

CORE meeting Notes

November 8, 2017, 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Location: Flathead Conservation District, 133 Interstate Ln, Kalispell

Attendees: Monica Ellis, Laura Law, Teresa Wenum, Kate Beisel, Carolan Coughlin, Kathy Martin, Cynthia Ingelfinger

*Possible website committee meeting the week of November 27th, Laura will coordinate

Trunk Workshop

- The Daily Interlake ran a great article about the workshop
- Evaluations Summary:
 - Everyone loved the event, thought it was well organized
 - 10 of 12 thought they would use the trunks
 - Participants preferred the trunks that were presented.
 - 50% were elementary teachers
 - 12 filled out the form
 - 92% had never been to a trunk workshop
 - Feedback – trunks were mostly geared towards science classrooms and there was too much extra time in between presentations so maybe shorter breaks
 - Monica has a full report available in pdf form
- Maybe next year have shorter breaks and present more trunks during the workshop
- Thanks to Monica for creating/reviewing the evaluations
- Maybe we should follow up in spring and ask them if they've used a trunk and resend the list of trunks. We have emails from registration. Ask them if not, how can we make it easier for them to get and use.
- FireWorks trunk is being redone by the FNF Fire science's lab. It will include some of same materials but slimmed down and updating. It will be available online soon. They will offer a training on how to use new materials.
- Hilary has the AIS trunk and she's going to bring it to FLBS for a refresher.
- Laura recommends a "quick start" card for a teacher to get them started with easy things to start with
- It would be nice to know which trunks are used the most, which meet the new standards, which have been updated recently. It's hard though because some standards are in flux.
- The Reading Conference is the second week in August and hundreds of teachers go. Could that be a venue for the trunks? We should ask Karla Miller, especially because new standards are based on content reading and so many of our trunks have books as a main component.

Website

- We have been trying to rotate more photos on the website and update contact information.
- We uploaded a new backup plugin and created a Gmail account for google drive back-up storage
- We're paid through on the website until 2020
- We are looking into options for transitioning from http vs https, which is more secure but might increase our costs
- Google analytics is up and running

Winter Trails day

- January 20th is the target weekend. We're checking to see if there are conflicts that weekend
- The Winter Trails Day - Teresa has been in contact with the national group and will be coordinating activities and marketing efforts, so send Teresa your information/ideas for your

venues and she'll pass it on to the national program and coordinate local efforts including a press release

- Groups that have participated in the past include: Lone Pine, Foys to Blacktail, Audubon, GNP, FNF, WF Legacy Partners, MT Wilderness Association,
- MWCC could focus on getting kids to events this year

MEEA conference

- This state conference is March 22-24th in Great Falls at the MSU campus. They are having Dr. Steve Running (climate change research – just retired from UM) as a speaker
- The theme is Teaching Tough Topics – know the facts, share the curriculum, be the change
- It could be a good opportunity to present CORE and how it can be replicated in any community.

Project Learning Tree

- Teresa went to PLT facilitators meeting last weekend
- Liz Burke from PLT in Helena is going to be presenting at MEEA. She will present the new E units (online PLT courses) they have on climate change.

NAAEE

- This year's meeting is going to be in Spokane October 2018. Submissions are due mid-winter, maybe February.

WF Sustainability Center

- Ryan will come to our Wednesday, January 17th meeting and will take half an hour to talk about WF updates. The January meeting will be at the FWP large conference room

Events:

- Earth Day – April 21st, Saturday
- Arbor Day – late April, might start to be talked about early winter – keep eyes and ears open
- Expo dates for 2018 – May 7-12th

Forest for Every Classroom

- MCC has declined to be nonprofit partner, but they are still committed to MCC helping however they can in however we move forward
- Teresa's suggestion is instead of using the Forest for Every Classroom model with nonprofit partner, to use pieces of the model – maybe have a professional development training for educators based on our own watershed. This could be a week-long or one weekend in fall and one in spring.
- We should aim for something we can bite off and do without major funding and a three-year commitment. We could use the Middle School curriculum from Sourcebook Educators Guide.
- Might be easier to get smaller amount of money instead of a 3 year ask – might be able to get match
- Glacier Conservancy has stepped up to match so we have money on the table if we want to move forward with something
- What is doable for us? 4 weekends, or week long? We could have different certificates if you do 3 of 4 workshops or 4 of 4.
- Laura and Melissa already do a week-long workshop in partnership with Glacier Conservancy on different topics (climate change, incorporating culture and have reserved a week of housing already. Funding is there for buses or materials as long as it meets the grant goals.
- Maybe do a week and have one-day project wet, project wild, Wings, PLT, etc.

