

General Meeting of the Forest Genetics Council

10:30 am – 12:34 pm, Friday, June 14, 2019

Proceedings

This quarterly general meeting of FGC was held via conference call immediately following the AGMs of the BC Forest Genetics Society and Select Seed Company Ltd. Several participants gathered in person at the Kalamalka Forestry Centre in Vernon. Domenico chaired the meeting, confirmed its participants and called it order at 10:32 am.

Participants

Forest Genetics Council of BC:

Annette van Niejenhuis, Bevin Wigmore, Bill Laing, Bob Johnson, Dan Peterson, Domenico Iannidinaro, Juergen Ehltng, Mark Hay, Pat Martin, and Tony Hopkin.

Regrets (Proxy): Gernot Zemanek (Mark), Jeff Mycock, Kori Vernier, and Shane Ford (Pat),

Guests:

Select Seed Company Ltd: Brian Barber (CEO), Henry Benskin (President), Jim Burbee, Kerry McGourlick (Secretary), and Rod Willis.

Others: Shane Berg & Keith Thomas, Ministry of Forests, and Pat Bryant, Forsite Consulting

Summary of Motions:

Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held April 2, 2019 are hereby approved. Annette/Jurgen. Carried.

Motion: Members request that SelectSeed provide financial support to develop an FGC communication strategy. Annette/Bob. Carried.

Summary of Action Items:

Person(s)	Actions	Date
Brian	Request the Company's and Society's lawyer to review and identify options to streamline/simplify the Forest Genetics Council, BC Forest Genetics Society and Select Seed governance model.	Sept.
Brian	Prepare FGC's 2019/20 Business Plan (minus Species Plans) including the Ministry's LBIS \$ allocations by program and activity.	Sept.
Members	Provide Brian with written comments re Forsite's draft seed needs forecast project proposal.	ASAP
Brian, Annette and Juergen	Establish a committee to oversee the develop and implement of a communications consultant contract and plan	July
Brian	Work with members and others to prepare an FGC Achievement Award Nomination for Jenji Konishi.	Sept.
Members	Confirm attendance at Sept 12-13 meeting at Cowichan Lake with Brian so accommodation and meals can be arranged in advance	ASAP

1. Agenda

There being adequate notice served and a quorum of members present, Domenico called the meeting to order, welcome members and guests, confirmed regrets and proxies, and reviewed the agenda provided.

10:30	90	3. Forest Genetics Council	
	3	1	Welcome and Agenda Domenico (Chair)
	5	2	Safety Domenico
	2	3	3A Minutes from April 2, 2019 Domenico
	5	4	Action Items from April 2, 2019 Brian
	5	5	3B FGC Dashboard Brian
	5	6	LBIS Budget Update Pat Martin
	5	7	Climate-based seed transfer - Update Pat Martin
11:00	25	8	3C Seed Needs Forecasting Project Proposal Brian & Pat Bryant
	15	9	3D FGC Priorities for 2019/20 Brian
	5	10	New Business Chairs
	5	11	Next meeting – Fall Field Trip Cowichan Lake Brian
	5	12	In camera session Chairs
12:00		13	Adjournment
			<i>Optional Tour Kalamalka Forestry Centre</i>

Motion: The Agenda for this meeting is hereby approved. Bev/Bill. Carried.

2. Safety

Members were asked to report on any safety-related initiatives or concerns within the purview of FGC. Domenico conveyed story of a recent field tour bus incident, and recommended that off-pavement bus routes be scouted in advance, and to have a pilot vehicle and spill kit.

3. Minutes from April 2, 2019.

The draft minutes of the FGC meeting in Richmond on April 2, 2019 were circulated for review and edits.

Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held April 2, 2019 are hereby approved. Annette/Jurgen. Carried.

