

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting October 13, 2016

Meeting hosted by Interfor, Campbell River, BC

Attendees: Brian Barber (Co-Chair), Shane Ford, Mark Hay, Domenico Iannidinaro, Scott King, Joe LeBlanc, Annette van Niejenhuis, Gernot Zemanek

Attending by phone or video: Jennifer Davis, Stephen Joyce, Raoul Wiart,

Regrets: Rob Guy, Gerry MacDougall, Mark Tamas (Co-Chair)

Others: Jack Woods

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Program Manager / ITAC chair	Follow-up to the report on interior seed need estimates using harvest flow data: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask ITAC members to review the report by November 20, 2016.• Review the report and discuss input at the December, 2016 FGC meeting. Decision by FGC in December to either support the recommendations or seek further ITAC input during their winter 2017 meeting.
Annette / Stephen with Prog. Manager support	Annette and Stephen will consult with orchard managers to get their perspective on whether OTIP support for cone induction and for pest management and monitoring should continue given the potential contradiction with OTIP objectives and the FGC principle that seed sales should pay for orchard operations.
Program Manager	Poll FGC members to find a date for a mid-December 2017 conference call and a face-to-face meeting in Richmond in March, 2017 (Program Manager).
Program Manager	The LEAN process and TAC structure will be revisited during the December 2016 Conference call

Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (LeBlanc / Zemanek) The agenda prepared for the meeting is hereby approved without changes. **CARRIED.**
2. **MOVED** (King / LeBlanc) Minutes of the meeting held June 27, 2016 are hereby approved with one typo correction noted. **CARRIED.**
3. **MOVED:** There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned (King / van Niejenhuis). **CARRIED.**

FGC meeting called to order at 8:00 A.M. by Brian Barber (FLNRO Co-Chair)

Brian chaired the meeting.

Introduction and welcome:

Joe LeBlanc welcomed Council to the Interfor office and reviewed safety procedures.

1. Review of agenda

MOVED (LeBlanc / Zemanek) The agenda prepared for the meeting is hereby approved without changes. **CARRIED.**

2. Council membership

Brian reviewed current FGC membership:

- Stephen Joyce has announced that he will not seek re-appointment as chair of the Interior Technical Advisory Committee. A nomination process for a new ITAC chair is currently underway. Stephen was sincerely thanked for his work as chair of ITAC for the past three years.
- Brian will be stepping down as FGC Co-Chair effective November 1, 2016. A process is being led by Diane Nicholls to replace Brian as FLNRO Tree Improvement Branch Director. It is likely that the new person will step in as FGC Ministry Co-Chair, but this decision will be up to Diane Nicholls.
- Gerry MacDougall will be stepping down as a FLNRO rep as his schedule no longer allows him time for this role. Nominations are being solicited for a new Regional operations rep.

3. Old business and action items

Jack reviewed action items outstanding from previous meetings, as follows:

Responsibility	Action	Action taken
March 10th meeting items		
Stephen (and Jack)	Set up and lead three workshops in key interior areas to inform local foresters about genetic resource management and to seek input on seed supply and demand	Not done; to be discussed
Jack	Prepare a clear motion on interior seed orchard expansions for FGC decision at the September, 2016 FGC meeting	To be presented
Jack	Review of OTIP eligibility (to be part of the LEAN process)	To be discussed
Brian / Shane	Recommendation for an additional \$300,000 of LBIS funds for "unfunded pressures" - status	To be discussed
June 27th meeting items		
Jack Woods	Develop and maintain a record of attendance and delegation of proxy, to be reported annually at June meetings under the standing item of FGC Membership .	Ongoing
Jack Woods	Put ITAC Chair membership on the agenda for the Oct 2016 meeting	Done
Henry Benskin / Jack Woods.	Designate and identify a point person for inquiries about the SelectSeed CEO position, and include it in the job ad prior to it being posted.	Done
Joe LeBlanc / Jack Woods	Finalize organization of the October meeting, including field trips and agenda.	Done

Discussion:

Regarding the \$300,000 LBIS budget shortfall. Brian said that no additional money has been received from LBIS to date. TIB staff are working to manage the shortfall and ensure that unused funds from any projects are quickly re-allocated to needed projects. Jennifer said that the Tree Improvement Program allocation is easily defended as it is a well-organized program. She stressed that there is always a need to articulate the "story" of the program, it's work, and how it relates to provincial government priorities.

MOVED (King / LeBlanc) Minutes of the meeting held June 27, 2016 are hereby approved with one typo correction noted. **CARRIED.**

4. SelectSeed Ltd. CEO recruitment

Brian Barber was congratulated for winning the competition for the SelectSeed CEO position.

On behalf of the SelectSeed board, Jack reviewed the following steps that were undertaken in the recruitment process:

- Review and document job functions (Nov. '15)
- Consider alternate staffing models / finalize preferred structure (early '16)
- Confirm structure and delivery model with FGC (March '16)
- Develop core competencies list and job description (May '16)
- Advertise position (June '16)
- Screen applicants against core competencies (August '16)
- Interviews (panel: Benskin, Carter, McGourlick) (Sept. '16)
- Offer and negotiate final employment contract
- Announcements (Oct. '16)
- Transition (Nov. '16 to April '17...)

