



220 W. 23rd Ave.
Coal Valley, IL 61240
877-542-7257
support.prairiecat.info

PrairieCat Engagement Committee Minutes April 16, 2026

The Committee met 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), Victoria Blackmer (CV), Dana Fine (PR)

Absent: Katelynn Clark (FR), Amy Fry (SL), Austin Nord (WO), Brianna Rodgers (MX), Madison Ward (YK), Kathy Peschang (RD),

2. Upcoming Member Events

Smith (PrairieCat) went through the upcoming PrairieCat events. May 5th will be the Resource Sharing Summit at DeKalb Public Library, and the topic will focus on patron behavior and legal considerations. PrairieCat is trying something new and hosting a couple of Ask Me Anything sessions with PrairieCat Director, Carolyn Coulter. One is scheduled in May and the other is scheduled in June. Also in June, PrairieCat is hosting a Book Doctor workshop with Demco at Moline Public Library.

3. PUG Day 2026

3.1. Discuss format / schedule

Smith (PrairieCat) stated that this year's virtual PUG Day will have the same format as the

previous virtual PUG Day in 2024. It will be held on Thursday and Friday in September. The format will include one track of sessions with the possibility of some concurrent sessions. The Committee agreed to offer three timing options for presenters, 25-, 55-, and 75-minute sessions. The sessions will be held between 9am-4pm on both Thursday and Friday.

3.2. Review program proposal submissions

Smith (PrairieCat) reviewed program proposal submissions thus far. The Committee agreed to an online privacy session with Ashley, an AI session with Diane, a 50-minute CMC presentation on AI in library workflows, and a session on library advocacy stories by Dana from Nippersink. They also approved a marketing session by Michelle Newcomb on promoting e-resources. The group briefly considered additional Smith will follow up with all accepted presenters to confirm their sessions and work on scheduling details.

3.3. Possible presenters

Smith (PrairieCat) discussed other possible presenters/session topics. The Committee considered sessions on the Wisconsin-Illinois Innovative Users Group (WILUG) and cybersecurity, Vega Reports (launching in May), Vega Discover customizations, and Vega Mobile. Blackmer (CV) suggested a session by RAILS on their newly released online learning platform. Smith also gave an update on external presenter options, including Martina who offered to present "Keep Cool Under Pressure" and "Team Dynamics," with costs and scheduling details still to be confirmed.

3.4. Review timeline

Smith (PrairieCat) discussed the timeline for PUG Day going forward. Over the next six weeks, Smith will confirm and narrow down the sessions and presenters. Hopefully at the next Engagement Committee meeting in June, we will have a proposed final program for approval. Once we have the final program set, we will open registration.

4. Questions and Comments

There were no questions or comments.



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Next meeting - Thursday, June 11, 2026 10 to 11am