

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, February 24th, 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, review 2022 Strategic Plan commitments, review financial sustainability, and sustain the organization to meet the needs in the five-county jurisdiction.

In person: Sue C, Sherry J, Jim A, Judy Z, Chris G & Online: Mame G, Doug O-P, Innisfree McKinnon, Brad L, Ben Ewoldt (DNR), Tyler Mesalik (DNR), Keith G.

I. Approval of Outcomes Document from January 27th, 2022, Board Meeting

Approved as written.

II. Negotiate Agenda

No changes in the agenda were made.

III. Individual Check-Ins on progress towards meeting the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan

Jim: Said that since that he is retiring from the county board this year, he will still be promoting tourism in the area. Judy suggested that publicizing LCIP's invasives control projects could be a way to promote tourism.

Sherry: Is contributing to the Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association (LWIPA), Lake Wissota newsletter (6,000 are mailed, 8 pages) in which she will have articles from Lia of Beaver Creek on AIS and Chris talking about terrestrial invasives control. LWIPA has an annual potluck dinner on Moon Bay (Kamp Kenwood – Wisconsin Farmers Union property) on May 22nd and she wants to do a walkthrough of the property at that time. The lake area had a tremendous blowdown after the mid-December storm that they have been cleaning up for quite a while and will need to monitor for new invasives. The Town of Anson owns an access area above Lake Wissota where there is garlic mustard, buckthorn, and black locust which LCIP will review and offer suggestions on management.

Sue: Spoke with Evan Crofton about using the Buckthorn baggies for control at the WI Garden Expo. According to research, the berries from buckthorn have an 85-90% germination rate. She attended the Garden Expo in Madison where they promoted native plantings. She learned that planting white clover will help suppress Creeping Charlie. She also learned about "No Mow May Initiative" that started in Fort Atkinson, WI which means do not mow in May so that bees and other insects can find a place to shelter in the early new growth while they are active. Clover is the preferred planting for disturbed areas, while sedges are good too. Received a \$500 grant to plant trees and a \$5,000 grant for the native garden signage and walkway creation at Lake Wissota State Park.

Judy: Is pleased to tell how she heard chainsaws and wood chipping activity in the neighborhood and learned that the neighbor who has many mature cork trees has been removing them. A tree service has taken out about half of these trees. It's not clear what made him decide to remove them since she hasn't talked to him yet. Getting his story would be a great help in understanding

what causes people to change their minds on such a contentious issue since the loss of privacy is a real concern in most circumstances. She thinks that the Menomonie City Council's recently passed ordinance on female cork tree removal likely played a role along with pressure from neighbors who already had removed their trees. His property along with Mame's land is likely where the first cork trees were introduced and where some of the oldest trees had been found. LCIP should send a thank you note of appreciation to him.

Mame: The last forestry event at her place was postponed due to really cold weather and is re-scheduled for March 5th from 2 – 5pm. DNR will be on site and the main topic will be timber sale contracting. Lauren Larson from UW Extension is leading the event.

Doug: Yesterday the board met and made good headway on planning for the annual meeting on March 24th. Looking forward to spring.

Brad: There will be no 3M Earth Day event this year except for possibly the workers there. He mostly has been focusing on mandated environmental reporting for 3M per regulations. He looks forward to getting back to land management there since another engineer has been hired that will lighten his load and allow him to focus again more on invasives control.

Innisfree: Teaches geographic information systems at Stout. Some of her students did GIS Capstone projects on the Galloway Creek area undergoing cleanup. All her students worked on/at Galloway this year. The students' Stout Natural Areas Club also puts time into Galloway. Among the student projects were trail camera work, water quality, history of the vegetation, fungus identification, where to put benches and trash cans for visitors, mapping out sub-watersheds, and water quality testing. Discussion took place on drone-use and the legal issues involved regarding notification of private property owners along the creek. Students also mapped hotspots where trash was found, coming mostly from apartments along the creek. The students are from her environmental classes and are Juniors and Seniors. She is teaching the technical aspects of mapping. Students have capstone projects every fall and spring. Keith has been overseeing the projects as well. She will send Chris the links to the ArcGIS Story Map Capstone projects on the web soon.