4. Action Items from April 2, 2015

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Brian	Provide link to AgSafe's VSOC video to FGC members.	Completed
Brian	Review safety systems in place at SelectSeed's seed orchards.	In progress
Annette and Kori	Review Hazard Alerts on BC Forest Safety Council website and share relevant ones with seed orchard managers.	Completed None identified
Annette and Kori	Add safety as a standing agenda item to CTAC/ITAC agendas	Next TAC mtgs

Annette and Kori	With TAC members' assistance, recommend a 'system' for sharing safety-related information amongst members and seed orchard managers.	In progress
Brian	Invite presentation from CoAdapTree project team on the results of their social research at a future FGC meeting.	Invited to December Meeting
Brian	Include actual Class A seedling request #'s, in addition to % select seed used, in the 2019/20 Annual Report.	In progress
Brian	Separate FGC and SelectSeed categories and metrics in next version of Dashboard.	See item 5
Brian & FGC	Share draft FGC interview report with FGC members via Google docs. Members to add/edit and discuss priorities and follow-up actions at its next meeting.	See item 9
Brian	Share Seed Planning Unit (SPU) Evaluation Priority Matrix used to guide breeding/seed orchard investments, and last updated in 2013, with FGC and post on website.	Completed See FGC Website
Brian	Forward FGC's recommended LBIS budget request and program allocations to Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester.	Completed April 12
Ministry (FIRM)	Adjust projects' funding levels based on total \$ allocated, feedback received from FGC and TACs, access to other funding sources, and potential for subsequent reallocation (i.e. risk management).	See item 6
FGC Co-chairs	Send notes of thanks to TAC chairs and committee members for their assistance with budget process	In progress
FGC	Discuss advocacy for a higher annual LBIS budget allocation at Sept meeting.	Add to Sept Agenda
Brian	Circulate FGC/SelectSeed/BC Forest Genetics Society slide presentation, the Society's Constitution and Bylaws, SelectSeed's Articles, and Society membership application forms to FGC members.	Completed
Brian	Compile FGC/Society/SelectSeed governance reference guide with links and annotations for June.	In progress See action below
FGC members	Provide comments on Discussion Paper: Managing Changes to Orchard Location, Size, and Composition (March 13, 2019) to Pat Martin.	In progress Comments still welcome
Brian	Post above discussion paper on Google Docs for members to add comments, see others', and add topic to June agenda.	As above
SelectSeed	Pursue its recommended next steps to establish a Pli orchard near Quesnel and report to FGC as appropriate	Status provided at SelectSeed AGM
Brian	Revise and circulate SelectSeed's proposed 2019/20 Business Plan to FGC members for their review and approval.	Completed May 9
Brian	Circulate notice of upcoming conferences and seminars to FGC and TAC members.	Completed
Brian	Issue Doodle Polls for June meeting, including SelectSeed and Society AGMs, and a fall field tour in September.	Completed

Action: Brian to request the Company's and Society's lawyer to review and identify options to streamline/simplify the Forest Genetics Council, BC Forest Genetics Society and Select Seed governance model.

5. Dashboard

An updated Dashboard was provided as a separate attachment. Brian provided an overview of changes made since April 2. Members found the Dashboard helpful as a means of tracking status of its objectives and projects, as well as those of SelectSeed. Topics of particular interest included CBST, updating Species Plans, identifying seed needs and gaps and extension.

6. LBIS Budget Update

On April 2, 2019, FGC recommended the following LBSI budget allocations to FGC's programs for fiscal 2019/20. This recommendation was conveyed to the Provincial Chief Forester on April 12.

FGC Program	FGC Recommends
Genetic Conservation	\$ 247,677
Tree Breeding (Volume & Pest Resistance)	\$ 1,779,800
Resilience (e.g. Climate Adaptation)	\$ 344,000
Operational Tree Improvement (OTIP)	\$ 335,255
Total	\$ 2,706,732

Pat and Keith Thomas provided a summary of LBIS allocations to various programs and projects. The following table was sent separately in advance.

Program	Sub-program	June 10 working allocation (\$)
Genetic Conservation	Ex-situ collections, etc (Kolotelo)	40,000
	WBP (Cartwright)	35,000
	WBP1 (Murray)	19,300
	WBP2 (Murray)	10,500
	WBP - (Aitken)	64,750
	Catalogue etc (Wang)	78,127
	Genetic Conservation sub-total	247,677
OTIP	FLNR Saanich	17,148
	FLNR Kal/Bailey	48,777
	FLNR Pest Man	39,283
	FLRN Skimikin	38,642
	Canfor Sechelt	13,965
	CropHealth	24,145
	Hansinger (Kettle)	4,976
	PRT Armstong	20,032
	Sorrento Nursery	4,408
	Canadian BioAct Technology	10,658
	Tolko	11,933
VSOC	74,135	

