

**Flathead CORE Meeting Notes**  
**November 8, 2012**

Patti Mason (Flathead Conservation District), Justin Barth (Glacier Institute), Mary Jo Gardener (Fair-Mont-Egan School), Diann Ericson (Swan Ecosystem Center and Montana Environmental Education Association), Sheena Pate (Whitefish Legacy Partners – Ed Outreach Coord- WhitefishTrail), Steph Paidas (Rhodes Scholar), Wade Muhlhoff and Teresa Wenum (Flathead National Forest), Laura Law (Glacier National Park).

1. Website updates – the Sourcebook is now online and there are CDs available (Can we put this on the coop website that the CDs are available? Also on the CORE website?)
2. Events
  - a. Raptor Day –there was a fantastic turnout with people staying to participate in multiple events, Amy Grout noted that there were 224 people.
  - b. Teacher workshop, October PIR day - Early Childhood “Reconnecting” Workshop in the morning and then did 3 hours of Project Learning Tree Certification in the afternoon – 33 teachers
  - c. Teacher Workshop, October PIR day - Project WET- Clean Water Practices Workshop – 24 teachers. There is a new guidebook and a new trunk from the Flathead Lakers, “Clean Water Practices” educational trunk.
3. Suggestion to do trunk workshop on Oct. PIR day in 2013 (Oct. 17). Amy will work with us to see if we can do it at Lone Pine. Bozeman is requesting that we assist with a trunk workshop for the MEEA conference in March as an exhibitor. Diann will be going and can give CORE members a ride. Laura said she could bring a couple of the Glacier NP trunks.
4. Road Scholar – opportunities at Glacier – increasing programming by 30%. They are looking for a lot of staff: group leaders, field instructors, presenters. Brian Peck and Ellen Horowitz; Steph Paidas, 871-1729. Also running inter-generational programs. Some programs are housed in the park exclusively (one at Lake McDonald).
5. MEEA inspirational award for Teresa Wenum, she was nominated and selected for the “Sense of Wonder” award.
6. Forest for Every Classroom – this area is on schedule to be the next region to host it. It’s a year-long commitment where resource providers are getting lots of content. A steering committee would need to be set-up by next spring. It can tie into a lot of a new things that are being set-up: Whitefish Trail and “Foy’s to Blacktail” Trail, maybe the Expo Site. There are 2 models: Helena – has Friends group and Helena NF whose staff took the load of the work with the steering committee; the Montana Natural History Center in Missoula is now the organization that took on the work load for this year to work with the steering committee. The course starts in April for a person to see how the program is going on in Missoula and to start planning. Perhaps a coordinated for this area could be arranged through Americorps or the Big Sky Watershed Corps (10 month position for \$10,000). If Region 1 is interested we need to get back to them by Jan. 1, 2013. There is a website from the Helena NF for Forest for Every Classroom. The narrower the focus, the smoother it would go. Maybe Swan Ecosystem Center could play a role in the coordination and Diann, Teresa, Patti, Sheena and Steph said they would like to be involved.

7. Winter Trails Day – need to put on the Flathead CORE website; might be able to do something on the Whitefish Trail, Free snowshoe rentals and a walk 1/12/12 at Lone Pine, SEC has on website; glacier NP has free snowshoes and walks. Teresa will coordinate with everyone and get it publicized.
8. Laurie LaPan – said she will work with Tim from Big Brothers, Big Sisters, on the “GO Passport” idea – HH Dam wants to be included; they have a stamp already. Others who are willing to be included: The Whitefish Trail would like to be a part of it. (Lion Mtn Trail has a small family loop with interp. Signs) . Lone Pine is interested, Big Mtn Nature Center, HH Dam, Creston Fish Hatchery and Glacier NP are interested as well. Teresa will contact Tim and give him the contact info. To get a hold of people to make the list. Laurie, Sheena, and Tim will work on this.
9. A New Year’s event at Lone Pine may be on the calendar as well- stay tuned!
10. “Foy’s to Blacktail” – on their website they are fund raising for another piece of land where they could do education outreach. They would be using that site as an outdoor classroom with schools and community partners such as DNRC, Stoltz, etc. FFA (Future Farmers of America) and FVCC (Flathead Valley Community College) are working with them. They are having an education meeting on Jan. 18, 2013.
11. Whitefish Trail – has an afterschool program, 6 week session, 2 days/week of trails they can do on the trail. They have service projects as well on what they are doing there. Also going to have mtn. biking days in spring. The high school will have different stations to rotate through – service project, lesson on forest management, and physical activities to get heart rate up. They are trying to get guided hikes on the trail and are starting a master naturalist program. The Swiftcreek Trail is opening on the north side of the lake (lower is old growth) and there are cards and new trail maps.
12. NWF (not sure which this is: National Wildlife Fund? Wilderness Foundation?) is writing a grant to fund a coordinator to bring “Camp Out” to the Flathead. Teresa needs to find out if they got the money. It could a good event to have at Lone Pine.
13. We need to contact the college in January about doing an Earth Day Event. Lone Pine wants to be involved in an event. Americorps folks at the state park are interested in working on this.
14. Arbor Day will happen with planting trees along the Rails to Trails site. Patti and Amy will work on that again this year.
15. Glacier Institute got the Tom’s of Maine grant! Hurrah! “50 States for Good”. They have company that’s putting in solar and wind at Big Creek and another group doing curriculum development with renewable energy. They will need a lot of volunteers to help with this project as part of the grant. It was suggested that they contact: The Center for Restorative Youth Justice, Kalispell; as it has young adults that have to put in a set amount of service hours.
16. Next Meeting is Jan. 10, 2013, Flathead Conservation District Office. See you next year!