

## **Meeting Minutes**

Recorded by Ginger Elliott & Evan Metler – African Lion Safari

**Link to ZOOM recording:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/XL38orBzm-UrZdBQ3olq4H-wgWjcbqR8i5-tsAyeg309dpYtg65CBROi\\_FfGR4p\\_.ugsSkbWjcWP699Hb](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/XL38orBzm-UrZdBQ3olq4H-wgWjcbqR8i5-tsAyeg309dpYtg65CBROi_FfGR4p_.ugsSkbWjcWP699Hb)

**ZOOM Passcode:** eH\$0v\$UN

**Date of meeting: June 3rd, 2022**

**Who attended the meeting? What CAZA institute are they from?**

1. Amy Chabot - African Lion Safari
  - a. Even Metler - African Lion Safari
  - b. Ginger Elliott - African Lion Safari
2. Jim Facette - CAZA
3. Menita Prasad - Greater Vancouver Zoo
  - a. Andrea Gielens - Wildlife
4. Cheryl Laite - Little Ray's Reptile Center
5. Angelique Denis - Science North
6. Kevin Kerr - Toronto Zoo
7. Chelsey Paquette - Zoo de Granby
8. Angelique Denis - Science North
9. Lisa Prime - BC Wildlife Park
10. Vicky Carriere - Parc Omega

**Contact information for main speakers:**

- Zoo de Granby - Chelsey Paquette <cpaquette@zoodegranby.com>
- Greater Vancouver Zoo - Andrea Gielens, WPC <andrea@wildlifepreservation.ca or gielensa@gmail.com>

**Reminders:**

- Next 2 meetings (July & August) will take place on the first Thursday, rather than Friday, or the month, as those Fridays coincide with long weekends. We'll revisit the schedule in the fall.
- Please sign-up for a meeting to present your facility's conservation efforts:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12E9HRixI7DUTC-pKjs5duTOd122nTCX6/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109353037694980929168&rtpof=true&sd=true>

- World Caribou Day June 6th 2022! Additional information can be found at: <https://www.ccbf.ca/world-caribou-day>
- The 2022 CAZA Conference will be hosted by Greater Vancouver Zoo in Kamloops, October 18 - 20, 2022.

### **Meeting summary:**

*CAZA's Conservation Library on Sharepoint Jim Facette - CAZA & Amy Chabot, African Lion Safari.*

Sharepoint will go live next week (week of June 8th) - an email inviting members of the Conservation Committee to sign up will be sent with the information on how to join. There will be a gradual roll-out and likely some changes will still be needed - we thank you for your patience! The goal is to share information as a larger organization. Success depends on everyone contributing! Only as useful as information you populate it with - templates templates and helpful information will be available on Sharepoint. Evan and Ginger (African Lion Safari) will be reaching out to assist, as needed, with gathering information from individual facilities.

### *Rescheduling Meetings - Amy Chabot*

Due to overlap with long holiday weekends, we need to reschedule monthly meetings for July and August. **We will instead meet on the first Thursday of the month.** We will continue to have presentations from members on the conservation activities at their facilities. A sign-up for presentations at future meetings has been developed (see link above).

The idea of having meetings twice a month was suggested, as there is a lot of information to share and in order to continue to make progress on meeting recommendations from the Integrated Collection and Assessment Planning workshop for Canadian snakes. Alternatively, we can hold some separate meetings to discuss the development of TAGs and collaborations to address ex situ management needs for Canadian species.

### *2:10 Zoo de Granby - Chelsey Paquette (Conservation Coordinator at Zoo de Granby)*

Zoo de Granby. Within the Zoo research department works with their collection and with wild animals. Collaboration is key with multiple partners from different facilities: academic, government, NGO etc.

In-situ work focuses on aerial insectivores, including bats. Granby has a refuge to bring bats found in homes to a safe temporary hibernation. Staff also work on bat Inventories in collaboration with a bat scientist.

Within the city of Granby, the Zoo has been contracted to monitor and maintain Chimney Swift roosts. They have also constructed artificial chimneys that allow Chimney Swifts to breed and roost. *Chimney Swifts at Granby nesting for two years, which may include juveniles from last year.* Cameras mounted at roost sites allow researchers to know when Chimney Swifts are arriving and leaving.

