

OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Partner Meeting

Meeting at: LCIP Office at 700 Wolske Bay Rd, Suite 275, Menomonie, WI 54751 and on Zoom
Thursday, January 27th, 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: Build LCIP's capacity through civic partnerships, develop and commit to 2022 Strategic Plan, review the financial sustainability, and sustain the organization to meet the needs in the five-county jurisdiction.

In person: Dick D, Jim A, Sue C, Sherry J, Judy K, Chris G & Online: Jack R, Mame G, Brad L, Lauren L, Doug O-P, Keith G

I. Approval of Outcomes Document from December 16th, 2021, Board Meeting

Approved as written

II. Negotiate Agenda

No changes in the agenda were made.

III. Individual Check-Ins on progress towards meeting LCIP Goals (on hold for discussion for 2022 Strategic Plan item)

The Wednesday pre-meetings for the board will continue forward.

IV. Address Governing Issues

- Board Meeting Structure, 2022 Strategic Plan and Individual commitments (All)

The 2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan was reviewed by Chris line by line with the following discussions:

Sherry told about the Lake Wissota Association activities with Beaver Creek and property owners on the lake, including Lake Wissota Woods. Lots of trees came down during the big mid-December windstorm. There will be a need to assist their lake association.

March 24th will be the annual meeting when the by-laws will be reviewed. Judy suggested having Keith come and present at the annual meeting to speak about how he has inspired college students to get involved. Mame suggested Dr. McKinnon for her work at Galloway Creek.

There is a Feb 12th event on Mame's property to walk through the timber area. Lauren is looking for ideas for future events.

Landowner site visits – Chris reported that his visits typically bring in donations when he goes out to help property owners identify invasives.

Jim suggested getting the county and town board supervisors more informed and engaged by notifying them prior to ongoing events. Lauren said they will possibly open the Women Owning Woodlands group events to significant others and friends. Chris offered Lauren the list of town board members in case their group would want to notify them.

Sue mentioned the Renz UW Weed Science Lab in Madison as a great resource.

Dave is committed to doing more drone work if it's above 30 degrees.

Chris is planning on hosting monthly meetings and events in all five counties again by Oct. 27th.

Chris went over the fundraiser letter and other financial needs.

It's important to maintain an ongoing working relationship with townships in the five-county area to develop projects with them.

Chris discussed the need to expand the Invasives Monitoring Program, which only has six packets at this time, plus have additional mentors since all new participants need a mentor to keep them on track.

Aquatic Invasives Species monitoring is expanding with Beaver Creek, of which LCIP will interact with as they can.

Amur Cork Tree removal by the city is ongoing, mostly in the Phelan Park area. Once trees are removed off city property then the City will work on trees on private property.

How-to workshops on herbicide use and spraying continue to be a goal.

A suggestion to use the drone to fly over Galloway Creek, except it's problematic in that you can't fly over private property without notifying the landowner, so the drone must be controlled carefully.

Discussion on having area interns during summer months, which have been valuable assets for LCIP.

A goal is to expand membership and engagement in the five counties.

A suggestion was made to place signage on restored areas, such as Galloway Creek, to educate and invite people to visit the area. The MN and IA Conservation Corps organization has been requested to work out there to give a boost to the Galloway project progress.

To see the final approved 2022-2025 Strategic Plan go to the LCIP website and click on the About Us tab.

- Invasives Monitoring Program next steps (IMP Committee)

IMP is looking more towards a monthly informational meeting/training during the growing season. Some town boards are interested in getting involved to learn more about problem plants. More people are needed to manage the project. LCIP is looking for new committee members since Kathy S and AJ L are no longer on the committee, which leaves only Doug O-P and Chris G on the committee. Lia L and Sue C were two past participants that were asked to be mentors this year.

- DNR WMA Woodland Landowner Project next steps (WMA Committee)

Chris will meet with Mark R and Anne P from UW Madison to compare projects, data, and methods for studying effects of the herbicide trials. There are plans for May and June workshops to look at changes from last year's management that the committee is planning.

- Galloway Creek Restoration Project update (Chris)

Lee will be coming out to spray any remaining buckthorn in Galloway Creek. There was discussion on what to re-plant at Galloway Creek. Jack told about a 3M product - rubberized

undercoating that might be used for the base of trees to keep mice away for up to 5 years. Brad said he might be able to acquire some of this product from their store. There was also a suggestion to put tags on the trees to ID them. Jack R suggested buying carbide tooth chainsaw chains from a company called Rapco Industries out of Washington state since they last all year without sharpening. There have been two workdays since the last monthly meeting. Progress is continuing through the northern part of the parcel. Waiting on the MN and IA Conservation Corps project request. Doug provided a list of suggested tree species for replanting that Chris will share.

- Financial report, 2022 Budget review, and Fundraising Committee (Brad and Doug)

Brad gave his financial report. There is need for assistance with the fundraising committee which only contains the LCIP Board now to expand to look at all funding options to sustain the organization. Chris applied for an Eau Claire Community Foundation Give Green crowdsourcing grant that could give LCIP bonuses up to \$10,000 if LCIP raises \$1,000 or more. The Dunn County Unit of the Wisconsin Towns Association gave a \$1,500 donation after Chris gave a presentation to them on Zoom. Other sources of funding and donations are on the up.

Volunteer and Community Happenings Shared

Healthy Environment Action Team (HEAT) is a Dunn County collaboration group formed to address environmental issues, and through collaboration the various area groups may be able to share resources and personnel. Chris spoke about the need for expanded help in the office and what it would mean budget-wise and whether we will be able to provide that at this time and if not, looking for a way to meet this goal down the road. The collaboration with HEAT and other groups might produce a good candidate for this addition to the office.

Doug expressed the group's appreciation to the Gale Family Foundation for their continued support.

Chris said he has had no positive response from any of the townships or counties on financial contributions because they are all struggling with their own budgets.

Sue reported that the DNR is no longer offering insurance or support to outdoor activities and that other groups are having to underwrite the activities in their planning.

Dan Masterpole's last day on the job is tomorrow after decades of service in Chippewa County as County Conservationist.

V. Identify Next Steps

- Next meeting is on **Thursday, February 24th 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/84083763270?pwd=dFdvZ1NEM01VZVZrZkRMSmJWVERmZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 8376 3270

Passcode: 012345

Dial: 312-626-6799

V. Evaluate the Meeting and *Work Plan Objectives*

- Meeting score average was (1-5 scale) **4.9**

Did we achieve the meeting purpose? Yes

What worked? Discussion about the strategic plan and commitments

What were the gaps? Secure funding for 2022

Steps to close the gaps? Work with current active members and hire a fundraising consultant to get the organization back on track

Discuss action items for next meeting: Everyone had action items and strategic plan goals to work on