

January 23, 2014

Participants:

Mary Jo Gardner (Retired Teacher), Patti Mason (Flathead Conservation District), Laura Law (Glacier NP), Laurie LaPan (teacher at Deer Park), Kathy Martin (Hockaday), Teresa Wenum (Flathead National Forest)

1. CORE- website –

Lone Pine SP is covering the yearly hosting fee which is due by March 18, 2014. It is \$83.88. Thanks Amy and Lone Pine!

- We've added quite a few events to the calendar and posts. Let us know your upcoming events so we can get them on there.
- Laura and Patti went to a Word Press class and feel a lot more confident about editing the website.
- Mary Jo offered to help with updating the contacts listed for the resource providers. Patti will share the email she created to send to the providers asking them for updates.
- Patti created a list of what information we need from our resource providers if they have an event to include on the website and handed it out. She had been emailing the contacts for all of our resource providers to have them provide any updates.

2. Flathead County Science Fair – Will be March 4 (6-8th grades) and March 11 (3-5th grades) this year it is being held at the Flathead County Fairgrounds. Resource providers who would like to have a booth or to have an activity for students to do in-between viewing the exhibits, should contact Laureen Lapan at Deer Park School, 892-5388. Please contact her **before Feb. 18, 2014.**

3. [Winter Trails Day, Jan. 11, 2014.](#) Teresa Wenum did a fantastic job of getting the word out about this event. There was terrific media coverage. Unfortunately, the weather was not very good that day and so participation was not as high as we had hoped. Thanks to everyone who offered to host events: Lone Pine State Park, Audubon with Flathead NF-Swan Lake RD (at Blacktail Trails), Glacier National Park, and Whitefish Legacy Partnership- at Stillwater Nordic Center. **The Swan Ecosystem has re-scheduled their event for Feb. 8, 2014. It will still be at the Holland Lake Day Use Area, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Bring your own snowshoe or a limited number of children and adult snowshoes are available by reservation. Join a "trail trek" geared for the whole family, warm up by the fire with a cup of hot cocoa. There will also be an adult snowshoe trek on Feb. 18. This event will have beginning/intermediate outing from 11-1 and an Advance outing from 2-4 p.m., both at Holland Lake Day Use Area. For more information and to reserve snowshoes, contact the [Swan Ecosystem Center](#), 406-754-3137.

4. [The Montana Environmental Education Association \(MEEA\)](#) The MEEA Conference is in Butte this year, March 20-21, 2014. The website has a link for scholarships for people to help defray the costs of attending. There are also grants available to teachers and forms for that can be found on the website.

MEEA is looking for a representative for our region. Please contact Diann Ericson at mdm@blackfoot.net if you are interested.

5. The [Watershed Sourcebook](#) project to develop middle school curriculum materials to complement the Sourcebook is still on-going. Michael Brody, from MSU Education Department is willing to work with Flathead CORE on this. The Sustainability Fund and the Flathead Conservation District have put in some seed money to get the project going. The committee is working with Michael on doing a Delphi Survey to find out what are the key issues we really want to teach (Phase 1). This January an educator contact list is being developed for the survey. Then phase 2 will be using information from the survey to develop the materials. Phase 3 is piloting the materials with workshops. Phase 4 is to produce the final product.

This will create a product created with input from educators in the community and that will be a powerful tool.

6. GHS Outdoor Adventure PE Class – Pete Bly, a new Phy Ed teacher at Glacier High School has created a class for students more interested in the usual fitness offerings. He has tied it in with the fitness based standards. The administration gave him a day each quarter to get the students out on a field trip. Class time is noon – 12:50 each day (with lunch after so he could extend the class period and bring bag lunches). He is looking for guest instructors or others who might be interested in assisting with messages that he can weave in (LNT, conservation, appreciation of local flora/fauna). If you are interested in helping with the class, contact Pete Bly at blyp@sd5.k12.mt.us, phone is 715-554-0349, or Teresa Wenum from Flathead National Forest, twenum@fs.fed.us will pass on information to him.

