

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting December 10, 2015

Meeting held at the Provincial Tree Seed Center

Attendees: Brian Barber (Co-Chair), Mark Tamas (Co-Chair), Rob Guy, Mark Hay, Domenico Iannidinardo, Stephen Joyce, Scott King, Joe LeBlanc, Annette van Niejenhuis, Gernot Zemanek

Regrets: Gerry MacDougall, Chris Stagg, Michael Stoehr, Raoul Wiart

Others: Dave Kolotelo, Jeff Mycock, Al Powelson (phone), Heather Rooke, Margo Spence, Darrell Wood, Jack Woods

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Jack	Include an update on stocking standards in the March, 2016 FGC meeting agenda.
Annette, Stephen	Include an update on stocking standards in CTAC and ITAC meetings on seed supply and demand.
Annette, Stephen	CTAC and ITAC will look for opportunities to engage with ENGO reps
Scott, Joe, Gernot, Brian, Jack	Work with the appropriate private-sector groups, COFI, CLMA and ILMA to get nominations for replacements or renewals for FGC members whose membership terms have lapsed.
Brian, Jack	Reach out to Universities with forestry programs to seek renewal or new nominations for an academic rep on Council (UBC, UVic, UNBC).
Jack	Put FGC membership as a standing item for all June FGC meetings.
Stephen	ITAC is asked to review the report "Class A seed Supply and Demand Profiles for Interior Lodgepole Pine, Spruce, and Douglas-fir Seed Planning Units - Dec. 2015" and provide recommendations to the FGC.
Brian, Mark T.	On behalf of Council, draft a response to the October 15, 2015 letter received from the Vernon Seed Orchard Company.
Brian	Communicate FGC wishes regarding SCL CEO / FGC Program Manager recruitment with the SCL Board of Directors and continue to interface with the Board on this issue.
Industry members of Council	Speak to MFLNR executive about the need for succession planning in tree breeding programs.
Brian	Communicate with TAC chairs about the new Call process that will be used for non-Ministry projects not included in OTIP or the UBC Center for Forest Conservation Genetics funding.
Jack, Annette, Stephen, Michael	Organize overall 2016/17 LBIS Tree Improvement Program budget numbers in a matrix that shows projects and strategic objectives.
Brian	Council requests that TACs consider the new pest resistance Strategic Objective and bring forward actions in support of this objective. Brian will prepare a memo to TAC chairs with this request.
Darrell Wood	Prepare a listing, in spreadsheet format, of issues raised by FGC members during the LEAN review discussion for distribution to Council prior to the March, 2016.
Jack	Poll FGC members to find a meeting date in the first two weeks of March on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

Summary of Motions:

1. MOVED (van Niejenhuis / Iannidinardo) that the agenda is approved as presented. CARRIED.

2. MOVED (Leblanc / Zemanek) that minutes from the September 25, 2015 meeting are hereby approved. CARRIED.
3. MOVED (King / Barber) that the FGC accepts Stephen Joyce's resignation as PMTAC chair and thanks him for his service in this role. CARRIED.
4. MOVED (Joyce / Iannidinardo) that Dr. Ward Strong and Tia Wagner are hereby approved to jointly fill the role as Chair of the PMTAC effective immediately. CARRIED.
5. MOVED (Barber / LeBlanc) That the meeting is hereby adjourned. CARRIED.

Meeting called to order at 8:30 P.M. by Brian Barber (meeting chair)

- Noted by Jack Woods that proxy votes are held as follows: Mark Tamas for Chris Stagg, Brian Barber for Gerry MacDougall, and Stephen Joyce for Michael Stoehr.
- Heather Rooke, Tree Seed Center Manager was introduced and thanked for hosting the meeting.
- Heather welcomed FGC members and provided a safety briefing.
- Margo Spence was introduced. Margo begins her new position as Tree Seed Policy Officer with the FLNRO Tree Improvement Branch in January, 2016.

1. Agenda:

MOVED (van Niejenhuis / Iannidinardo) that the agenda is approved as presented. CARRIED.

2. September 25, 2015 minutes:

MOVED (Leblanc / Zemanek) that minutes from the September 25, 2015 meeting are hereby approved. CARRIED.

3. Old business and action items from September 25, 2015

The following action items were reviewed.

