

Flathead CORE March 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Participants (let me know if I forgot anyone!): Amy Grout (Lone Pine SP), Mary Jo Gardner (Retired Teacher), Kari Musgrove (Flathead Conservation District), Laura Law (Glacier NP), Laurie LaPan (teacher at Deer Park), Kathy Martin (Hockaday), Teresa Wenum (Flathead National Forest), Heidi Sedivy (Flathead Lakers, FBC, and MEEA), Carla Belski (Whitefish Legacy Partners), Joyce Baltz (Glacier Institute); Tyler McRae (Big Creek); Sheena Pate (for Road Scholar); Melissa Sladek (CCRLC)

1. CORE- website –

Lone Pine SP covered the yearly hosting fee which was due March 18, 2014. It was \$71.88. Thanks 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 will work on adding a form to the website for providers to fill in if they have an event they want posted.
- Mary Jo will share the responses she got from the emails about updating local providers with Laura. Patti Mason is still helping on her own time to finish up some of the website updates. Thanks Mary Jo and Patti!

2. Flathead Sourcebook Middle School Curriculum -

Heidi updated everyone on the Flathead Sourcebook watershed education project to develop middle school curriculum materials to complement the Sourcebook. Michael Brody, from MSU Education Department is working with Flathead CORE on this. This is a big partnership project that includes: Flathead National Forest, Flathead Conservation District, the Lakers and Flathead Basin Commission, and Whitefish Lake Institute. 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 about the watershed are (Phase 1). This phase started in January 2014 with contacting educators for the survey. Then in phase 2, a draft curriculum, will be created hopefully by late spring or early summer 2014. DNRC and FCD have already helped to fund phase 2. So far \$11,000 out of \$25,000 total has been raised. Phase 3 will be piloting the materials with workshops. Then phase 4 is to produce the final product.

This will create a product by educators in the community and that will be a powerful tool. We plan this to be a model for other watershed educators.

3. [The Montana Environmental Education Association \(MEEA\)](#) Conference -

The MEEA Conference is in Butte this year, March 20-21, 2014. The website has a link for the conference, awards, and mini-grants for teachers. Laura worked with Teresa, Melissa, Jami Belt (Glacier NP) and Patti to submit Lori Ortley from Flathead High School for the Educator of the Year Award, and it was announced on March 19 that Lori won! Hurrah!

Flathead Region 1 is going to host the 2015 MEEA conference and Heidi is helping to plan it, March 19-20, 2015. We discussed making it Friday- Saturday instead of Thursday-Friday to enable more teachers to be able to attend. There were suggestions for locations: [Whitefish Lake Lodge](#), [Kwatagnuk](#) in Polson, [Lubrecht](#), one of the church camps on Flathead Lake, or even the [Flathead Biological Station](#). Amy said she can check with the biological station and get the camp director's names for the [Lutheran](#) and [Presbyterian](#) Camps. If anyone else has suggestions or wants to help with planning the conference, please contact Heidi at limnal.heidi@gmail.com.

4. Flathead County Science Fair –

Laurie Lapan is asking for feedback about how the science fair went in the new location with two different dates. How was the space for the displays? How did the activities work out? Was the communication for the event sufficient? Please call Laurie with your comments at Deer Park School, 892-5388. Please contact her before the end of the school year.

5. Earth Day Event Planning –

Flathead Community College will be hosting an event on Saturday, April 19, 2014. Mary Jo will call to find out more information about what the event will be. Carla noted that Conservation Roundtable was also talking about doing an Earth Day Event and said she could find out more about if that was something CORE might participate in if the FVCC event doesn't fit.

6. The Flathead CORE trunk workshop

Kathy got feedback from the trunk presenters that we had set up for last October 2013 and most could not do August 2014. She will follow up with Eliza Sorte to see if we did it on October 16, 2014 if there would be space at the Coop Office (Linderman School) or if she could help us to find another location convenient for teachers. The workshop is 6 OPI credits and is usually 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Kathy will continue to coordinate with Eliza to get it on PIRnet asap that it is going to be Thursday, October 16, 2014.

7. Wilderness Teacher Workshop 2014

Laura did submit another [COCEEC](#) mini-grant to conduct another Wilderness Investigations Workshop at Glacier Institute Field Camp in Glacier National Park on Sept. 13-14, 2014. This was a really well-received workshop and Laura did find out that [MT Wilderness Association](#) would work with COCEEC if it gets funded to help cover some of the cost. The agenda for the workshop will be the same as last year with Sunday a time for teachers to do some trail work with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation in the forest.

