

Meeting 16 Minutes

Date of meeting: March 27th, 2023 3:30pm EST

Recorded by: Ginger Elliott

Attendance:

1. Amy Chabot, African Lion Safari
 - a. Janel Kuska
 - b. Ginger Elliott, Canadian Species Initiative
2. Jeff Mitchell, Saskatchewan Forestry Farm Park & Zoo (Presenter)
3. Katie M, Ripley's Aquarium of Canada
4. Matt Dixon, Riverview Park and Zoo
 - a. Sharolyn Heeringa
5. Menita Prasad, Greater Vancouver Zoo
 - a. Jonah Miller
6. Vicky Carriere, Parc Omega
 - a. Alexia Desmarais-Delisle
7. Stephen Peterson, Assiniboine Park & Conservancy

Meeting resources:

Conservation Planning Specialist Group Online Training: <https://www.cpsg.org/our-approach/training>

[Flyer Ex situ Conservation Assessment Online course OLD.pdf](#)

[J Mitchell CAC Progm Presentation March 27th 2023.pdf](#)

Recording of meeting:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zYgcCAUvGorRcqPvPrqEljN3HW8xHmmd/view?usp=share_link

Meeting summary:

3:30pm Welcome & Introductions.

COSEWIC is holding Species assessment meetings in Regina (late April), or Ottawa (fall) if you would like to attend as an observer email Stephen Peterson (SPetersen@assiniboinepark.ca).

COSEWIC species assessment use a modified version of the IUCN species assessment process, most SSC's follow the process but not all (i.e. Marine Mammals).

Conservation Planning Specialist Group Ex Situ Conservation Assessment Online Course is now available. <https://www.cpsg.org/our-approach/training>

3:47 CAZA Animal Programs (CAC) - Jeff Mitchell, Saskatchewan

CAC Board: develop plans and ideas, organize funding, pick species, run program overall

Focus on Canadian Species that fit into certain criteria i.e

- Threatened in Canada: Black Footed Ferret, Wood Turtle
- Of value to Canada: Wolf, Moose
- Indicator species or species at risk of becoming threatened:

Program Structure: Species Champion, Species Leader, Species Educator, Indigenous Species Leader

Risks and Rewards: Conservation is critical to CAZA's survival. Without this focus CAZA will continue to shrink, lose members, lose public support. We can unite together, we have the opportunity to perform for Canadian species.

Key Issues: Filling board and program roles. Funding. Need CAZA buy-in.

3:55pm Animals of Canada Education (ACE)

Focus on Canadian specific messages that fit into certain categories:

Structure: Education Champion, Species Educator, Habitat Educator, Indigenous Species Educators

Risks and REwards: losing the education battle to others, having messages that don't resonate with guests, we could become leaders in education

Key Issues: Filling board and program roles. Funding. Need CAZA buy-in.

4:00pm Discussion

Filling the role of Indigenous voices, in a respectable and capable way

Roles do not need to be filled by CAZA employees

Compensation, honorariums, commitments to community for Indigenous participants

Local program considerations - Saskatoon in a different territory from Cambridge

Bison as an example of reconciliation breeding programs.

How do we financially move forward? There has to be some money beyond it.

Tangible way of getting integrally CCEC involved with CAZA Board.

How would species get put forward? CAZA is smaller than other groups. First steps for the initial board.

To start any program at least three positions have to be filled (i.e. Champion, Leader, Educator)

Two categories of species: Backyard species - range edge, small population OR Big charismatic ones, larger ranging, have money getting thrown their way

Greater need - probability of impact? Looking at backyard species?

Getting involved throughout Canada, look what dedication in AZA did for the Puerto Rican Crested Toad. Most places can't set up for megafauna, but they could for something smaller. Looking at it this way Canada is our backyard.

The Board will have to make some tough decisions.

Doesn't necessarily have to be either or in any case, one for one, charismatic species that can assist with our backyard species

Next steps: Comments on the plan, feedback, bringing in others.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:30pm

Next Meeting Date: Monday April 24th 2023