

Flathead CORE - minutes 9/22/2016

Attendees: Teresa Wenum (FNF), Sheena Pate (Crown of the Continent Geotourism), Kathy Martin (Hockaday Museum of Art), Monica Elser (Flathead Lake Biological Station), Denny Olson (Flathead Audubon), Brian Schwartz (Lone Pine State Park), Diann Ericson (MEEA), Laura Law (GNP), Joyce Baltz (Glacier Institute),

Website

- Updates needed on the website under Local Providers and in the programs & events section.
- Contact the NW Montana Backcountry Horsemen about being listed under Local Providers.
<http://www.nwmtbch.org/>
- Change Plum Creek Timber Company to Weyerhaeuser – Brian contacting Lorin Hicks to see if they are still providing education resources.
- Change Swan Ecosystem Center to Swan Valley Connections – contact Leanna G. for updates. Check Ecosystem Center listings under the Programs & Events section
- Laura will coordinate webpage meeting inviting Sheena, Jenny, Mary Jo, and Teresa to help with website updates – starting work after mid- October.

Summary of Events

- Birds of Prey day @ Lone Pine State Park – Sept. 10
 - 2017 – will move event date as to not conflict with Dragon Boat races.
 - 2016 – approximately 350 attendees

Note: {Whitefish Legacy Partners has a new program director – it was suggested to contact director and extend an invitation to Flathead CORE meetings}

- October 20th – Trunk workshop
 - United Way, Gateway West Community Room, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm
 - 15 registrants as of 9/21, @15 more slots available
 - Target 2nd-8th grades
 - Workshop should be advertised on all Flathead CORE affiliate websites & social media to help promote
 - Wildlife theme trunks needed – 3 more trunk presenters would be good.
 - Scavenger hunt –
 - 1 question/trunk
 - Allows time for teachers to explore trunks, yet not make time too long, focus more time on the formal trunk presentations.

- Flathead CORE Watershed Committee
 - Final Flathead Watershed Educators Guide
 - Lessons and activities tied to the eight chapters within the Flathead Watershed Sourcebook – over 50 lessons/activities.
 - Hosting October 21st, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, teacher workshop @ Flathead Lake Biological Station; guide targets middle school grades 5-8.

Events

- Winter Trails Day - January 14th
 - Promote each of our sites/events on the same day – idea not to overwhelm individual sites and visitors can have choice of sites/activities to select from....
 - Forward your event information to Teresa by mid to late November.

Flathead CORE meetings schedule

- November 16th – Lone Pine Visitor Center – 4:00 pm
- January 25th – Hockaday Museum of Art – 4:00 pm
- March 15th – Hockaday Museum of Art – 4:00 pm
- May 24th – Lone Pine Picnic Shelter – 4:00 pm

Round Robin

- Teresa
 - Project Learning Tree (PLT) – Educator workshop – Saturday, October 1st, 9-3:30, FVCC Early Childhood Center
 - Registration: Contact Holly McKenzie 892-4141 or Cindy Peterson (406) 243-4706, by 9/28
 - CoMotion Dance Project (Missoula) – Changing Balance/Balancing Change
 - Performed at Whitefish Performing Arts Center on 9/12
 - Well organized performance and good message
 - Possibility for education option in the future – would need to secure funding for additional performances.
- Joyce Baltz
 - USFS – Big Creek Historic District ribbon cutting
 - Tuesday September 27th
 - Contact Teresa for more information
- Diann – MEEA
 - State teachers conference – Helena 3/9-10, 2017

- Suggested Flathead CORE be part in some way
- Will follow up with Eliza Sorte for PIR credit
- Laura
 - Travel Grants for schools facing transportation barriers to environment education programs
 - Mostly to federal lands, but some have been given to MT state parks sites
 - **MCCA** has the money and applications may be sent to them
 - 2016 – 80 applicants, 40 were granted
 - 2017 – awarded grants will be for less money to try and benefit more schools
- Kathy
 - Hockaday now featuring a display created by a couple who showcase Montana’s history
- Monica
 - Getting settled, reorganizing and meeting people
- Denny
 - New curriculum for Owen Sowerwine Natural Area:
 - High school students mentor 3rd- 6th graders
 - 15 monitoring sites, 28 high school students/ 28 “littles”
 - Working with Ben Young (Glacier) and Libby Zimmerman (Flathead)
 - Audubon calendar for 2018 – no 2017 calendar
 - New birdhouse designs: a) bluebird/tree swallow b) Lewis’s wood pecker/kestrel
- Brian
 - Curriculum change at Lone Pine
 - AmeriCorps member leads groups for inside portion of program
 - Teachers lead trail portion: curriculum matches stations on trails
 - Teacher training day – 2 attendees, looking into CEUs
 - Will put more info on website
 - Request for letters of support for AmeriCorps grant
 - 3 year cycle
 - Support letters due to Helena October 7th
 - Contact Brian for more info

Meeting adjourn 6:00 pm