

## Flathead Community of Resource Educators – November 6, 2019 Meeting Notes.

- Introductions, in attendance: Teresa Wenum, Dillon Tabish, Sheena Pate, Monica Elser, Kathy Martin, Casey Lewis, Hailey Graf, Melisa Sladek, Brian Schwartz
- [Flathead Watershed Through the Seasons](#), teacher trng. – Sept. session at Bio Station
  - Great turn out, shared new AIS activities and trunk, worked on photo voice where they take pictures around the watershed and share what it means to them, went out on Flathead Lake to do water monitoring, got good feedback overall
  - Should be a piece in the next Flathead Bio Station newsletter about the workshop
  - Workshop will happen again next year; registration will open up in a few months
- Trunk workshop
  - Went really well, 14 teachers participated, mostly elementary school teachers. All teachers from St. Matthews school. Feedback was positive with most teachers reporting they would likely use the trunks in their classrooms.
  - This year, instead of a scavenger hunt to explore trunks, teachers picked up to two trunks to explore and answer questions about the trunk (Would you use this in your classroom, why or why not? What are any drawbacks to using the trunk? What could make it better? What are the benefits to using this trunk? How long would you need it?) Laura captured teacher feedback on a whiteboard. This was a useful exercise to help share information and feedback. One of the suggestions was to have an online calendar or checkout system and that the trunks should be checked out for at least two weeks at a time. Other suggestions include having the lesson plans online and an online reservation system, a way to get trunks delivered, and to have fewer reference books in the trunks.
- Winter Trails Day
  - Based off the national winter trails day, but the national focus is now on Learn to Ski and Snowboard month. Still do a Winter Trails event for our area, with our own goals to encourage people to get outdoors in winter. Teresa and Brian will coordinate with partners to see if we want to continue this year.
- Website updates
  - GoDaddy is our website host but our contract is expiring in March. Hailey will propose to FCD for paying for the website updates. Laura and Hailey will meet on November 26<sup>th</sup> to try and update the contract. Hailey proposed idea to create CORE sharepoint site through Outlook, place to keep and archive CORE event/project info., materials.
- The next CORE meeting will be January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm at Sacred Waters
- Round Robin
  - Montana public lands [travel grants for teachers through MontanaEEA.org](http://travel.grantsforteachers.through.MontanaEEA.org)

- Field trip grant funds for teachers. Grant part of the National Park Foundation's Open Outdoors for Kids program. Funding left available. The emphasis is for 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Master naturalist program
  - Brian and Derrick Rathe are working to get the ball rolling on getting a program rolling. They are looking into doing program in partnership with Swan Valley Connections to share the hosting.
- Avalanche Beacon park at Lone Pine this winter.
- AIS summit coming up next month, December 4-5<sup>th</sup> in Helena at Carroll College. More information on the <https://cleandraindry.mt.gov/> website
- Crown management partners are working to create a "state of the crown of the continent" report. Won't be a political document but will be similar to what has been done for some national parks in the past.
- Science on tap is now on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month.
- Hockaday has a new Executive Director. The official welcome will be a [free day, open house](#) to the Museum, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Children's art exhibit will be in January.
- Flathead Bio station, City of Kalispell, and Flathead Conservation District are all getting Big Sky Watershed Corps members.
- Citizens for a Better Flathead is re-organizing, new board became effective Nov. 4. With changes in the organization, Climate Smart Glacier County is looking into helping to take over some of the education and outreach programs that they were doing, such as Earth Day.
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders! Get your [Every Kid Outdoors](#) pass, bring the pass and an adult family member to your local Forest Service office to pick up a free Christmas Tree permit! Permits will be available end of November.
- [The Magic Carpet Made of Steel](#) performance by Bill Rossiter at the Hockaday Museum of Art, Nov. 14.