- Monica added that it might be better to split things off and not do it in one week. Research shows teacher implementation from workshops is better if there is time between sessions.
- We might need help from another partner that could help organize and help cover costs/donations
- We should have a planning meeting of potential steering committee members (Monica, Diane, Teresa, Melissa Sladek)
- Monica is leaving in two weeks until the first week in March

NAI – National Association for Interpretation

- This meeting is next week in Spokane next week. Teresa is going and can represent CORE and bring brochures.
- Conference materials are on their website and if there are certain ones you're interested in, ask Teresa if she can attend one or talk to a certain vendor. Please email her before Tuesday afternoon next week.

Family Forestry Expo

- This has traditionally been an interagency partnership but Teresa is nervous because there are big holes this year given the transition from Plum Creek to Weyerhaeuser and the downsizing.
- Agencies themselves are struggling with downsizing and budget cuts
- There is a planning group that meets once a month until Expo and that's the key committee that plans the big pieces (workbooks, scheduling, guide coordination)
- The key contact person for schools was a Weyerhaeuser person who is retiring,
- The wildlife station was Weyerhaeuser guy who is stepping down. The fish station was run by an FWP person who has retired
- The FNF archeologist gave notice. Maybe park archeologist can help
- The Saturday lunch was done by Sunrider Lion's Club and they are stepping down from that so we are looking for other service clubs or another Lions club
- Could we do food trucks? Food has always been free though. Ideas: Food CORE an AmeriCorps program?
- At the spring meeting it was decided that the Saturday event was valuable enough to keep. There are lots of young families who attend. The 5th grade part would be really hard to drop.
- Expo has always been noncommercial and non-advocacy
- The January kick off meeting is towards the end of the month. Let Teresa know if you are interested

Round Robin

Teresa - FNF

- PLT has a new high school focus on forests and new online courses available
- Greenschools is part of PLT could be a perfect fit for the WF Sustainability Center. It has readymade curriculum and is student driven. She will make sure Ryder knows about it. Teachers have to go through PLT training to apply for grants
- Big MT Nature Center will open over the Christmas holiday and be open on weekends and school groups start in January
- Every Kid in a Park offers free Christmas tree permits which will be available starting next Wednesday at FNF offices. Kids should bring their certificate and pick up a free permit

Katy Martin – Hockaday Museum

- Free days at Hockaday are the Saturday after Thanksgiving and Saturday, December 9th

- Starting Dec 9th, the new exhibit features art work that Sam and Jean Bibler collected and will focus on their legacy and the gardens, of which FVCC does garden tours twice a year which funds scholarships
- The Kids Show theme this year is “Flowers, trees and honey bees” and opens the beginning of January. It features K-8 art work and the deadline for entries is Dec 12-Jan 5.
- This month, November, is about promoting new memberships for half price

Carolyn – MCC

- This is a slower time for MCC. All adult crew leaders ended today, two other staff members, field coordinators, end Friday so it's just Cliff, Luran and Carolyn for a few months
- They are reviewing programs, planning for 2018
- Talking about maybe doing a residential program next year for kids across country – still in the works

Laura – GNP

- She has staff hired for traditional winter field trips and April field trips. May is spring field trips, which are getting booked and organized. She's writing grants with the Conservancy for next year

Cynthia – FCD

- Working with Pat McGlynn on a 6-week small acreage landowner workshop, which will run from February 7th – March 14th. 34 of 35 spots are taken.

Monica – FLBS

- The next Science on Tap is the first Tuesday of December and Diane Boyd is presenting on wolves
- They had 80 people at this week's Science on Tap
- Writing grants, doing lesson plan stuff, working with Flathead Tech for Good at the Salish Kootenai College on developing a board game
- FLBS' last fall school field trips were the last week in October
- The new website will be up sometime soon
- Holly Church will be attending the winter meeting

The next CORE meeting will be at the FWP Conference Room in Kalispell on January 17th from 3:30 – 5 pm

- We maybe try to use distance learning technology for those who cannot attend. Laura has capability