Keith: The Wisconsin Freshwater Collaborative is a potential funding source for developing curriculum and could be used to monitor runoff on the Red Cedar River and its watersheds. Another Stout group is developing drone monitoring options. The Wisconsin legislature is set to release funds they have budgeted soon. Colfax Red Cedar Preserve & Recreation Area has had several good workdays with 10–14 students that showed up to save white pine/oak there while removing Siberian elm, buckthorn, and boxelder. Mark Mosey's former students also worked on the site. These groups have also been doing seeding at Dobb's Landing as well as doing baseline survey data work.

Chris: Showed the Eau Claire Community Foundation's "Give Green" campaign website and explained how it works, encouraging everyone to direct people there to donate to the IMP program. He's been asked to be on a virtual panel by Prairie Enthusiasts on Monday, March 14th at 6:30 PM. Next week is National Invasives Species Awareness Week (NISAW) with informational meetings planned. The Dunn County Natural Resources internship is making a comeback and LCIP will contribute \$400 and will also get some hours from the intern. The past intern took some great video recording for LCIP that is now on the LCIP Facebook page.

IV. Address Governing Issues

- March 24th Annual Meeting planning (board members, by-laws, speaker, year review, celebration) (All)

The LCIP Annual Meeting is March 24th at the Menomonie City Hall 1st floor board room. Keith Gilland has agreed to be the keynote speaker. Chris will be making flyers to hand out and post. Last year 52 people attended online. This year the event can be accessed both online and in person. The location has many microphones to allow people online to hear well. There will be many topics discussed, time to interact, and some prizes with refreshments.

- Invasives Monitoring Program next steps (IMP Committee)

Chris is still looking for help with IMP coordination through more committee members. Over \$200 was raised so far on the Give Green campaign.

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

Had a committee meeting on Feb 10th to decide final stages of the project. The grant will be wrapping up by June 30th. They will be doing some monitoring work and having workshops at each location before June 16th. Chris met with Anne Pearce and Mark Renz (UW Madison Weed Science Lab) to discuss monitoring protocol and assistance we can get from them and their grad students this year.

- Galloway Creek Restoration Project update (Chris)

Lee will be doing some basal bark treatment soon. There have been three workdays since the last meeting. The city has been hauling away the mountains of brush. Megen Hines from the city, along with Dale Dahlke and Peter Nied came and helped as well. Mame would like to have the salt levels from runoff monitored there. Keith said there are several students working on that along with insect monitoring. A second round of funding has arrived from the Gale Family Foundation for the Galloway Creek project. The next project planned there is to make and install signage with the Stout graphics department as a possibility. Chris is looking for suggestions on this.

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

Brad gave the Financial Report. There is not much for changes except for long-term and short-term funding getting depleted. LCIP agreed to fund the 2022 Dunn County Natural Resource Intern \$400. Still searching for funding options and/or hiring a fundraising consultant.

V. Identify Next Steps

- Next meeting is on **Thursday, March 24th from 2 - 4 PM** on Zoom and in person at the 800 Wilson Ave, Menomonie, WI 54751 in the 1st floor conference room. **This is the LCIP ANNUAL MEETING. Please invite others.**

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82392169698?pwd=eXVld1RCTjY1SWVqK3Y3Z0pZcFdCdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 9216 9698 Passcode: 012345 Dial: 312-626-6799

Chris asked the group to check the Strategic Plan to see if their involvement needs to be updated. Chris will have flyers for the annual meeting ready by next week.

V. Evaluate the Meeting and Work Plan Objectives

- Meeting score average was (1-5 scale) **4.9**
- Did we achieve the meeting purpose?
- What worked?
- What were the gaps?
- Steps to close the gaps?
- Discuss action items for next meeting

Jim – 5 is interested in the water quality work, Sherry is glad to hear about all the good things going on – 5, Sue – 5, Judy – 5, Mame – dropped off, Doug - 4.8, Keith abstains due to not being in attendance for whole meeting, Brad – 5, Chris – 4.9 wants any suggestions for annual meeting soon.