

Flathead CORE Meeting
9/13/2012

Attendees: Patti Mason, Tim Eichner, Tim Sievers, Joyce Baltz, Melissa Sladek, Laura Law

1. Joyce –“ Alternative Energy Surrounds Us” Project for Big Creek to get alternative energy at Big Creek solar/wind display. Vote on Facebook once a day, every day until Oct. 9. Vote at <http://www.facebook.com/TomsofMaine>
2. Tim Sievers, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flathead County – “GO Passport” for “Get Outside” to get kids to get out and connect with nature. Need 15 sites that would be places for families/kids to go and get their passport book stamped. The book would also have a place for the child to record something about what they did. Over the course of the year, if you could get to 10 sites or so, you would get a prize/reward.
 - a. Laura will put in email to all CORE participants about passport book idea and get a list of agencies/groups that agree to participate.
 - b. Patti will check the list of places in the Teacher’s Guide to Outdoor Education Sites in the Flathead Region.
 - c. Tim will contact Teresa Wenum about Flathead participating.
 - d. Evie said that Creston Fish Hatchery could host an event if we needed one.
3. Raptor Day – lots of people were there for bird walk. Focus was more family oriented this year and people came and stayed around for a long time. Beth Watney is stepping in for Lynn Vaught to operate Wildlife Return . Her contact info. Is bearden1947 @yahoo.com or phone 406-250-1070.
4. Project Learning Tree, www.plt.org and Flathead CORE will host a pre-conference session for the MT Association for the Education of Young Children (MT AEYC) statewide conference, Oct. 18, www.mtaeyc.org
5. Project WET workshop, Oct. 19, full day at Bigfork Elementary School, \$35 and scholarships are available. Deadline to register is Oct. 1. Registration and scholarship forms are available by clicking the “Attention Teachers: Project WET Workshop” heading under the “Announcements” section of the Flathead Lakers’ homepage: www.flatheadlakers.org
6. The updates to our website are now being handled by Chany Ockert. Patti sent her the info. For logins and what we need changed. Follow UP – on Sept. 24 Laura and Patti worked with Chany to make the changes we needed to the Word Press site. The website committee will need to meet to discuss how best to update the local providers list and to create the forms for resource providers to send us in order for us to put events on the website.
7. New education trunk from the Conrad Mansion, Sue Corrigan is the contact suec@fcyberport.net .
8. Flathead Watershed Sourcebook is now available on CD, 2nd edition from the Flathead Conservation District, Patti Mason.
9. Teresa Wenum is working on hiring staff to conduct snowshoe programs this winter. See the Flathead NF website, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/flathead> for information or Teresa, 758-5218.
10. Forest Inspirations Artist Event displaying for Forest Artist Wilderness Connection.
11. Great American Backyard Campout, <http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Great-American-Backyard-Campout.aspx> - Amy Grout is interested with having this be an event at Lone Pine. Funding would help to plan and coordinate this event. The date does not have to be on the National Day. Other suggestions were to include using Herron Park or the Foys to Blacktail group to help in order to have more space.
12. Mini-grants up to \$15,000 from MEEA due by Oct. 30th, www.montanaeea.org, EPA Region 8 also has grants available, <http://www.epa.gov/region8/newsevents/index.html>

13. Whitefish Legacy Partners have been taking kids out on trails and into nature.,
www.whitefishlegacy.org
14. Ashley Mason is now the COCEEC Coordinator with Justin Mckeown. The next COCEEC meeting is at Glacier Institute's Field Camp site. Please contact Ashley Mason if you are interested in attending, audubonashley@gmail.com
15. Certified Interpretive Guide Program – designed for anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public is being held at FVCC this fall.
16. MT is hosting the National Envirothon Competition, <http://www.envirothon.org/> next August in Bozeman. Flathead Conservation District has been hosting a team from Whitefish every year for at least the past 7 years. Anyone interested in helping with this national one can contact Patti Mason.
17. Evie brought pictures of the Outdoor Classroom at Creston Fish Hatchery. It's the first certified "Outdoor Classroom" in Montana. A tour can be arranged through her office. The target grade level is 3rd grade. The public can visit on the weekend but it is still a work in progress. Anyone who wants to be "Friends of Creston Hatchery" they can help support these amazing projects. Contact Evie, 758-6869, evie_bradley@fws.gov
18. Flathead Conservation District School grant program funds projects for conservation related materials.
19. Next Meeting Nov. 8, 2012, January 10, 2013, March 14, May 9, 2013.