

**March 14, 2013**

Website Committee

Chaney

1. Patti and Laura went through list with what Chaney has and the website fixes are really coming along. She will work with Patti and Laura about the last few items.
  2. She will also make a guide for “how to”.
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Meeting:

Sheena Pate, Mary Jo Gardner (Fair-Mont- Egan), Amy Grout (Lone Pine State Park), Patti Mason (Flathead Conservation District), Steph Paigas (Road Scholar), Laura Law(Glacier NP), Kathy Martin (Hockaday, Errin Koehler (Americorps at Lone Pine), Melissa Sladek (Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center)

1. Update for CORE website – Chaney – has most of the problems fixed. She will create a “training manual” for us on how to make edits to the site. Hosting fee, \$71.88 is due at the end of March. Glacier NP Conservancy will cover it again this year. Laura will make a calendar for different people to contribute money to the Flathead Conservation District, 3/2013-3/2014 (\$20 each) and then each group will only have to help every other year or so.
2. Watershed Sourcebook project to develop middle school curriculum materials to complement the Sourcebook . The committee is working now on getting some undergraduates or graduates to work on it.
3. [Forest for Every Classroom](#) – Teresa has not heard back from the Missoula contacts about having an administrative body to help with the workload on this project so it looks like it will be put off. (The MT Natural History Association did not get the grant funding they had hoped to be able to be the lead host organization for the administrative body for the project.) Patti presented it to the Flathead Conservation Board, and they were also very leery about the workload associated with this project. It’s a 2-year project and we would really need to be started now if we wanted to do it. We will keep it on the radar screen but look to do it in a future year.
4. Foys to Blacktail – “A Community Forest Project” at Herron Park. At the meeting back in January they discussed the funding they had received through the state and private forest arm (2008 Farm Bill) to work on the community forest project. There was a public workshop in January 2013. They are going forward with an adult education piece that Plum Creek is helping with. The youth project would involve perhaps a trail loop with Project Learning Tree activities that teachers could use. Contact for this is Jim Watson, [jim@springbrookranch.com](mailto:jim@springbrookranch.com) . Amy, Patti, and Teresa will continue to participate in these meetings to give input and advice.
5. This project brought up the point that we don’t know if teachers are using outdoor sites with their students. Teresa said she would do a follow-up survey for PLT with our PLT workshop

teachers to see how they are using materials from the PLT workshops and also if they are using the outdoor sites that are on the lists we gave them.

