

Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 - 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. (includes catered light supper)
Peace River Provincial Building (9621-96 Avenue) – Main floor Meeting Room

AGENDA

- Dinner service** 5:00 p.m.
- A) Welcome and introductions** *Terry Kosabeck, Facilitator* 5:15 p.m.
Review of agenda
- B) New / Old Business** *Terry Kosabeck, Facilitator* 5:20 p.m.
- Dec 7, 2016 Meeting notes (Errors/edits and adoption).
 - Dec 7 Action Item– Forest Stewardship Reports & Action Plans (Status of: 1. Draft Gov policy *FMP Stewardship Reporting Directive* 2. ETA for Gov release {PAC copies} of DMI Reports for 2009-13, 2014) –*Gord/Wayne*
- C) Area sawmills update** (current initiatives info share) - *Westside mills & Eastside mills*
Business Arising – Q/A 5:30 p.m.
- D) Alberta Gov't update** (current initiatives info-share) 5:40 p.m.
Al Benson, Alberta Government
- E) Presentations: 1. Regional Recreation-trails Initiative 2. Arctic Grayling Status & Sustainability** 5:50 p.m.

This evening will offer insights into 2 interesting local activities embedded within and beyond DMI Forest Management Area tenures, which speak to multiple values and natural services flowing from local boreal forests. *Public access* to the landscape and *sustainable fisheries* are examples of fundamental elements receiving consideration within Canadian sustainable forest management policy, Alberta policy, Alberta forest management plans and practices on Alberta public lands.

In both cases, authority and direct-management responsibility for recreational initiatives and biodiversity (species) aspects rests with government. They are 2 examples among multiple *natural resource values* inherent within industry tenure allocations. Their consideration and integration with other values associated with the provincial economy is both important and challenging in seeking balance across economics, social values and risks to environment, in an era of changing climate.

PAC members expressed interest in better understanding the fundamentals and broader Alberta systems influencing stewardship approaches across land, forest, water & biodiversity. PAC dialogue reflects a curiosity intersecting ecological science, policy, management efforts, as well as industry practices linked to Alberta policies and standards.

Presentations tonight will overview shared stewardship efforts occurring in the region through examples of community-group voluntary initiatives as well as a collaborative effort of government, science community and a delegated wildlife conservation organization. These will illustrate systems, monitoring and checks in-place that work toward sustainability and wide-ranging uses of public forest landscapes.

Topic-1: Regional Recreation-trails Initiative –Peace Valley Snow Riders

Dwayne Buchholtz -Peace Valley Snow Riders
Director -Trail Development & Operations Chair

5:55 p.m. – 6:25 p.m.
(incl. 10 min Q/A)

Established in 2009, this community-group has come together to voluntarily champion development of a northern network of skidoo trails for a region with high interest in off-road winter recreation. They work diligently to promote responsible & safe snowmobiling in coalition with the Alberta Snowmobile Association and have collaborated with a collection of stakeholders including industry and government in the establishment of selected trails across a large landscape. Such stewardship efforts are part of the solution in reducing footprint of the sport across environmental damage risk, limiting distribution of wildlife sensory disturbance and reducing private land trespass issues.

The presentation with cover; The group's history and membership, Why a "designated" trail system, Club accomplishments, and Momentum in plans to expand the completed trail network further.

Break

6:25 p.m. – 6:35 p.m.

Topic-2: Arctic Grayling –Status, Management & Sustainability

Alberta Environment & Parks, + Alberta Conservation Association

6:35- 7:35p.m.

Chris Briggs / Josef Macleod (EAP Fisheries Biologists) (a coordinated presentation incl. 15 min Q/A)
Paul Hvenegaard (ACA -Northwest Regional Manager)

Arctic Grayling was identified by PAC as a local species of particular interest, drawing from a history of local interaction with this species and a general interest in its sustainability under combined influence of sport fishing, human development in the region and climate change uncertainties.

This presentation will overview the science, Alberta policy & collaboration guiding fisheries management and strategies for this aquatic species. It will lend insight into current state-of-knowledge and practical messages from Alberta research as well as the monitoring/surveys that manifest ultimately in Provincial policy, in Alberta management strategies and in complementary activities of the ACA and Alberta government for Arctic Grayling sustainability. This presentation will cover:

- *Basic ecology and distinctions of this species, and its official status in Alberta*
- *Synopsis of northwest Alberta Grayling inventories and gaps (baseline)*
- *Historic trends on Grayling presence/absence in northern Alberta locations*
- *Clarification of Grayling management & monitoring roles (Alberta EAP roles, ACA roles)*
- *Science examples contributing knowledge on species status, scoping the challenges, and forming guidance for species-management efforts*
- *Accounting for effects of seasonality in; Grayling populations, Habitat-quality (Drought : Precip.)*
- *Climate change impact assessments on fisheries*
- *Linking Grayling to Alberta's Fish Conservation and Management Strategy aspirations*
- *ACA work with Arctic grayling (e.g. watercourse crossings and fragmentation studies)*
- *Linking Provincial management goals (Grayling) to: Field standards for industry (aquatic & riparian protection), Sport-fishing rules, and Land Use management of the White Zone : Green Zone.*

Q/A period (15 min)

7:20pm

F) Next Meeting - TBD

7:35 pm