

## MINUTES – December 14, 2016

Meeting held via conference call hosted by Tree Improvement Branch

**Attendees:** Pat Martin, Mark Tamas, Shane Ford, Mark Hay, Dan Peterson, Annette van Niejenhuis, Domenico Iannidinaro, Joe LeBlanc, Kori Vernier, Jeff Mycock, Scott King, Gernot Zemanek, Rob Guy, Raoul Wiart, Jennifer Davis.

**Regrets:** Mark Hay

**Others:** Brian Barber, Jack Woods, Pia Smets, Stephen Joyce, Margot Spence, Alana Phillips.

### Action Items

Responsibility	Actions
ITAC, CTAC and TIB OTIP Coordinator	Action OTIP Eligibility recommendations, and include statement in call for proposals for including measures of success.
Jack	Incorporate Type 4 Silviculture Strategies' species harvest data into the seed needs analysis.
ITAC	Confirm additional number of ramets required, if any, to meet future seed demand for the SPU's noted, and use CF Principles and annual business plan process to guide orchard expansions where and when deemed necessary.
Co-chairs	Review FGC representation/liasons on TACs at next meeting.
Brian	Contact Mark re BCTS's Richmond hotel for FGC's March meeting

### Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis/King) The agenda prepared for the meeting is hereby approved without changes. CARRIED.
2. **MOVED** (van Neijenhuis/LeBlanc) Minutes of the meeting held October 13, 2016, with minor corrections identified, are hereby approved. CARRIED.
3. **MOVED:** There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned (LeBlanc/Iannidinaro). CARRIED.

### Proceedings:

An agenda and several attachments were forwarded to members in advance via email. Heading #s below are the same as Item #s in the agenda.

Pat, Shane, Raoul, Jennifer, Brian, Alana, and Margot gathered at 727 Fisgard St, Victoria. All other attendee participated via conference call. Mark Hay sent regrets (travelling); no proxy was given.

There being a quorum of members entitled to attend and vote, and proper notice having been given, Pat Martin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

#### 1. Review of agenda

**MOVED** (van Niejenhuis/King) The agenda prepared for the meeting is hereby approved without changes. CARRIED.

## 2. Membership update

Pat welcomed new members appointed to council by Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester, for a 3-year term, effective Nov 3, 2016:

- Dan Peterson, Director, Forest Enhancement Program, as FLNR Regional Operations Rep (replacing Gerry MacDougall)
- Jeff Mycock, Chief Forester, West Fraser, as Interior Seed Producer Rep (replacing Chris Stagg)
- Kori Vernier, Silviculture Coordinator, Canfor, as Interior Tech. Advisory Committee (ITAC) Chair (replacing Stephen Joyce)
- Jennifer Davis, Director, Resource Practices Branch, as FLNR Land-based Investment Strategy *Ex-officio* Rep (new position)

Gerry MacDougall, Chris Stagg and Stephen Joyce were also thanked for their valuable contributions and service to FGC.

## 3. Minutes and Action items from October 13, 2016

**MOVED** (van Neijenhuis/LeBlanc) Minutes of the meeting held October 13, 2016, with minor corrections identified, are hereby approved. CARRIED.

Brian reviewed action items from the Oct 13, 2015 meeting and their status as follows:

Responsibility	Action	Status
Program Manager / ITAC chair	Follow-up to the report on interior seed need estimates using harvest flow data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask ITAC members to review the report by November 20, 2016.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	To be discussed
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.	To be discussed
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).	Completed
Program Manager	The LEAN process and TAC structure will be revisited during the December 2016 Conference call	To be discussed

## 4. OTIP Eligibility

Following a presentation by Jack Woods at the Oct. 13, 2016 meeting, FGC asked the CTAC and ITAC chairs to consult with their TACs and 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.

Annette reviewed the Coastal OTIP process, its rigor in identifying and approving eligible activities, and how the incremental investments have been beneficial and may not have otherwise occurred. Kori also received several responses advocating continuation of these important OTIP funding categories to increase seed yield and quality.

Mark questioned if funding these activities contradicts the principle of sales covering costs. Brian summarized rationale for continuing OTIP eligibility, opportunities for refinement, and recommendations based on feedback received from several persons.

Rationale for continuing funding...

- Activities are required to increase Kg and GW of select seed for SPUs where high quality seed is in short supply, and to help FGC meet its seed use targets
- OTIP call for proposals, other criteria and open review process restricts eligible activities
- OTIP facilitates information sharing and cooperation between orchard managers
- Orchard managers do not spend \$ on an approved activity if it is not required (e.g. no pests, no spray)
- Removing eligibility could compromise seed crops, orchards and the OTIP subprogram itself
- OTIP helps to compensate managers for unsold goods (unused lower gain seed displaced by production of higher gain seed).

Opportunities for improvements:

- ITAC OTIP eligibility table has been updated to clearly identify SPUs where increased select seed quantity and quality required, and limits OTIP proposals to SPUs and activities that boost seed production and/or GW.
- Measuring success and efficacy of activities undertaken and for continuous improvement (e.g. audits, annual reviews/reports).

Recommendations:

- Continue OTIP eligibility for SMP, cone induction and pest management activities
- Continue to refine eligibility of specific OTIP activities, and
- Develop methods to measure OTIP projects' efficacy and success.

Council agree with the above and requested the following action.

**Action:** ITAC, CTAC and TIB OTIP Coordinator to action recommendations, and include statement in call for proposals to include measures of success.