Responsibility	Action	Action taken
Jack	Consolidate harvest forecast data for the Pli PG, Pli BV, Pli CP, and Sx PG low seed planning units and send it to Chris Stagg and Jeff Mycock for review	Done
Chris Stagg, Jeff Mycock, Neil Spendiff	Review harvest forecast data in the seed supply/demand analysis conducted by VSOC companies in 2012/13 and respond to Jack regarding any changes by November 15, 2015.	Done
Jack	Put the issue of Licensee excessive Class B seed inventories on the December 2015 FGC meeting agenda	Deferred pending Silviculture committee report
Annette	Provide a statement of the steps followed by CTAC when preparing annual budget recommendations.	Done; sent as a separate document
Jack	Inform the BCSOMA representative that their request for financial support for the June 2016 meeting will be considered by Council during their March 2016 budget discussion	Done
Brian	Discuss with Provincial Chief Forester Diane Nicholls whether there should be an ENGO representative on Council.	Done
Brian, Jack	Initiate the process for FGC membership updates with the various constituency groups, as set out in FGC Bylaws.	Underway

Jack	Poll FGC members to consider how much support there is for a meeting to be held at the Provincial Tree Seed Center in the 2nd week of September vs. a conference call, and to set a date for the preferred meeting type	Done
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4. Announcements

Brian announced that Barry Jaquish will receive the ABCFP Climate Innovator award for his work with western larch. Council congratulated Barry.

Brian noted that because of commitments made through the Paris climate talks, it is possible that additional funding may come available for climate adaptation work in forestry.

Al Powelson noted that Forest Enhancement Program funding is currently being reviewed by Cabinet. Changes to the interior appraisal manual are likely to better accommodate increases in planting density (mostly Pli) for reasons of stand resilience, pests, and climate change.

Action: Include an update on stocking standards in the March, 2016 FGC meeting agenda (Jack).

Action: Include an update on stocking standards in CTAC and ITAC meetings on seed supply and demand (Annette, Stephen).

Mark Tamas noted that a report on seed supply, procurement, and ownership being prepared by an interior silviculture committee is not complete and will not come to the FGC until it is developed further.

Stephen and Annette announced that ITAC and CTAC meetings will be held in January and February.

5. FGC membership renewal process – Brian

The matter of including an Environmental Non-Governmental Organization (ENGO) rep on Council was discussed by Brian with Provincial Chief Forester, Diane Nicholls. As ENGO groups have never made a request directly to FGC. As ENGO's have not criticized the provincial forest genetics program, it is Diane's view that there is no need for an ENGO rep on Council. TAC Chairs are, however, welcome to invite ENGO reps to participate in TAC meetings.

Action: CTAC and ITAC will look for opportunities to engage with ENGO reps (Annette, Stephen)

The following action items were set up to facilitate renewal of lapsed memberships:

Action: Work with the appropriate private-sector groups, COFI, CLMA and ILMA to get nominations for replacements or renewals for FGC members whose membership terms have lapsed (Joe, Scott, Gernot, Brian and Jack).

Action: Reach out to Universities with forestry programs to seek renewal or new nominations for an academic rep on Council (UBC, UVic, UNBC). (Brian and Jack).

Action: Put FGC membership as a standing item for all June FGC meetings (Jack).

6. Interior seed supply/demand profile report – Jack

The report entitled "Class A seed Supply and Demand Profiles for Interior Lodgepole Pine, Spruce, and Douglas-fir Seed Planning Units" Dec 2015 was presented by Jack. After discussion, Council requested review of the report by ITAC.

Action: ITAC is asked to review the report "Class A seed Supply and Demand Profiles for Interior Lodgepole Pine, Spruce, and Douglas-fir Seed Planning Units - Dec 2015" and provide recommendations to the FGC (Stephen).

The letter to the FGC from the Vernon Seed Orchard Company board and manager, dated October 15, 2015 was discussed. Brian pointed out that SelectSeed only takes on new orchard investments with FGC approval as the Company's annual business plans must be reviewed and approved by the FGC.

Action: On behalf of Council, Brian and Mark will draft a response to the October 15, 2015 letter received from the Vernon Seed Orchard Company.

7. Breeding program succession update (standing agenda item) - Brian

Brian pointed out that 2 to 4 breeding technicians will be retiring in 2016. There is limited opportunity for overlap of new staff with experienced retiring staff. Members expressed concern over loss of experience and its potential set-back to BC's tree breeding and forest genetics research. Industry members agreed to raise this issue with Ministry executive when they have the opportunity.