	WFP	27,153
	OTIP sub-total	335,255
	Hybrid Spruce	245,000
	Western Larch	186,000
	Douglas-fir (interior)	125,000
	White Pine (interior)	1,800
	Lodgepole Pine	257,268
	Ponderose Pine	33,000
Tree Breeding and	Western redcedar (Interior)	25,000
Resilience	Western redcedar (Coast)	354,000
	Douglas-fir (coast)	164,000
	White pine (coast)	26,000
	Hemlock	57,000
	Yellow cedar	40,000
	Sitka spruce	25,000
	Hardwoods	65,000
	Abies spp.	65,000
	CCAR (AMAT)	148,000
	CoAdaptree	50,000
	CBST Project	50,000
	Tree Breeding and Resilience sub-total	1,917,068
	Grand Total	2,500,000

The lodgepole pine program LBIS funding was reduced by \$90k as the Ministry was able to access funding from the New Carbon Economy Funds for certain activities.

Action: Brian to prepare FGC's 2019/20 Business Plan (minus Species Plans) including the Ministry's LBIS \$ allocations by program and activity for the September meeting.

7. Climate-based seed transfer

Pat provided a brief update on CBST policy and implementation developments. Margot Spence, Seed Policy Officer, retired in May. An announcement regarding her successor is forthcoming.

8. Seed Needs Forecast Project Proposal

Following FGC's June 2018 meeting, the Ministry, SelectSeed and VSOC discussed the importance of improving future seed needs forecasting for seed orchard planning purposes. A terms of reference was drafted to guide the development of a proposal from a consulting firm.

Forsite was invited to prepare a proposal based in its expertise with CBST, timber supply modelling and silviculture strategies

Pat Bryant, Strategic Planning Forester, Forsite, presented an overview of his project proposal (sent as a separate attachment).

Questions included the use and disclosure of proprietary forest company data (e.g. harvest information), and differences in data available between TSA and TFLs. Members were interested in seed needs forecasts by management unit and BEC variants, as well as provincial-level roll-ups. The latter should include estimates and/or sensitivity analysis for government restoration programs (e.g. wildfires, insects and carbon offsets) which are not tied directly to timber supply.

Action: Members to provide Brian with written comments re Forsite's draft seed needs forecast project proposal ASAP.

9. FGC Priorities for 2019/20

Brian interviewed current and recent-past FGC members in January-March 2019, and provided a verbal report to FGC's on April 2 meeting. A final report identifying member's topics of interest and suggestions was provided separately.

The highest FGC priorities, as identified by its members, included: ensuring a supply of Class A seed; implementation of CBST; coordination between seed users; conservation and communication/extension.

The importance of the latter was acknowledged with succession planning. A draft communications scoping plan was drafted by an FGC committee (last updated Jan 7, 2019) but no further action has been taken due to other priorities. Brian suggested that a consultant would help advance this work.

Motion: Members request that SelectSeed provide financial support to develop and implement an FGC communication strategy. Annette/Bob. Carried.

Action: Brian, Annette and Juergen to establish a committee to oversee the development of a communications consultant contract.

10. New Business

Pat, upon the advice of Barry Jaquish, recommended that Jenji Konishi, former Manager, Silviculture Branch, be nominated for an FGC Achievement Award for his role in leadership in developing the interior tree improvement program.

Action: Brian to work with members and others to prepare an FGC Achievement Award Nomination for Jenji Konishi for consideration and presentation at the Sept meeting.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be a field trip and business meeting at Cowichan Lake Research Station on September 12-13, 2019. Field trip will be hosted by Mosaic and Ministry staff. Agenda and details to be provided.

Action: Members and guests are requested to confirm attendance at Sept 12-13 meeting at Cowichan Lake with Brian so accommodation and meals can be arranged in advance.

12. In camera session

Guests were thanked for their attendance and asked to leave for this portion of the agenda.

Motion: The meeting is moved in camera. Domencio/Pat. Carried

Motion: The meeting is moved out of in camera. Bevin/Bill. Carried

13. Adjourn

Motion: The meeting is hereby adjourned at 12:34 pm. Annette/ Mark. Carried.

Draft Minutes by Brian Barber, June 21, 2019. Approved by FGC on Sept 13, 2019