## 5. Seed Trends and Issues

Brian presented a series of facts, figures and trends respecting seed use - past and present – as background information for the next topic. Refer to agenda. Dan added additional information regarding the Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI) targets for the next 5 yrs (300,000 ha forest lands restored to sequester 11 million metric tonnes of carbon) and 10 years (an additional 800,000 ha). This program could require ~350M seedlings. Jennifer added additional information under item #6.

Dan and Jennifer indicated Diane Nicholls, as executive lead, and their staff are currently sorting out roles and responsibilities of the govt programs including FCI, Forest for Tomorrow (FFT), Forest Enhancement Program (FEP). Details, including funding, will be confirmed in the months ahead.

## 6. Interior Seed Supply and Demand

Jack provided an overview of the changes made to his seed needs analysis report since he last presented it to Council in October (report and powerpoint were provided with the agenda). Kori outlined the ITAC and others responses to the revised report and a conference call held on Nov. 29. Primary concerns were regarding pending changes in species demands due to climate change and harvest shifts, such as moving from Pli to Sx /Bl in the ESSF. Type 4 Silviculture Strategies projects spp harvest shifts for some TSAs. Jack has subsequently requested this data from the ministry. Jack also pointed out there considerable uncertainty regarding seedling demands for new government programs, and there is risk in doing nothing (i.e. not having sufficient seed to meet future demands).

Council discussed at length the report's original recommendations (orchard expansions for several SPUs), whether there is sufficient data, certainty and support to act upon these, especially in MPB impacted TSAs where the AAC is projected to decrease (significantly in some cases) and/or move away from Pli leading stands.

The Jan 2016 ITAC motion to proceed with establishing second generation Pli orchards, and the following proposed next steps (included in the agenda) were discussed:

- ITAC to continue to refine seed demand projections in consideration of Northern management units' Integrated Silviculture Strategies (forthcoming) to confirm # of additional ramets required
- Allow interior orchard managers to make adjustments to their orchards as they deem appropriate within the context of these recommendations, and request they inform others of their intention and plans as per Principle #5
- If SelectSeed subsequently proposes to expand or adjust its orchards, plans for such will be included in its Annual Business Plan for FGC's consideration and approval
- Incorporate new information and methodologies into FGC's annual business and species plans.

Following further discussion, Council supported these next steps, but did not believe it was its role to "allow" orchard managers to make adjustments (2<sup>nd</sup> bullet). Mark concluded the discussion with encouraging ITAC to do more work in order to make some good decisions.

**Action:** Jack to incorporate Type 4 Silviculture Strategies' species harvest data into the seed needs analysis.

**Action:** ITAC to confirm additional number of ramets required, if any, to meet future seed demand for the SPUs noted, and use CF Principles and annual business plan process to guide orchard expansions where and when deemed necessary.

## 7. Genetic Conservation TAC Strategic Plan 2015-2020

Pia Smets, CGTAC Chair, presented an overview of the third Strategic Plan for GCTAC. Plan and presentation were circulated in advance. The purpose of the plan is to guide conservation activities and investments over the next five years. The number of tree species in scope and performance indicators have been modified. Of note is UBC's work on updating the conservation catalogue, which

identifies protection status and *ex situ* collections by species and biogeoclimatic zones. An annual budget need of \$250k was identified for all conservation activities, including ongoing support of the UBC Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics.

Council expressed support for the new strategic plan and its new indicators. Mark asked GCTAC to identify on-going activities vs new activities in future budget requests, to better understand priorities. Annette also raised a question of FGC representation on GCTAC and other TACs.

**Action:** FGC (Co-chairs) to review FGC representation/liaisons on TACs at next meeting

## 8. TAC Structure and Business Planning for 2017-18

Brian reported that little progress has been made on reviewing FGC governance and TAC structure due to personnel changes over the past several months. Minor improvement have been made to the OTIP Call for Proposals process. TACs will therefore meet as before to prepare budgets for FGC's consideration with March, making improvements and adjustments as necessary. ITAC is scheduled for Jan 23-24 in Vernon. CTAC and other TACs to be scheduled.

## 9. Succession and Climate-based seed transfer

Standing items. Shane reported he is wrapping up a section succession and retention plan, to be reviewed with Pat Martin and Diane Nicholls. The data manager position was classified at the STO 24 level and recruitment is targeted for March 2017. A couple of staff are planning to retire in 2017.

Margot provided an update on the CSBT project – a presentation was circulated in advance. The revised target dates for early implementation of new policy: August 1, 2018 (to correspond with start of sowing requests) and full implementation by Aug. 2020. Next steps include stakeholder engagement with face-to-face meeting scheduled for January 2017. Margot, Susan Zedel and Leslie McAuley are also planning to retire ~2 yrs.

## 10. New Business

Pat reported LBIS expenditures for the Tree Improvement Program are anticipated to match the \$2.5M budget allocation for this fiscal year.

Dominico was congratulated for being selected by [Business in Vancouver](#) as one of BC's Top Forty under 40 outstanding professionals in 2016.

## 11. Next meeting

The annual face-to-face budget meeting will be held in Richmond on March 14, 2017. Details to follow.

**Action:** Brian to contact Mark re Richmond Hotel used for BCTS meetings

**MOVED:** There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned (LeBlanc/ Iannidinardo).  
CARRIED.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.

*Minutes prepared by Brian Barber/Alana Phillips. Approved by FGC on March 14, 2017*