

OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership Annual Meeting (11 Years)

800 Wilson Ave, Menomonie, WI 54751 1st Floor Conference Room &

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

This meeting was recorded and available to view upon request

Thursday, March 24th, 2022, 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 2021 accomplishments, celebrate 11 years of existence, discuss the 2022 plans and to engage partners. To learn about invasive species and successful land techniques from Keith Gilland, Ph.D. of UW Stout and continue to build up the LCIP region's capacity for invasive species education, outreach and control through partnerships.

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

Each of the 37 attendees introduced themselves and spoke about their interest in the topic.

II. Approval of Outcomes Document from February 24th, 2022, Board Meeting

The previous outcomes document was introduced, explained, and approved.

III. Address Governing Issues

- 2021 LCIP Presentation and Video (Chris)

Chris showed a four-minute video of past year's activities which included many of the projects.

- Director discussion- acknowledge current Board directors and discuss additional board director openings (Board)

Each LCIP board member gave a brief explanation of why they are part of LCIP. They stated that there is a need for replacement directors and two new board directors.

- 2022 Projects, Programs, and Goals (Chris)

Chris highlighted the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan that highlights three ongoing projects 1) Galloway Creek Restoration Project, 2) Invasive Monitoring Program (IMP), 3) DNR Woodland Management Area Project.

A question from the audience: Does LCIP go out to help landowners with invasive plant identification and property management? Yes, by invitation. Contact LCIP to set a site visit today.

- NR40 (Wisconsin Invasive Species Rule) Revision Update (Chris)

Information was provided regarding the DNR's NR40 Administrative Rule where the goal is to identify and classify the level of concern regarding different new or problem invasive species. Invasives are technically not allowed to be sold at nurseries although they can sometimes still be found in which case the nursery can be fined. Changes are ongoing regarding the status of plants with 'restricted' or 'prohibited' are the two main categories. NR40 was put into law in 2009, revised in 2015 to include more common nursery plants, and is in the final stages of a second revision which will be completed by 2024.

Wisconsin leads many other states in its invasives work by being in the top third in the country. Nurseries have caused some of the spread when they have introduced plants that compete with natives with an

example being Burning Bush, which since being introduced has been popular with customers, to the detriment of the native Wahoo shrub which is just as lovely but less well-known.

- Report year-end Financial Report, and Mame Gale speech (Brad & Mame)

The yearly Financial Report was presented by Brad with the following summary. The cost of the current structure for LCIP is around \$100,000/year. Current assets as of February 28 are around \$55,000 of which \$28,000 are restricted to the Galloway project. There are serious short- and long-term shortfalls that will end current funding by May 2022 if funding is not obtained.

Mame Gale gave a brief presentation and explained how she and her husband moved to Menomonie in the late 1990s and planted a sizeable garden with herbs and exotic medicinal plants. Then years later, she had a few site visits from local plant experts that revealed problems, such as Tartarian honeysuckle which was a favorite that they would plant on fence lines and it had invaded into the yard, many mature Amur cork trees were discovered, and many more invasives. She then got involved with LCIP to help support their efforts to slow the spread of Amur Cork Trees in Menomonie Township and the southern half of the City of Menomonie. She then continued supporting LCIP through the Gale Family Foundation until this very day. She has 32 acres in the MFL (Managed Forest Law – a WDNR Forestry Program) which has Amur cork trees invading it. She has some large fields with several invasive plants are encroaching. She continues to monitor and do remediation to remove the problem plants they originally invited on to the property. She hopes others will be able to support LCIP's cause and action against invasive species to sustain the progress and community engagement LCIP has brought over the past 11 years.

- Break (10 mins)

- Guest Speaker- Successful invasive species management impacts on the environment (Keith Gilland)

Keith's presentation was about the Colfax-Red Cedar Preserve and Recreation Area Restoration or previously also known as the Ferry Pit, who was the original owner, Forest Ferry. The land was originally used for farming and then turned into a county sand and gravel pit. Then in November 2020, Colfax obtained the property through the help of Landmark Conservancy and a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant. Keith's has a background in coal mining restoration in southern Ohio and he resonates with what is taking place at the property. Problem plants out there are Siberian Elm, Spotted Knapweed, Bush Honeysuckle, and Buckthorns. He told how the goal is to try to restore the land to more of a natural area that has historically native plants. He uses two books for guidance regarding replanting: "The Vegetation of Wisconsin," by John Curtis and "Wisconsin's Natural Communities," by Randy Hoffman. He said that the DNR has a good native plants page online as well. He spoke about how to re-establish an oak savanna, which requires getting rid of all the plants that would not be part of such a savanna. He said that a white pine/red oak combination would be historically accurate, which means removing all the Siberian Elm which are classified as an invasive from Asia. The restoration project really gained ground when Xcel Energy and local Stout and community volunteers came to help at many workdays and removed lots of the smaller nuisance trees. Stout students have been working out there throughout the winter with the Stout chainsaw training class using the property for practice where were able to get a lot of chainsaw practice by felling, bucking, and trimming trees. Floodplain forests surround the property. Riparian forests there are dominated by green ash and silver maple which are a good foundation for making up a healthy riparian forest. Barred owls and bald eagles are also residents. Stout students did a capstone project in the eastern open area of the property where there is ash, white pine, and burr oak. Deciding what comes next for the property will be important task for the restoration committee. A pollinator habitat is planned for the entrance. A prescribed burn was done with the help of the Colfax Fire Department which helps restore the native plants. Some hand-seeding with grasses and pollinators was done after the burn and he feels they were successful in getting the area cleared, burned, and seeded. The property has a 1.8-mile trail loop with other trails being added. Contact Keith with further questions at gillandk@uwstout.edu.

- Community organization updates on invasive management, outreach, and control (Menomonie Urban Forestry Board, Landmark Conservancy, and Rep. Jesse James)

Dick Henning spoke about the City of Menomonie tree programs, including dealing with removing ash trees infected with ash borer and re-planting trees from the city's ever growing tree nursery which is located at the city's refuse (dump) area. Tree "sticks" are planted there in spring and grow large root systems in the gravel beds. Then they are removed and replanted around the city property wherever they are needed. He works with the city's Urban Forestry Board who decides tree policies, makes recommendations for action, and make sure new construction projects in the city meet the requirements for planting new shrubs and trees.

Sara Norman from Landmark Conservancy spoke about their ongoing education on invasives and their work at removal on their sponsored properties. Their property at Sherman Park in Eau Claire is getting the most attention now. They have monthly workdays at the Maiden Rock State Natural Area near Stockholm, WI. They have more properties near Eau Claire that are being worked on. Contact her for more information at sara@landmarkwi.org.

State Rep. Rob Summerfield wanted to come but was booked for another meeting in the district. Rep. Jesse James (Assembly District 68) spoke on the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program state and future. He works closely with the budget experts to make sure our natural resources are being preserved. He gave an update on the state legislature's activities.

- Door prize drawing

Fifteen door prizes were drawn for participants in person and on Zoom.

IV. Identify Next Steps

- **Next Partner meeting is on Thursday, April 28th from 2 - 4 PM on Zoom and in person at the LCIP Office located at 700 Wolske Bay Rd, Suite 275, Menomonie, WI 54751**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87011291281?pwd=bU45RlhPLytkdk9NOHpTZ1JVODQzUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 1129 1281 Passcode: 012345 Phone: 312-626-6799

V. Evaluate the Meeting and *Work Plan Objectives*

The meeting was well-attended both in person and by Zoom and adjourned at 4:16 PM. LCIP is grateful to the City of Menomonie for allowing LCIP to use of their facility, which worked out very well.