

# OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

## **Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Partner Meeting**

Meeting at: [Pepin County Government Center](#) (740 7th Ave W, Durand, WI 54736)

Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

Chris described Civic Governance and how it applies to the civic organizing of LCIP. Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> will be Civic Governance workshop to describe more about this organizing movement. Chris has been involved with them for eight years. Chris asked anyone that is interested in learning more about this effective organizing approach to contact him directly.

**Meeting Purpose:** To learn about civic partnerships, discuss 2021 project statuses, review the financial sustainability, and continue to build up the LCIP region's capacity for invasive species education, outreach and control through partnerships. Then tour Holden Park after the meeting to brainstorm ideas for management and promotion of the park for all to use.

**On Zoom:** Doug O-P., Lia L., Brad L. (3M) **In person:** Chris G., LeAnna B., Jessica M., Dick D., Sue C., Jen R., Zach M., Mynesha H., and Judy Z.

I. Approval of Outcomes Document from August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Board Meeting  
Outcomes were approved as written with no changes.

II. Negotiate Agenda  
No changes were made to the agenda.

III. Individual Check-Ins on progress towards meeting LCIP Goals (5 mins or less)

LeAnna B. (Pepin Cty Land Conservation): Her greatest concern is Pepin County's Holden Park, where there are many mature black locust trees, as well as Tartarian honeysuckle, Dame's rocket, common buckthorn and many other invasive species. The roughly 80-acre county park has some prairie remnants that the county staff wants to restore back into a native prairie. Recently they have carved out some hiking trails in the park, which will need ongoing maintenance. Her hope is to have trails open year-round for all to use and enjoy.

Jessica M. (Pepin Cty Land Conservation): Wants to partner with LCIP to reclaim Holden Park from the invasives that have taken over. She would like to start with the removal of the very tall black locust trees. Then restoring the park to tall grass prairie is the end goal. She is currently working on the parks and recreation plan. They are figuring out the publics and staff top priorities are. Funding/matching grant work is an issue, since Pepin is such a small county with limited funding. She needs more dedicated volunteers to work on their projects.

Dick D.: He is working on more common buckthorn removal and treatment. His bald cypress is doing well. Bird populations are down 1/3 in the last 50 years, and he believes that is due in part to landowners bringing in Invasives as well as non-native plants, instead of native plants, which birds thrive on.

Sue C.: Worked with the Chippewa Falls girl scouts who want to do more projects. She got rid of barberry populations is pulling common buckthorn in the Lake Wissota State Park campground as well as planning a garlic mustard event for the spring of 2022. She has found that aquatic forget-me-nots are increasing in the area. She has been leading tours in the state parks where she

teaches about the benefits of native plants. Talk to her about her upcoming programs on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Jen R. (Pepin Cty NRCS): Works with landowners around Pepin County. She has found that the most common invasive is common buckthorn. She also sees many species of thistles in farm fields. She works with a NRCS program called EQIP to develop a forest management plan first and then figure out a plan to control invasive species.

Judy Z.: Ongoing work with Amur cork trees (ACT) in her neighborhood. She will need to continue working on for years until they are eradicated. Will work with Chris on figuring out the City of Menomonie's plan for their recent ordinance update to include female ACT as a nuisance plant.

Zach M. (Pepin Cty Land Conservation): has been working on wild parsnip control on their planted buffers and PL566 Dams with the help of 4-Control. They have been contracting the spraying in early May when it is the best time to treat along with the use of plant growth regulators. Their results are promising so far.

Mynasha H. (Pepin Cty NRCS): Learning about the region and was excited to be invited to learn more today.

Doug O-P.: IMP wrap-up is in process that he has been part of the planning committee since the beginning. He has been traveling and is out east coast states where he is seeing a lot of perennial knotweeds, as well as oriental bittersweet and spotted knapweed is out of control on the west coast states. Wildfires have been spreading these invasives that thrive after fire. He believes the Midwest is doing much better with controlling most invasives.

Lia L.: Busy with AIS projects. Purple loosestrife was recently found in Buffalo County in the backwaters of the Mississippi River off Highway 37. She may take this area on as a biocontrol project in 2022 with loosestrife beetles. She coordinated a lake association virtual meeting for Chippewa County. Her native bat identifying project is going well.

