



ADVANCING CONSERVATION THROUGH  
**EMPATHY FOR WILDLIFE**

# *May Committee Updates*

## **Communications Committee**

**Chairs:** Amber Reger (ZooMontana), Natalie Stier (Utah's Hogle Zoo)

**Representatives:** Meagan Ashton (Seattle Aquarium), Delanie Jellison (Santa Barbara Zoo)

We determined the changes to the discussion board to allow for more specific channels and smaller communities. The discussion board will be under renovations and not usable June 25-26. To learn more [click here](#). We also began the content creating processes for the creation of an empathy in social media toolkit. [View our agenda here](#).

## **Conservation Action Committee**

**Chairs:** Erica Carnes (Blank Park Zoo), Kelsey Raffel (Como Park Zoo & Conservatory)

**Representatives:** Bethanie West (Idaho Falls Zoo), Brooke Tucker (ZooMontana), Ryan Retzke (Racine Zoo), Toby Seegert (Zoological Society of Milwaukee)

After a debrief on the Pollinator Toolkit Lunch-n-Learn, we began outline the goals and topics for our upcoming joint initiative on combating wildlife trafficking. Due to the scope of the wildlife trafficking topic, this joint initiative will likely not be published until early 2025. If you would like to provide input to us for consideration at these early stages, please email [empathy@zoo.org](mailto:empathy@zoo.org). [View our agenda here](#).

## **DEAI Committee**

**Chair:** Shanna Hillard (Zoological Society of Milwaukee)

**Representatives:** Adam Winegarden (Racine Zoo), Andrea Tronson (Roosevelt Park Zoo), Crystal Fox (Lake Superior Zoo), Alejandra Medina (Minnesota Zoo)

After careful consideration of the feedback we received on the first drafts of our definitions for diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion we came to a consensus on new definitions. These definitions will be posted on our [committee's webpage](#) in June for Network participants to use as launch pads in their own organizational discussions around DEAI. [View our agenda here](#).



# *May Committee Updates*

## **Membership Committee**

**Chair:** Heather Harelson Nutick (Red River Zoo)

**Representatives:** Chris Berg (Shedd Aquarium), Tierney Ball (Zoo Boise)

We discussed changes to the Network expansion plan that will take effect this year. We will be sending out an update on these changes shortly. These changes would ensure that Network expansion remains sustainable over the next 3 years and that the benefits of being a part of this Network remain tangible for all participants. [View our agenda here.](#)

## **Steering Committee**

**Chair:** Shana Kent (Alaska SeaLife Center)

**Representatives:** Aszya Summers (Lincoln Park Zoo), Hannah Tilden (Woodland Park Zoo), Liz Gilles (Minnesota Zoo), Liz Hines (Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium)

Due to a scheduling error, the Steering Committee was unable to meet in May. They will be re-hosting their second open meeting in June.

## **Strategic Learning Committee**

**Chair:** Melia Paguirigan (Woodland Park Zoo)

**Representatives:** Cam Whitley (Western Washington University), Isabelle Bieser (Zoological Society of Milwaukee), Jessica Schellhorn (Blank Park Zoo), Ryann Stacy (Racine Zoo)

To accommodate committee representative's summer schedules, the Strategic Learning Committee did not meet in May.



ADVANCING CONSERVATION THROUGH  
**EMPATHY FOR WILDLIFE**

## *May Committee Updates*

### **Interested in joining a committee?**

Reach out to us at [empathy@zoo.org](mailto:empathy@zoo.org) and let us know which committee you are interested in being a part of. In addition to an hourly meeting once a month, committee representatives can expect to spend 30 minutes-1 hour outside of meetings on committee tasks per month. Terms are 2 years.

We currently have open seats on the Communications, DEAI, Membership, Steering, and Strategic Learning committees.