

Flathead CORE
November 4, 2015

Diann Ericson (MEEA representative at large), Laura Law (Glacier NP), Shelby Johnson ([Art Mobile of MT](#)) Kathy Martin (Hockaday), Jenny Cloutier (USFS-Flathead NF), Tom Bansak (Biological Station), Lisa Flowers (Educator)

1. PLT Workshop – Kari Musgrove sent an email that they had 17 teachers, and the workshop was a big success. This is a joint project done by the [Flathead Conservation District](#) with [Women and Timber](#) and [PLT](#). Congratulations to all who helped with this!
2. Flathead CORE traveling trunk workshop- this also had a good turnout. Diann noted that 12-14 teachers were there and some were from Dixon, Missoula, and Helena Flats. They were very enthusiastic and happy to have an education opportunity day not too far from home. We need to add to our trunk evaluation a question about how they found out about the workshop. The room at Gateway West and location worked really well. Kathy did a great presentation and the art mobile was a nice addition and could be included again next year. The consensus from folks was to continue with the same time same place for next year. Laura and Kathy also noted that they did extra publicity by sending out hard copy and email announcements to teachers/schools before hand which they hadn't done before. Jenny says that she now wants to make a snow safety trunk since she has been at the workshop.
3. Tom reported that the Lake Honoring Day at Bio station was in September and went well. It is a collaborative event with the Tribes and Fish, Wildlife and Parks and there were many students participating.
4. Conversation led to difficulty of schools needing bus money, so Jenny said that at North Cascades Institute, they just bought their own bus. Lisa said that Montana Wild Center has a travel grant program that provided her with a bus and even lodging for field when she brought students there in previous years.
5. This brought up the NPS and GNPC project in 2016 that has been funded to help pay for busing students to public lands for field trips. Glacier NP, Grant Kohr's Ranch NHS and MT State Parks are working on the logistics for this. Laura will keep the group updated as the details unfold.
6. Laura did not know the current status of the updates to the website but it appears that we still need to add Foys to Blacktail to the Local Providers List as well as MCC. Jenny noted later in the meeting that the Patrol Fund and the Flathead Avalanche Center are doing a lot of education programs for avalanche safety. Perhaps they should be listed? The art mobile is also interested in being added. The following information is from last month's notes: Teresa checked on these organizations: Women and Timber (OK as is), MT for Multiple Use- just keep as is; need to change society of American foresters to the local website (Mary Jo will do). Mary Jo will also contact MT Logging Assoc. about their listing. We will need to find out what Mary Jo learned about this.
7. It would be great if volunteers could do some new "featured" articles for the website. Patti will do a migration article. Laura will ask a Glacier NP seasonal ranger to do a winter article in January. Kathy said she would consider doing

something for a spring article – maybe wildlife photography or something on Elizabeth Walker.

8. Watershed Sourcebook Curriculum – the workshop for teachers who are interested in piloting the lessons is Nov. 21, 2015 and is being coordinated by Valerie at FCD. Teresa sent out a flyer and we will work to get it posted on the CORE website.
9. World Soil Day is Saturday, December 5, 2015 and the Flathead Conservation District will be hosting an event at Flathead High School that day. Starting at 5:30 p.m. there will be locally grown treats followed at 6:30 p.m. by the movie, "Symphony of Soils." More information about the event is available at the [FCD website](#).
10. [Winter Trails Day](#) is January 9, 2016 – Teresa said she can again spearhead getting the information out about this. Traditionally Lone Pine State Park, Swan Ecosystem Center, Whitefish Legacy Partners, Flathead Audubon, and Glacier National Park had events that day. The idea was brought up to have a series of events throughout the month of January, but at this point, we will just follow the same thing we've done in the past until we can get more help organizing multiple events.
 - Planning for other winter/spring events. Diann is thinking about a 3rd annual MEEA Region 1 MEEA teacher get together. She said she could check with Eliza and see if there is already a meeting going on in February that we could piggy back on. Diann would like help to coordinate what this might look like. Previously, Mary Jo had suggested a "training" session type meeting from 4-6:30 some evening with PLT lessons or something that would be a "draw" for teachers. Laura noted that February 29, 2016 is a PIR day for Columbia Falls District so perhaps for 3 hours they could get PIR credits for a training a CORE participant would lead and also information about MEEA? Could this tie in with Lone Pine's desire to recruit teachers to help with outdoor programs? Other suggestions?

Round Robin

- Jenny is getting ready for all the winter field trips at Big Mountain. On another note, she will be teaching a youth avalanche course through the Patrol Fund (ski patrollers on the mountain started this non-profit). The course is March 5-6th and the cost is \$60. Flathead Avalanche Center will start doing courses all over the valley, starting this weekend. They are working with FVCC this year. Maybe the Patrol Fund and the Flathead Avalanche Center should be included in the Local Providers list?
- Summit Nature Center is closed and will re-open December 5 when the mountain opens. Also they will have 30 classes come up for winter ecology field trips. There are still openings left. Teachers should go to fnwinterdiscovery@gmail.com to book field trips.
- Teresa is still "Acting" Public Affairs Officer until the position is filled, probably a month or so. She wants to be more involved in CORE as soon as she is done with this detail. She does plan on being able to help with Winter Trails Day.
- Kathy said that the Donald M. Jones, "Wild and Free" exhibit is very cool- it is printed on canvas and stretched. Next Thursday, Nov. 12 is the opening

reception. There has already been a call from a teacher to bring their students interested in wildlife biology to see the exhibit– a nice combination of science and art. Unfortunately, no one has taken advantage of the certificate that the museum gives to encourage students to visit. Kathy will email Mary Jo an image of the certificate to post on the CORE website. Maybe that will encourage teachers to tell their students.

- Art mobile- artmobilemontana.org – has a schedule a visit page so you can see what is available. The website uses the software calle “weebly.” Shelby and Jenny said that it is very user friendly if someone is looking for a web software platform.
- Glacier National Park – [Every Kid in a Park website](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) – make sure teachers and 4th grade students know that they can get a permit for free entrance for their families to public lands by going to: <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/> Also, look for travel grants in the next year as part of the Montana National Park Units’ efforts to support getting under-served youth to public lands for outdoor education programming.
- Laura is working with Teresa and Melissa Sladek (Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center) to see about a proposal to host a “Forest for Every Classroom” program here in this USFS Region in 2017. We would hope that many organizations from CORE would participate in the required four teacher workshop weekends throughout the year.

Next Meeting

4 – 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 13, 2015, location TBA but we will see if Gateway Community Center is available.