7. Imagine IF – the [new library system](#) has a new name and a lot of changes. It's self check-out now in Kalispell Library. They are working on community-based events and have a new outreach person, Megan Glidden. She couldn't make it tonight. She wants to get hooked in with CORE. They're building a chicken coop on the floor of the library in April and will have talks about sustainable living and even bear safety. We're looking forward to working with Megan out resource education programs.

8. The Flathead CORE trunk workshop would have to be August 11-12 or 15th to be part of the [NW MT Ed. Cooperative's Summer Institute](#) (Monday, Tuesday, or Friday). Wednesday is the Reading Conference and Thursday is Math Conference. If it is part of the Summer Institute, Eliza Sorte would help us to find a location. We just need to have someone MC the day. Laura thinks she could do that. Kathy Martin will check with Eliza Sorte on if we can be part of the Institute and do the trunk workshop on August 12. Kathy agreed she could send out an email to the trunk presenters that we had set up for last November to see if August 11-12 would be better for them. It's 6 OPI credits and is usually 9 a.m. –

3 p.m. We will use the same agenda and have the same presenters. Another thought was to see if Eliza would include it in the Institute if we did it the following Monday, August 18, once the Flathead County Fair was over.

9. Jane Kapler Smith is available to reschedule the [FireWorks](#) Workshop but not until she returns from sabbatical in May or in summer 2014. It is also another possibility (we think) for during the Summer Institute with the [NW MT Education Cooperative](#). She needs a local contact to help organize and to be there that day to help with certain parts of it. Since everyone here is busy during that August week, Teresa thinks the PIR days in October would work best for herself and others to help.

10. Spring events – Mary Jo said she will contact FVCC to see what they are planning for spring events and Earth Day.

- [Forestry Expo](#) (May 5-9, 2014) -
- [Fish Fun Fair](#) (Creston Fish Hatchery) – (late May)
- [Flood Awareness Day](#) (late April- check with Flathead Conservation District)
- [COCEEC meeting April 8](#) at SEC with Wilderness theme
- [Wilderness Celebration Events](#) – April 10 BMWF speaker at FVCC.

15. Round Robin:

-Possibly a [Wilderness Investigations Workshop](#) at Glacier Institute Field Camp in Glacier National Park again this fall 2014. This was a really well-received workshop and Laura will contact MWA and Glacier Institute to see if they want to host another one for 2014.

-Speaking of Wilderness, the USFS has been planning events for the 50th anniversary next year. Teresa Wenum provided a handout listing the activities/events for local Wilderness Celebration events for the 50th anniversary in 2014. Perhaps the teacher Wilderness Workshop could be fit in with those other events? Laura will look into applying again for a COCEEC minigrant and see if the Glacier Institute has space at Field Camp. The national 50th anniversary website is <http://wilderness50th.org/>

Other 50th events:

-Bob Marshall Speaker Series starts tonight, with them of 50th

-Kathy Martin- the annual children's art show theme will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the anniversary of establishment of the territory of MT, 150 years ago - "[MT Wild and Wonderful](#)". Entry forms are available now from the museum's website and artwork needs to be at museum by Feb. 22, 2014.

In other news:

- Smokey Bear turns 70 this year in August. [Check the website for information about that event.](#)

- [Audubon has](#) a new owl education trunk available for loan. They also are hosting “Audubon Families” program this year to promote multi-generational activities. Especially with the turnout for Raptor Day. So there would be a combination of outdoor and classroom stuff. Dates and activities TBA. The Audubon website is under a transition but information will be forthcoming.

-Glacier NP and the Glacier Institute still hope to conduct another Climate Change Teacher Workshop in June. The workshop will be announced by mid-February. The climate change teacher resource guides that were created are available for free from the park on USB sticks. Contact laura_law@nps.gov or Melissa_sladek@nps.gov to request the guide.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2014 also at the [Flathead Conservation District Office](#).