It was noted that Brian Barber withdrew from the recruitment process on May 30, 2016 and all interactions with the SelectSeed Board were taken over by Mark Tamas as of this date. This was also reported to Council on the June 27, 2016 FGC Conference call.

5. FGC Business Plan document for 2016/17

Jack announced that the Business Plan for 2016/17 is completed and will be mailed to stakeholders as soon as possible.

6. FGC Annual Report for 2015/16

Jack reported on progress and indicators for the 2015/16 fiscal year. The Annual Report document is written and is currently waiting for final budget breakdown numbers from the FLNRO. It is anticipated that it will be completed and online by mid-November. A limited number of copies will be printed for anyone interested in receiving one.

7. Interior seed-need estimates using harvest flow data

Jack reported on an analysis of future seed demand in interior seed planning units that was done using harvest flow data from the Ministry's Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch. Based on this analysis, the following recommendations were made:

- Increase northern Pli orchard (BV, PG, CP) capacity by about 5,000 to 10,000 ramets, and work with the Pli breeder to incorporate rust resistance where available.
- Shift about 1,000 ramets of low-elevation orchard capacity to high elevation. Work with the Pli breeder to determine the best available parents and to incorporate rust resistance, where possible.
- Increase Pli EK orchard capacity by about 2,000 ramets.
- Increase Fdi NE low orchard capacity by about 600 ramets.

The following points were made during discussions:

- Changes to the Interior Appraisal Manual will tend to push planting density up. This should be included in the "Limitations and Error" section of the report.
- Council asked that the report be sent to interior TAC members to ensure that Licensees and MFLNRO foresters have an opportunity to review it.
- Any new orchards should be discussed with MFLNRO breeders to ensure the best available parent trees are used.

Actions (Program Manager / ITAC Chair):

1. Ask ITAC members to review the report by November 20, 2016.
2. Review the report and discuss input at the December, 2016 FGC meeting. Decision by FGC in December to either support the recommendations or seek further ITAC input during their winter 2017 meeting.

8. Interior GRM workshops

Previously discussed genetic resource management workshops at interior locations were reported on by Jack and Stephen. The workshops were to include information on breeding and orchard programs, as well as discussion on future harvest and seed needs in local areas. The plan was shelved, however, due to uncertainty with seed demand from new MFLNRO initiatives, including the Climate Action Plan, Forests for Tomorrow, the Forest Enhancement Program, and the Forest Carbon Initiative. All of these programs are expected to ramp up and will have a significant impact on seed demand. Until we have more information on these initiatives, it was felt the workshops should be delayed. Also, in a separate initiative, workshops on tree improvement and climate-based seed transfer are being held in 100 Mile House, Prince George, and Burns Lake on October 18, 19, and 20. These are being led by Nick Ukrainetz (MFLNRO lodgepole pine breeder) and cover part of the objective of the action item from March.

It was pointed out that this overlap of workshops suggests that there is a need for an overall communication strategy.

9. Standing items:

Succession planning:

Stephen pointed out that most FLNRO seed orchard technicians will be retiring within the next 4 years. He is working on a succession plan for this group.

Shane reported that he is developing a position to manage data for the Forest Genetics section in the Tree Improvement Branch. This person would support scientists with data management and also through interacting with other agencies on field site security. A succession plan is nearly

complete for the Forest Genetics section. Shane was asked if he would share this plan when it is done. Shane will consider this in consultation with the new TIB Director.

Climate-based seed transfer:

Brian provided an overview of CBST progress on behalf of Margot Spence. A Stakeholder Advisory Committee is currently meeting every two months.

10. Operational Tree Improvement Program:

Jack provided an overview of OTIP development and the current range of activities that are eligible, including:

- a. Orchard upgrades (grafting, holding, replacement planting, roguing)
- b. Supplemental mass pollination (SMP) under limited situations
- c. Cone induction (when seed is needed)
- d. Pest management and monitoring
- e. Specific technical project identified by TACs

It was pointed out that items a, b and e are consistent with stated OTIP objectives to boost seed quality and quantity, but items c and d are somewhat in contradiction with the stated FGC principle that seed sales will cover the cost of orchard operations. The question was asked whether items c and d should be paid by orchard operations and that doing so is a business decision for the orchard manager as the orchard operation benefits from any increase in seed production.

Action item: Annette and Stephen will consult with orchard managers to get their perspective on whether OTIP support for cone induction and for pest management and monitoring should continue given the potential contradiction with OTIP objectives and the FGC principle that seed sales should pay for orchard operations.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be a conference call in mid December.

The March 2017 meeting will be a face-to-face meeting to be held in Richmond.

Action item: Poll FGC members to find a date for a mid-December 2017 conference call and a face-to-face meeting in Richmond in March, 2017 (Program Manager).

Action item: The LEAN process and TAC structure will be revisited during the December 2016 Conference call (Program Manager / Alana Phillips).

MOVED: There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned (King / van Niejenhuis). CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon

Interfor is sincerely thanked for providing the meeting venue.

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods, and approved with revisions by FGC on December 14, 2016

Finalized by Brian Barber