Action: Industry members of Council will speak to MFLNR executive about need for succession planning in FLNR's tree breeding program. .

8. Climate-based seed transfer update (standing agenda item) - Brian

Greg O'Neill has completed a 2nd draft of the CBST technical report. This draft incorporates review comments. Margo Spence has been charged with leading the policy and implementation plans to incorporate this scientific framework.

CBST will be kept as a standing item on FGC meeting agendas.

9. Pest Management TAC chair - Stephen

Stephen announced his wish to formally resign as chair of the PMTAC. He nominated Ward Strong and Tia Wagner as joint PMTAC chairs.

MOVED (King / Barber) that the FGC accepts Stephen Joyce's resignation as PMTAC chair and thanks him for his service in this role. CARRIED.

MOVED (Joyce / Iannidinaro) that Dr. Ward Strong and Tia Wagner are hereby approved to jointly fill the role as Chair of the PMTAC effective immediately. CARRIED.

Council thanks Tia and Ward for agreeing to take on this important role.

10. Succession of the SelectSeed Company Ltd. CEO and the FGC Program Manager

Brian provided an update on the process the SelectSeed Company Ltd. (SCL) board is taking to manage succession for Jack Woods.

An in-camera session was held and all non-FGC members were asked to leave the meeting.

Brian will continue to interface with the SCL succession committee and Board of Directors on this issue. He will communicate to the Board that Council will need to be informed and to participate in how this role is filled.

Action: Brian will communicate FGC wishes regarding SCL CEO / FGC Program Manager recruitment with the SCL Board of Directors and will continue to interface with the Board on this issue.

11. Technical Advisory Committees and business planning for 2016/17: OTIP and external-to-government contracting requirements

Brian outlined provincial government financial administrative requirements that dictate how public funds can be allocated to projects. To meet these requirements, it was proposed that FLNR would issue a call for proposals for non-Ministry delivered projects. This call will be released as soon as

possible after approval of the FGC budgets and allocations (after April 1st of each year). Exemptions to this process are OTIP and the grant to the UBC Center for Forest Conservation Genetics.

To prepare for the new Call, TACs will need to identify projects and approximate budgets and submit these to the FGC for review, as has been done in previous years. Following FGC review, topic areas approved by the FGC will be put into the new Call. Proposals will be received from proponents and reviewed by committee(s) appointed through FGC process. Contracts will then be let for approved projects.

Action: Brian will communicate with TAC chairs about the new Call process that will be used for non-Ministry projects not included in OTIP or the UBC Center for Forest Conservation Genetics funding.

OTIP:

The OTIP call for proposals will be released on December 11th. There are no changes to this process from previous years. Thanks to Stephen, Annette, Darrell, and Jack for their work developing this new call.

Budget development:

Council requested that the upcoming budget numbers be presented so that the alignment of spending with FGC strategic objectives is more clear.

Action: Jack, Annette, Stephen, and Michael will organize overall 2016/17 LBIS Tree Improvement Program budget numbers in a matrix that shows projects and strategic objectives.

Action: Council requests that TACs consider the new pest resistance Strategic Objective and bring forward actions in support of this objective. Brian will prepare a memo to TAC chairs with this request.

12. Tree Seed Center tour

Heather Rooke and Dave Kolotelo led FGC members on a very informative tour of the Provincial Tree Seed Center. All TSC staff are thanked for the excellent tour.

13. LEAN review

Melanie Iwanow, introduced the LEAN review process (by phone). Darrell Wood led FGC members through an example of the process. This allowed Council members to provide input to determine priority issues for the coming year.

Action: Darrell will prepare a listing, in spreadsheet format, of issues raised by FGC members during the LEAN review discussion for distribution to Council prior to March, 2016.

14. March meeting

Domenico kindly offered to host the March meeting at the TimberWest offices in Nanaimo. This was accepted.

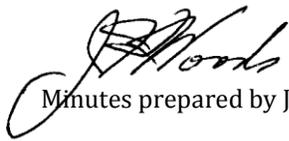
Action: Jack will poll FGC members to find a meeting date in the first two weeks of March on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

MOVED (Barber / LeBlanc) That the meeting is hereby adjourned. **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Next meeting: March, 2016, date to be determined.

Location Nanaimo.



Minutes prepared by Jack Woods