



Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting

Wednesday, May 25th, 2016 - 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	<i>Terry Kosabeck, Facilitator</i>	5:15 p.m.	5 min
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of agenda		
B) Business carried over & new	<i>Terry Kosabeck, Facilitator</i>	5:20 p.m.	10 min
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>March 2, 2016 Meeting notes</u> (errors/edits, and adoption)<u>PAC 2015 Satisfaction Survey</u> – Amber (Status/responses to 2015 survey of process quality anchored to PAC Terms-of-Reference, VOIT Indicator #47)		
C) Area sawmills update (current initiatives info share)			
Westside mills & Eastside mills		5:30 p.m.	10 min
Business Arising – Q/A			
D) Alberta Gov update (current initiatives info-share)		5:40 p.m.	5 min
	- <i>Al Benson, Alberta Gov</i>		
Break		5:45 p.m.	10 min
E) Presentations – <i>Natural disturbance-inspired “ecosystem-based management” and EMEND Forest Research Station (science guiding forest practices & government policy)</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>Guests & Topic Introduction</u> – <i>Jim Witiw, DMI</i>	5:55 p.m.	10 min

Ecosystem-based approaches to forest management (EBM) & tree retention in harvest blocks originated as an innovative shift in forestry 25-years ago in the Pacific Northwest (USA & BC).

Biological & structural legacies (live & dead trees) that survive variably under natural disturbances are essential to forest health, habitat, and recovery processes in upland & wetland/riparian forests. Emulating them as a coarse-filter tool has seen gradual adoption elsewhere in North America and around the globe (Europe, Scandinavia, Australia). Science continues to guide & test its effectiveness as one component of sustainability for conservation of ecological processes.

A standard of practice & policy in this new forest management paradigm continues to evolve nationally and in Alberta. “EMEND” is an *internationally* respected science investment giving northwest Alberta a reputation for research excellence and influencing on-the-ground practices.

DMI was a co-founder.

6:05 p.m. 90 min

Guests (University of Alberta, ALES Faculty) – Dr. Ellen Macdonald, Dr. Colin Bergeron

1. Theory & science rationale for linking forest management to natural disturbance

Offers an orientation to northern wildfires & beaver as two (2) readily observed agents of forest change and renewal. Distinctions between human harvest-design and wildfire, fire diversity (stand-replacing & stand-altering fires), and northern Alberta fire history messages (landscape-scale patterns mosaic & tree-ring evidence).

- What is “structure”?
- What is resiliency?
- What is coarse-filter, fine-filter?
- The hypothetical roles of variable-retention harvest legacies for conservation of ecological process?

Ecosystem-based management (EBM) stewardship approaches may be a partial solution to Alberta cumulative effects issues, carbon, climate change adaptation and sustainability of ecosystem services.

2. EMEND Research Program –A study of boreal ecosystem response & resiliency

Insight into an innovative, long-looking Alberta science investment & partnership assisting boreal stewardship.

- What is EMEND? Design history.
- What species does EMEND investigate (diversity of studies)?
- How are local EBM approaches measured for efficacy at the species or biological community-response level?
- Are long-term changes monitored for comparisons to undisturbed biodiversity (controls)?
- Are singular forest management targets more important or are “ranges” of resilience?
- Are site, stand or landscape scale aspects more important, or equal?
- Is fine-filter more important than coarse-filter, or are both needed?
- The distinction between preventative pro-active approaches to risk, and curative approaches (e.g. at-risk species recovery effort).

a. Q/A period 7:30 p.m. 20 min

F) Next Meeting 7:50 p.m. 10 min

- **Summer Date**(July?) Meeting Place & logistics / Meeting topic/theme - PROPOSED: *field visit/tour of the EMEND forest research station*
- **Fall Date** (Sept?) , Meeting Place & logistics / Meeting topic/themes -PROPOSED:
i) General interest theme; *“Hines Creek Trail” initiative* (Peace Valley Snow Riders - Dwayne Buchholtz),
ii) *Forest Stewardship Reporting update* (DMI-Wayne Wasiliew); 2009-13 Period Action Plans (missed targets) + 2014 Results

Biographies of Guests:

Dr Ellen Macdonald <https://www.ualberta.ca/~emacдона/index.html>



Dr. Macdonald has received the Canadian Institute of Forestry - Scientific Achievement Award recognizing her contributions to sustainable forest management in Canada. She also has received numerous teaching awards at the U of A for her mentoring talents.

She leads a lab focus on Forest Ecology & Plant Biodiversity for the Conservation Biology program within Renewable Resources Dept, Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental sciences. Her research interests are diverse: factors influencing biodiversity of understory plant communities (vascular and non-vascular), redevelopment of understory plant communities after natural disturbance or forest harvesting, land reclamation, regeneration processes and successional dynamics of boreal mixedwood forests, effects of forest management practices and parks traffic on understory plants, restoration ecology in northern ecosystems and new technologies for detecting biodiversity richness (e.g. LiDAR, Wet Areas Mapping). She is a senior researcher supervising a number of graduate student science projects in EMEND's history including Masters, Doctorate and Post-Doctorate Fellowship students. She also served until 2012 as the Faculty's Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Studies)

Dr. Colin Bergeron

<http://www.rr.ualberta.ca/CareerOpportunities/AlumniProfiles/Bergeron.aspx>



Dr. Bergeron is originally from the Gaspé Péninsula on east coast Québec. Colin came to Alberta 2001 to work on the EMEND research summer field crew near Peace River. That experience presented opportunity to engage his own research interests, seeking a Master's degree and eventually a PhD.

Since then he has become a Post-Doc Fellow, research associate and co-instructor, assisting also in the compilation of a textbook underway that will describe EMEND's initial decade of research findings. Colin's research interests focus on natural & human disturbances occurring in boreal landscapes and their effects on the health of vegetation, animal and society. He has walked the entire EMEND landscape studying the history of fire and insect infestations, seeking messages on boreal biodiversity patterns associated with the resulting forest mosaic shaped by these natural disturbances. He has been immersed in collaboration with provincial and federal governments, forest companies, and the general public visiting high schools, and public expositions in northwest Alberta sharing his observations. Besides his research interests he is a young father, still climbs trees, seeks out wild berries & fine beer, engages car restoration and is a talented fiddle player.