8. [FireWorks Teacher Workshop](#)-

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 be there that day to help with certain parts of it and everyone here is busy during that August week. The PIR days in October would be best for us.

Round Robin:

[Lone Pine](#) – the program schedule for the whole year is on their website. They will have something going on every weekend starting in May. On April 5, they will have a workshop about floating rivers and will host an Earth Day Event on April 19th. They are also planning an Arbor Day planting with Peterson School at Lone Pine. Amy will get the full schedule up on the CORE website.

[Hockaday](#) – children's art exhibit is up with a focus on Wilderness until the end of the month. The summer plein air paint-out in June 18-19-20 and they will be able to go wherever they want in the valley. [Flathead Audubon](#) will be collaborating on bird artwork

for summer event.

Road Scholar - Sheena Pate (representing Road Scholar for Steph Paidas, 406-890-4990) – Road Scholar is looking for a couple of people to lead groups this summer. Call Steph if you are looking for a great summer job.

Glacier Institute- Next event is April 3, Conrad Mansion, John Ashley doing Harlequin Duck talk. The Institute got a contribution to run a week-long program a non-native, invasive species symposium for high school students. Tyler will be getting out more information for students to apply. The symposium will be the week of June 22-25, 2014. They will have openings for 11-12 grade students and will learn about invasive plants, fish, and insects.

Flathead Conservation District – Flood Day event is April 24, 2014 this year – at the Expo Building at the Fairgrounds, in Kalispell. It is usually about 100 -9th graders. *Flathead Living* magazine will have an interview/article about the 1964 flood. This is the 50th anniversary of that event. There are oral interviews completed about the flood and Kari is just working on getting information made available to the public. There will be another event on June 5th about the Blackfeet impressions/ accounts of the flood.

Flathead Lakers – Heidi is looking for their “Becoming Watershed Citizens” events on May 22 and May 27, and they might be adding Bigfork on May 21st. It is at the Flathead Biological Station and they need 15 volunteers/day. They have various grades visiting six stations (wildlife, hydrology, food web, pond macro and stream macro), 3rd grade (Bigfork), 5th grade (Polson, Ronan).

Heidi also mentioned that *High Country News*– is having an essay contest due at end of month for “travel nightmares” in the Northern Rockies. Could be a chance for student you know to send in their story for the contest.

Whitefish Legacy Partners – Will be getting Whitefish H.S. students out on the trail doing stations with help from : DNRC, MT Cons. Corps and others- on April 30, 2014. Also for Whitefish M.S. they will be having a MT biking, hiking and running on trail with a physical education connection.

They have a new event with an art connection that will be upcoming at Stumptown Art Studio doing art projects outside. Check their website as details are TBA.

They also plan to have again this summer, “Evenings on the Whitefish Trail “ and are still developing all the topics.

The big news is that they are developing a pavilion on the trail that can have 7-9 picnic tables that you have to hike into. Instead of taking the trail to the lookout, take the trail to the road and overlook. The next meeting about the pavilion planning is scheduled for April 8, 2014 if other folks are interested in getting involved. The Rotary Club has contributed a significant amount toward this project.

Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center – Glacier National Park – They will be partnering with the **Glacier Institute** to conduct a third climate change teacher workshop this summer at the Glacier Institute Field Camp. There are 18 openings. Teachers can apply until April 11, 2014. The Citizen Science high school program is still

going on with Jami Belt. Melissa Sladek is going to provide a “climate change” hike in the park as a special request for groups this summer. If you are interested, email her at Melissa_sladek@nps.gov

[Glacier National Park](#) – The [Glacier National Park Conservancy](#) is partnering with the park and accepting artwork until April 11 for the student “Annual Pass Artwork Contest.” Details and application forms are available on the [park website](#). The winner’s artwork will appear on the park’s annual pass which is sold to more than 14,000 people each year!

[Flathead Basin Commission](#) – there is funding for Heidi to take their new high school Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) trunk to schools. Contact Heidi if you are interested in having her present the trunk in your school.

[Flathead NF](#) – 50th Wilderness Anniversary events have been planned for this region and can be seen on the website. The forest will have a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) high school group this year and they are taking applications from students 15-18. The crew will be based out of Hungry Horse for 8 weeks.

[Forestry Expo](#) is scheduled for May 5-9 , 2014

The next [COCEEC](#) meeting is April 8 at Swan Ecosystem Center (SEC).

[Creston Fish Hatchery](#) has had a huge cut in staffing so it seems unlikely that they will host the spring “fish days” event this year. No one had any more information on this.

The next CORE meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at the Flathead National Forest Supervisor’s Office, 4-5:30 p.m.