6. GO (Get Outside) Passport – Sheena and Kathy are working on a symbol (raised metal engraving for rubbing) to be designed for it. Kathy will try to come up with a list of some artists who would be interested in designing it. Tim Sievers (BBBS) and Sheena will keep working on this. Sites interested include– Lone Pine, Glacier NP, the Hockaday, Creston Fish Hatchery, Whitefish Lake Institute, Whitefish Legacy Partners, Summit Nature Center (Big Mtn), etc.. It would be great to have this be linked with the outdoor classrooms guide on the Flathead CORE website. In a related activity, Kalispell Parks & Rec. Dept. has purchased a geocache trail activity kit that they are going to work with Lone Pine SP and other locations on getting it set up.
7. Wilderness Investigations Workshop is set for Sept. 14-15, 2013 at Glacier Institute Field Camp in Glacier National Park. We hope to get it put on Pirnet soon. If the COCEEC grant comes through the cost for teachers will be minimal for the weekend (\$20 for food and lodging). Plus, they will get access to the on-line curriculum. UPDATE: COCEEC funded this with a mini-grant submitted by Glacier NP so the workshop will be FREE to teachers (no cost for food and lodging at the Glacier Institute Field Camp Site).
8. Earth Day (April 22) -Here is a link to the events from last year, [www.fvcc.edu/2012/fvcc-to-host-earth-matters-week](http://www.fvcc.edu/2012/fvcc-to-host-earth-matters-week) .” Citizens for a Better Flathead”- Renewable Resource Club is doing a recycled art contest and a 4<sup>th</sup> movie night also on April 20 at the college and that they are hosting a big fair on that Saturday. The theme this year is “Go Walk”. Angela Bulik is the contact for FVCC. Melissa Sladek and Jessica Kusky, from Glacier NP, will have a table on April 26 at the Arts and Technology Building at the FVCC campus. Contact Angela if you’re interested in having a table at this event.
9. Trunk Workshop – Sheena Pate said she would coordinate the October 2013 workshop. Laura and Teresa will get her the old agendas. There are some new trunks – mosquito, Conrad Mansion, and Flathead Lakers all have new trunks. There’s also an aquatic invasive species trunk from the Flathead Basin Commission and the Flathead Audubon is working on an owl trunk.
10. Round Robin:
  - a. Glacier NP – the Climate Change Teacher Workshop will be at Glacier Institute Field Camp, register at [www.glacierinstitute.org/workshop/](http://www.glacierinstitute.org/workshop/) . The dates are 6/24-27, 2013. It’s free!
  - b. There’s also a Wilderness Investigations Teacher WS, 9/14-15 at Field Camp, also free thanks to a mini-grant from the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Education Consortium (COCEEC)!
  - c. Sheena – There are many great funding opportunities listed in the MT Watershed Coordination Council newsletter so this is something to add to our website.
  - d. Road Scholar programs are almost completely staffed. Steph is partnering with the AK Geotourism Council to do local sustainable geo-tours open to all ages and families. It’s on <http://www.CrownoftheContinent.net> . The road scholar programs are still open for registration for this summer, [www.bhei.org](http://www.bhei.org) has the descriptions and information.

- e. Earth Day Events at Lone Pine State Park – Erin is working on some games for children and an art contest for a youth sized t-shirt, plus a service project from 1-3 p.m. that day. This is National Americorps week. By the way, Erin will be looking for work after November when her Americorps term ends ☺
- f. Sheena also mentioned the MWCC Spring Watershed Coordinators Training that is May 14-16 at the BBar Ranch near Emigrant. The topic this year is watershed science. Beautiful place, fantastic food, fun and educational event. Scholarships available, carpool possibilities. For more information, see <http://mtwatersheds.org/Services/TrainingWorkshops.html>
- g. Teresa shared about [www.Discovertheforest.org](http://www.Discovertheforest.org) which encourages people to get outside and explore, and where there is new curricula that goes with Dr. Suess' book *The Lorax*. She also told us about a dance presentation called *Fire Speaks the Land*, An Active Audiences Dance Performance is designed for K-6 schools. You can watch a YouTube video of the presentation made to the Plains school kids at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mU-mc5MzOJQ>. There is interest in trying to keep this going and perhaps link it with the Fireworks Teacher Training that is coming up. Flathead may be a pilot project area for something that develops from this.
- h. Patti shared that the Montana Envirothon competition in Lewistown is 4/22-23/2013 this year. It is a high school team event. Whitefish will be competing again. Flood Awareness Day is on 4/24. New t-shirt design for Flood Day will come from the 9<sup>th</sup> graders attending. The Peterson School 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be planting on Rails to Trails for Arbor Day again on 4/26. This year the CSKT tribal nursery is donating the plants and FCD is buying protectors. Flathead Forestry Expo is May 6-11 this year. August 5-9 Montana will host the National Envirothon competition where the winning teams from each state and province compete for the grand prize. The event will be in Bozeman with the theme of nonpoint source pollution. They need lots of volunteers so if you can help out at all, contact Patti at [pattim@flatheadcd.org](mailto:pattim@flatheadcd.org).
- i. Mary Jo said she has 59 days of teaching to go before her retirement, not that she's counting!

Next meeting is June 13, 2013 here at FCD. The September meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013 also at the Flathead Conservation District Office.