Brad L.: 3M is mostly done with their invasives work for the year. Their shelter belt now has mostly mature natives after a forestry mowing took place last month. He had another area sprayed for spotted knapweed. Siberian elms on-site will also be dealt with in due time. He talked to folks at Andersen Windows of Menomonie and learned about the contractor they used called Prairie Restoration in MN. Kathy Stahl recently recommended using a company called Quercus, which is a prairie restoration company in Black Earth, WI. He will contact Quercus to see that their availabilities are. He will frost seed the remaining seed into the newly planted prairie expansion near I-94 after the first snow.

Chris G.: held two Invasives 101 presentations for member and neighbors at Plymouth UCC in early September. He will be installing the fourth and final 2021 boot brush station at Irvine Park on 9/29 at 9 am. He presented for a private school wellness day at Hoffman Hills and also spoke at a private school about invasives that ended with a property tour. He worked with a new request for the use of the Landowner Chemical Program for dealing with a knotweed problem that is in two locations on one farm. Chippewa County Highway Department asked for an LCIP description of the partnership we have had with them since 2015 that they will use for the back cover of their annual report, of which he wrote.

#### IV. Address Governing Issues

- 2021 projects and events (Chris)

Town of Union will be hosting another field day on October 9<sup>th</sup> from 3-5:30 PM that Chris will be on site with the trailer to demonstrate and work with attendees to remove and treat common buckthorn. Contact Chris for more details if you want to attend. Chris will be helping to host a Civic Partnership Workshop with fellow Interstate Civic Governance Organizing Agency members in Baldwin on October 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 11 AM. If you are interested in learning and applying the very effective organizing model let him know ASAP.

- Invasives Monitoring Program update (IMP Committee)

The IMP committee is organizing the in-person and virtual event from 5:30-7:30 PM, Oct 26<sup>th</sup> wrap-up event to celebrate the success of the year at the Rassbach Museum in Menomonie. The committee is gathering speakers and data to showcase at the event. They are hopeful that there will be more than the 200 reports last year.

- DNR WMA Woodland Landowner Project update (WMA Committee)

The committee is organizing the last-minute details of the 9/25 landowner workshop at the Gale property where a variety of invasives have been encroaching, some of which have escaped from the gardens will be showcased. Many speakers will talk about resources available, what methods work, viewing herbicide trials, discussing practical steps to take, and figuring out reasonable expectations for success.

- Galloway Creek Restoration Project update and needs (Chris)

The current focus is the 2.2-acre parcel along Galloway creek near the Menomonie high school which the city owns. The city has been supportive of this project and provides some labor and hauling the brush away. Stout students and high school students are involved in doing the clearing on a weekly basis. The idea is to provide a demonstration project for landowners to show how it can be possible to clean up such a neglected area. There is also a new opportunity to work with UW Stout Capstone project students which will survey the plants and map them on GIS systems to monitor what's growing there and figure out erosion levels.

- Financial report and Funding Discussion (Brad)

There was discussion about the idea of sharing fundraising with other similar organizations to achieve like-minded goals. Chris will work on developing a document to share for editing before using as a steppingstone to commit local businesses and organizations to support LCIP. some examples of such organizations with related goals are: Landmark Conservancy, TPE Chippewa Savannas, and 3M.

V. Identify Next Steps

- Next meeting is on **Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 2 - 4 PM** on Zoom and in person at the **LCIP Office at 700 Wolske Bay Rd, Suite 275, Menomonie, WI 54751**

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84217950384?pwd=TnZlV0dPNEVucDVzTmxhSHFIM2VPZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 1795 0384 Passcode: 012345 Dial: 312-626-6799

*Toured Holden Park after the meeting and provided suggestions for management priorities. Will be contact with staff.*

VI. Evaluate the Meeting and Work Plan Objectives

- Meeting score average was (1-5 scale) 4.98

Doug 4.8, Lia 5, Brad 5, LeAnna 5, Jessica 5, Dick 5, Sue 5, Jen 5, Judy 5, Mynasha 5, Zach 5, Chris 5.

Did we achieve the meeting purpose? Yes

What worked? Sharing and conversations

What were the gaps? None found

Steps to close the gaps? N/A

Discuss action items for next meeting: Everyone was able to see a need they could work on.