



ONE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chair: Jason Sumners, Missouri Department of Conservation

Vice Chair: Vacant

Thursday September 17th

3:30pm-5:30pm ET

Room: TBD

116th AFWA Annual Meeting | Lancaster, PA

Committee Charge: The One Health Committee will collaborate with relevant AFWA committees and others outside the fish and wildlife sector to discuss, communicate, develop policies, and take action to elevate the importance and relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation on the landscapes in which they depend within the One Health Framework in North America. The committee's work will be guided by prioritized strategies in the AFWA One Health President's Task Force [Report](#).

AGENDA (ET)

- 3:30 PM Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda-Jason Sumners, MDC
- 3:45 PM Proposed One Health Resolution (see attached)-Lorisa Smith, MDC
- 3:50 PM Missouri Department of Conservation Collaboration with the Healthcare Community-Jason Sumners, MDC
- 4:00 PM Cross Sector Collaboration with the American College of Lifestyle Medicine-Martin Tull, ACLM; Nate Muenks, MDC; Jay Maddock, NHA & Others
- 4:15 PM Implementing Cross Sector Collaboration in your Agency-Discussion
- 4:55 PM One Health Video Promo
- 5:00 PM Wild Harvest and International Collaboration-Shane Mahoney, Conservation Visions
- 5:10 PM Public Engagement Best Practice Dashboard Initiative-Ty Medlen, LDWF
- 5:20 PM President's Task Force Recommendations Progress Report & Next Steps-Speaker TBD
- 5:30 PM Adjourn

RESOLUTION 2026-0X-0X

FOSTERING A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF LIFESTYLE MEDICINE AND THE NATURE AND HEALTH ALLIANCE THROUGH SHARED NATURE AND HEALTH PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (“Association”) recognizes that achievement of optimal health outcomes among people, wildlife, domesticated animals, plants, and their shared environments, is influenced by the professional interaction and collaboration among disciplines and governmental, non-governmental, and commercial sectors; and

WHEREAS, the American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM) encompasses a network of more than 100,000 trained physicians and healthcare professionals in the United States alone that supports the therapeutic use of lifestyle change as the new standard of care for chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, the ACLM delivers programs and curricula aimed to prevent, treat, and reverse chronic human health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension, anxiety, obesity, diabetes, and cancer risk; and

WHEREAS, the ACLM addresses the root causes of chronic disease through six interconnected pillars centered on physical activity, stress management, restorative sleep, social connectedness, optimal nutrition, and risky substance avoidance; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based literature confirms that nature is a beneficial component underlying each of the ACLM’s six pillars; and

WHEREAS, the Nature and Health Alliance (NHA) has established strategic goals to become a recognized nationwide network of researchers and practitioners focused on nature and health, generate evidence on the benefits of nature for health and well-being, incorporate evidence on the benefits of nature for health and well-being into policy and practice, and educate and train the next generation of nature and health researchers, practitioners, and advocates; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Heart Association’s 2025 Report, between the years of 2017 and 2020, 127.9 million United States adults (48.6%) had some form of cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) 2022 National Health Interview Survey, less than one quarter of adults in the United States meet the federal physical activity guidelines; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 the CDC estimated that, in the United States, more than 40.1 million Americans are affected by diabetes; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of U.S. adults report experiencing loneliness, with some of the highest rates among young adults; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than one in five U.S. adults lives with a mental illness (59.3 million in 2022; 23.1% of the U.S. adult population); and

WHEREAS, spending time in nature hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, and/or engaging in other outdoor activities including habitat management, can encourage physical activity, foster social connections, improve mental health and cognitive function, contribute to improved cardiovascular health and quality of life, and combat the development of chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, sustainable wild harvested plants (including plant derivatives such as fruits, nuts, roots, etc.), fungi, and animals depend on healthy landscapes to provide locally sourced nutrition directly to hunters, anglers, and gatherers, and indirectly through food donation programs each year; and

WHEREAS, the Association has taken the initiative to develop and support a One Health Committee to promote the sharing of information across disciplines and sectors through collaboration with state, provincial, territorial, tribal, federal, private, and international entities; and

WHEREAS, there is high alignment between the charge of the Association's One Health Committee, each of the ACLM programs and pillars, and the NHA's mission and strategic goals; and

WHEREAS, ACLM and NHA are currently collaborating toward shared outcomes, exploring policy, curricula, and programming that demonstrate the value of nature in enhancing beneficial human health and well-being outcomes; and

WHEREAS, working with the healthcare and research sectors provides opportunities to increase the relevancy of the conservation community by sharing the importance of fish and wildlife conservation with new stakeholder groups and connecting them to hunting, angling, and other outdoor related programs and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association supports establishing a partnership with the American College of Lifestyle Medicine and the Nature and Health Alliance to promote the health and well-being benefits of nature to the public and the public's responsibility to take care of nature by engaging the healthcare and research sectors to increase conservation relevancy and achieve shared outcomes.