2022 RES-180

AUTHORIZING TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES FOR A STAFF MEMBER FROM HENRY VILAS ZOO

The Dane County Henry Vilas Zoo is actively involved in polar bear conservation as a member of the Polar Bears International (PBI) Climate Alliance. PBI is hosting its climate alliance from October 3, 2022 to October 10, 2022 in Churchill and Winnipeg, Canada. The zoo has long been a partner with PBI and works together to research ways to help conserve wild polar bears and educate the zoo's over 725,000 guests each year.

Additionally, the zoo has sent animal care staff in the past and this is an invitation only event for those Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) zoos actively participating in polar bear research and conservation. The zoo would like to send Zoo Keeper, Kristin Meyers, who is also the primary keeper for polar bears to attend the conference. Education and outreach is a core function of the Henry Vilas Zoo and the knowledge received from this climate alliance will help inform our research efforts and participation and educational outreach programs.

Travel outside the continental United States requires the approval of the County Board and the County Executive. The Henry Vilas Zoo has sufficient funds in its 2022-budgeted Travel and Training and Conference line for this travel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and County Executive do hereby approve and authorize Kristin Meyers to attend the 2022 PBI Climate Alliance conference in Churchill and Winnipeg, Canada October 03-10, 2022.