To learn about invasive species and land management impacts from Arthur Kneeland of UW Stout and continue to build up the LCIP region's capacity for invasive species education, outreach and control through partnerships.

A recording is available for this meeting on Zoom through this link and passcode:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/I5cm3zXovWVseb7RCXviiqEIHdqhJxSqBnQ9GpxNjEIE2UVDmmmgER58hNM0ISis.B7pSjiCTw1AX6IU9>

Passcode: w6Av@VRK

I. Introduction of attendees (who, represent, involvement, needs, questions)

38 out of the 52 RSVP attendees joined online and introduced themselves and posed questions to discuss.

II. Approval of Outcomes Document from February 25th, 2021 Board Meeting

Outcomes were reviewed and approved with no changes.

III. Negotiate Agenda

No changes were made to the proposed agenda.

IV. Address Governing Issues

- 2020 LCIP update presentation and video (Chris)

Chris narrated the LCIP 2020 highlight video that is posted on the LCIP Facebook page. All the major projects, programs, initiatives and activities were talked about. The presentation ended with a thanks to everyone who contributed and an ask for financial support to make 2021 even more fruitful.

- Director discussion- Nominate Treasurer (Brad Luedtke), acknowledge Board directors resigning, discuss additional board director openings (Board)

Douglas announced the changes in the LCIP Board of Directors. Brad Luedtke was voted in as the new Treasurer. He is currently an environmental engineer at 3M Menomonie and has previous experience in finances. Everyone welcomed Brad.

Chris announced that Mary (Mame) Gale was stepping down from the LCIP Board after almost 6 years of service. She worked extremely hard to support the organization through outreach, education and financial contributions that allowed LCIP to take on a full-time employee in 2019. Chris presented her with a framed Certificate of Appreciation and a Menomonie Chamber of Commerce Check. Everyone congratulated her with a round of applause. She will continue to stay involved with many programs that involve landowner outreach, education and control.

Chris announced that Chase Cummings, a founding board member that is now the Dunn County Conservationist is stepping down from the LCIP Board. He started with the original group of concerned citizens back in 2011 to initiate the organization. He has been an integral part of the outreach in Pepin County and to local government action against invasive species. He will continue to connect with LCIP as much as he can and will work to get other county government employees and board members engaged in LCIP's work. Everyone congratulated him with a round of applause. Chris presented him with a framed Certificate of Appreciation and a Menomonie Chamber of Commerce Check.

Chris announced that Kathy Stahl, the sole concerned citizen that started organizing other concerned citizens and other community members to this cause back in 2011 was resigning after 10 years. Her continual support and efforts have been un-matched by anyone to allow LCIP to live out it's mission and purpose. She has been involved with most programs, initiatives and projects since the beginning. Without her leadership LCIP would have never made it past the first few years. Everyone congratulated her with a round of applause. She will continue to be a part of LCIP's programs and projects as she can but is now focused on other committees and initiatives in Dunn County. Chris presented her with a framed Certificate of Appreciation and a Menomonie Chamber of Commerce Check.

Chris and Douglas then made an ongoing request for new board members. These new members would continue to come alongside the Board members and active members to keep moving forward to reach more people and initiate organized community action through partnerships.

- 2021 Projects, Programs and Goals (Chris)

Chris gave an overview that stated LCIP has been a part of many different projects, programs and initiatives over the past 10 years. Through those projects and experiences LCIP will focus on what they can impact the most people with in 2021. Those programs will include fewer but more comprehensive opportunities for people to engage in.

LCIP will continue the Invasives Monitoring Program (IMP) from last year when it was a popular program to get involved in to inhibit community action while on their own and being outside. There will be a call for new volunteers and mentors to grow the program in 2021 soon.

LCIP will continue a woodland landowner tours and workshops through a long-term project funded by WDNR. These educational opportunities will provide tours and workshops for people to engage in at two different properties in Dunn County. The educational opportunities will go through invasive species identification, demonstrations all available control techniques, opportunities to talk with local experts and much more. Invitations will be sent out soon for an early June workshop.

