



ADVANCING CONSERVATION THROUGH
EMPATHY FOR WILDLIFE

August Committee Updates

Communications Committee

Chair: Natalie Stier (Utah's Hogle Zoo)

Representatives: Natalie Stier (Utah's Hogle Zoo), Meagan Ashton (Seattle Aquarium), Delanie Jellison (Santa Barbara Zoo), Brent Weston (Dakota Zoo), Leanne Schuh (Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center)

After a discussion of the new discussion board format, we began working through the social media posts that we coded for our upcoming Social Media Toolkit. We will be going through the posts and re-coding them before our next meeting as well as outlining goals for the toolkit. View our agenda [here](#).

Conservation Action Committee

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

Representatives: Ryan Retzke (Hawthorn Hallow Nature Center), Toby Seegert (Zoological Society of Milwaukee), Brooke Tucker (ZooMontana), Bethanie West (Idaho Falls Zoo)

We reviewed our scope of topics for the upcoming Wildlife Trafficking toolkit and decided to host Network listening sessions in the fall to gather information from people on what sort of content and resources would be useful to them. [View our agenda here](#).

DEAI Committee

Chairs: Shanna M. Hillard (Zoological Society of Milwaukee)

Representatives: Abigail Flores (Racine Zoo), Crystal Fox (Lake Superior Zoo), Alejandra Medina (Minnesota Zoo), Sharon Spencer (Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens)

In this month's meeting, we discussed what stood out to us from Network responses to our land acknowledgement survey that went out at the beginning of the summer. This month's conversation helped us begin to understand the scope of our work and how we want to help Network Partners in their endeavors to support local Indigenous communities. Find our agenda [here](#).



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Membership Committee

Chair: Heather Harelson Nutick (Red River Zoo) / Tierney Ball (Zoo Boise)

Representatives: Heather Harelson Nutick (Red River Zoo), Tierney Ball (Zoo Boise), Chris Berg (Shedd Aquarium), Autumn Russell (Akron Zoo), Sarah Bowser (Oakland Zoo)

We discussed putting questions into the fall Member/Affiliate survey to gauge people's perceived benefits and barriers to taking a leadership role or being active in the ACE for Wildlife Network. We also finalized our bylaw amendment edits for Steering Committee consideration. [View our agenda here.](#)

Steering Committee

Chair: Shana Kent (Alaska SeaLife Center)

Representatives: Hannah Tilden (Woodland Park Zoo), Shana Kent (Alaska SeaLife Center), Liz Hines (Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium), Aszya Summers (Lincoln Park Zoo), Liz Gilles (Minnesota Zoo)

This month we discussed bylaw amendments proposed by the Membership Committee. While we understood their proposed edits, we felt it would be best to have a discussion with Membership Committee representatives before finalizing the amendment for Network voting. [View our agenda here.](#)

Strategic Learning Committee

Chair: Melia Paguirigan (Woodland Park Zoo)

Representatives: Isabelle Bieser (Zoological Society of Milwaukee), Melia Paguirigan (Woodland Park Zoo), Ryann Stacy (Racine Zoo), Cameron Whitley (Western Washington University), Jessica Schellhorn (Blank Park Zoo), Kelly McAdams (Clearwater Marine Aquarium)

This month we provided further feedback on the current draft of the ACE for Wildlife Network learning agenda and discussed how we coded Network Partner Organization missions per our first strategic learning questions. The later topic will be resumed in our next meeting. [View our agenda here.](#)



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Interested in joining a committee?

Reach out to us at 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, Membership, and Steering committees.