The Zoo is also working to tag Chimney Swift at two locations, about 6 hour drive apart. This year 42 Swifts were fitted with monitors and tracked using the MOTUS network and radio-telemetry. Interchange of individuals between the two sights was confirmed by transmitters. This work will also help to identify additional roosts and nest sites in the wild.

The Zoo is working to help protect the only remaining viable population of spiny softshell turtle in the Lake Champlain region in Quebec. Granby monitors a main nest site seven days a week throughout June. Once eggs are laid, they are excavated and incubated at the Zoo. Most hatchlings are released immediately after hatch - which gets them past the critical 48 hour period after laying when they are often predated. A subset is kept for headstarting for 1 or 2 years. A final subset of turtles are radio tracked to determine hibernation of animals within the region and juvenile dispersal.

Similar work is being done in Wood Turtle. Granby was able to equip seven sites with two cameras each, looking for nest locations which are protected via nest protectors.

Five major parks in Granby have hired the zoo to help protect these areas through survey and knowledge transfer events. Similar projects exist in surrounding municipalities.

Cavity nest bird boxes up around the Zoo de Granby and monitored by staff and citizen science volunteers.

Wild animals found occupying the habitats in the Granby Zoo have been monitored, with a focus currently on birds and mammals. These are wild animals that are not part of the collection. The information allows the Zoo to better understand use habitat and to preserve native species.

For birds, a total of 52 visits from 16 members of the local birding club were completed between March 2021 - 2022. In total, 76 bird species were recorded - with 26 species nesting at the zoo, including two species at risk. Ebird hotspot was used. NOTE: by doing this the data becomes public but allows for more public engagement>

Mammal observations have been done Incidentally. To date, 12 species have been identified.. In 2022, the Zoo will begin acoustic surveys to learn about species of bats around the zoo.

The inventory has helped the Zoo create recommendations for better zoo practices. For example, to reduce window collisions for birds, to revise storage for food to reduce potential zoonotic transmission and to reduce nesting from European Starlings, which aggressively compete with native species for nest cavities. Collaboration with community partners has helped them to identify native species of shrubs and trees to encourage the presence of native bird species throughout the year.

Inventory work also enabled research staff to identify and then transplant wild garlic plants from a location where a new habitat was to be created.

*2:45 Greater Vancouver Zoo (GVZ) - Andrea Gielens (WPC, Lead Biologist for BC projects) oversees Conservation programs at Greater Vancouver*

Greater Vancouver Zoo has partnered with WPC to take a hands-on approach to helping species recovery. Collaboration focuses on three main projects - all for species for which the need for ex-situ management has been identified. By working with Greater Vancouver Zoo, WPC provides a liaison with in situ and, as a not-for-profit, WPC we can fundraise. GVC has larger network connections and different social media audiences. The partnership allows for cross promotion aids both organizations in spreading their messages. Andrea supports GVC in their physical representation of programs at the Conservation Corner.

Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF): Project focuses on conservation breeding and release, habitat stewardship and restoration, OSF is a model of a project showing you need to be in it for the long run - only in 2021 did they figure out how to be truly successful, increasing egg production from 1,500 to over 20,000 tadpoles. The project has garnered a lot of local support.

Western Painted Turtle: Project focuses on incubating, headstarting and release as they breed well in the wild. Work also includes a nest-monitoring program and protection of nests laid in unsuitable areas. Turtles are microchipped and released after they reach 30 grams..

Taylor's Checkered Spot Butterfly: Most recent addition to conservation program, Project focuses on captive breeding and release into two isolated island populations. Program goal (which has been achieved) is to release a benchmark number of 5000 larvae.

WPC and GVZ have shared conservation goals. The ability to stick it out with a project allows program resiliency, while quick turn around allows time sensitive implementation of needed programs. Collaboration is key!

**ADJOURNMENT: 3:15pm**

**Next Meeting Date: Thursday, July 7th 2022 2pm EST**