LCIP will continue to offer the exceedingly popular landowner walkovers to any landowner within the LCIP five county region. These will involve a walk through to identify native plants, invasive plants, other concerns found on the property and then simple steps to work towards sustainable management of their properties. Talk to Chris for more details on this ongoing opportunity.

LCIP will continue partnering with UW Madison Extension Forestry, Wisconsin Women Woodland Owners Program that will involve tours, discussions and workshops for local women landowners wanting to learn more on how to sustainably manage their property. Invitations for this program are currently available. Contact Lauren Larsen at UW Madison Extension for more details.

LCIP will continue to record videos of invasive plants throughout the year to show in-depth views and the necessary information to know about to make successful management decisions.

LCIP will continue to offer the Landowner Chemical Program that gives landowners training on proper herbicide application, an introductory amount of herbicide and equipment to use at no cost. LCIP just asks the participant to fill out a survey and talk to their neighbors about their efforts so they are not a standalone project.

LCIP is currently proposing a project with the City of Menomonie to restore a city owned property with many partners to provide a live demonstration of woodland management techniques, habitat improvement and partnership building. If approved the work will start in May or June 2021. Stay tuned for more details.

LCIP will be hosting small workshops for many citizen groups involved with Chippewa County Land, Water and Forestry this summer and fall.

LCIP will be available for presentations to local organizations, townships, and counties to bring more awareness, education and action against invasive species causing harm to the local ecosystems.

- Report year-end financial report (Kathy)

Kathy reported on where LCIP is at financially and what future projections show. She made a request for as much local support as possible. LCIP will fill in the gaps with grants and contributions as needed. If there continues to have the same trend in funding LCIP will have to alter their plan and possibly end or change the contract with Chris to part-time or volunteer basis. Times are hard right now and all financial support is highly appreciated to keep LCIP sustained and expand their efforts to new locations where LCIP can help build a more sustainable future. The LCIP Board wants to sustain and expand their employment opportunities to accomplish more goals and sustain the programs that engage many citizens to act within their community and neighborhoods. If you can donate or have some ideas on how to support LCIP then contact Chris to discuss them with him.

- Guest Speaker- Invasive species and land management impacts on the environment (Arthur Kneeland)

AJ introduced the guest speaker, Arthur Kneeland from UW-Stout. Arthur is an entomologist and teacher of many environmental topics. He gave a 40-minute presentation on the many impacts of invasive species, gave practical steps for anyone to get involved, gave an in-depth discussion of invasive insects, and talked about bio-control options to slow the spread and reduce invasive plant populations. The details can be found on the Zoom recording at the link at the top.

- Breakout session activity (Everyone)

LCIP leaders then hosted 5 breakout rooms where small groups of attendees and ongoing partners discussed many topics including: your greatest interests with invasive plants, your skills or knowledge that you would be willing to share with us, your willingness to partner with LCIP, what do you see as a top priority for invasive species management, education, and control, and what are the ways you want to work with LCIP in 2021. LCIP will take the notes from each group and evaluate them and use their valuable input as ways to engage with the landowners and partners in 2021.

V. Identify Next Steps

- Next meeting is on **Thursday, April 22nd from 2 - 4 PM on Zoom**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85070453033?pwd=VWVIL09KZjg2YzJFdEEwOFo0UVhEZz09>
Meeting ID: 850 7045 3033 Passcode: 012345 Phone: 312-626-6799

Chris announced that the next meeting will be on April 22nd. All participants are welcome to join online. There are plans to have a hybrid meeting in May that will include an in-person option!

V. Evaluate the Meeting and *Work Plan Objectives*

- Meeting score average was (1-5 scale)

Time to evaluate the meeting was not available. Chris stated that he will send out a survey to have all participants fill out and send back to him to allow the LCIP leaders to review and use for hosting future meetings.