



220 W. 23rd Ave.
Coal Valley, IL 61240
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support.prairiecat.info

PrairieCat Engagement Committee Agenda October 23, 2025

The Committee will meet from 10:00 am to 11:00 am via Zoom. Registration link: <https://prairiecat-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/L4p8ln2LRvSeL6O2uj1xCw>

Charge: The Engagement Committee works to actively engage members at all levels, to create connections and advance the organization through activities like PrairieCat's annual conference PUG Day, peer networking opportunities, and more.

Meeting Frequency: Bi-monthly meetings in even-numbered months. August, October, February, April, June. 3rd Thursdays at 10 am via Zoom.

1. Welcome and introductions

Present: Elizabeth Smith (PrairieCat), Shelby O'Hara (PrairieCat), Karrah Kuykendall (RP), Chelsey Knippel (PrairieCat), Melissa Landis (PrairieCat), Brianna Rodgers (MX), Victoria Blackmer (CV)

Absent: Katelynn Clark (FR), Amy Fry (SL), Magda Bonny (PrairieCat), Kathy Peschang (RD), Dana Fine (PR), Austin Nord (WO)

2. Upcoming Member Events

Smith (PrairieCat) went through the upcoming member events. O'Hara (PrairieCat) will be hosting quarterly Mobile App Q&As as the membership gets used to the new platform. The first Mobil App Q&A will be held in January. We also have a Book Doctor workshop that is scheduled for June. We will likely host a virtual Member Update before the end of the calendar year.

3. Traveling Scrapbook Program – Update

O'Hara (PrairieCat) reported positive sign-ups for the Traveling Scrapbook at PUG Day. She will likely get this sent out next week so that it can make its way through the libraries who signed up. Smith (PrairieCat) stated that the plan is to have the Traveling Scrapbook on display at the April Delegates Assembly meeting.

O'Hara proposed creating monthly or quarterly update videos for Prairie Cat Consortium staff, which would be uploaded to YouTube and include information about program changes, enhancements, and current issues. The Committee agreed to start with bi-monthly videos in January, with O'Hara using her existing equipment and potentially utilizing Canva templates shared by Blackmer (CV) for editing.

4. Reminder on Member Forums

Smith (PrairieCat) reminded the Committee to check out the member forums on the PrairieCat website. We have been pushing the forums to the mailing list when there is a popular topic being discussed to remind people where they can go to join in on the conversation. Please be sure to check these out and encourage your staff to do so as well.

5. PUG Day 2025

5.1. Review attendance

Smith (PrairieCat) recapped the PUG Day attendance for the Committee. We had 260 attendees. We hosted 27 sessions plus the general session in the morning. 11 sessions were hosted by PrairieCat members, 5 were hosted by PrairieCat staff and the remaining sessions were hosted by either RAILS, Innovative or outside presenters. The library-centric sessions were the most popular.

5.2. Review survey results

Smith (PrairieCat) reviewed the survey results with Committee. PUG Day received a positive rating of 4.16 out of 5, with attendees appreciating sessions like advocacy and mental health. There were concerns about overcrowding in some of the breakout rooms and seating arrangements.

5.3. Feedback for future in-person events

Smith (PrairieCat) stated the key takeaways for future in-person events, make sure lunch works smoothly and quickly and over capacity and seating in the breakout rooms. We will



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consider these concerns and try to make sure the next in-person event location can accommodate these concerns. Fine (PR) suggested sending more emails out asking people what they are interested in learning more about.

5.4. Virtual event in 2026

Smith (PrairieCat) stated that the next PUG Day is virtual and does not require as much preparation as an in-person event, but please be thinking about session topics. We will try to set the PUG Day 2026 dates at the February Engagement Committee meeting.

6. Committee membership

Smith (PrairieCat) shared the current Committee membership list and stated she would be reaching out to these members to verify they would like to remain on the Committee. She will then put out a call for volunteers to fill any vacant seats.

Next meeting - Thursday, February 19, 2026 10:00 am via Zoom