

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting September 23, 2015

Meeting held at PRT Growing Services Armstrong nursery and orchards

Attendees: Brian Barber (Co-Chair) Mark Tamas (Co-Chair), Stephen Joyce, Scott King, Joe LeBlanc, Chris Stagg, Michael Stoehr, Annette van Niejenhuis, Raoul Wiart, Gernot Zemanek

Attending by phone or video: Domenico Iannidinardo

Regrets: Rob Guy, Mark Hay, Gerry MacDougall

Others: Mike Brown, Trevor Doerksen, Dan Gaudet, Dan Livingstone, Jeff Mycock, Greg O'Neill, Neil Spendiff, Jack Woods

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
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
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.
Jack	Put the issue of Licensee excessive Class B seed inventories on the December 2015 FGC meeting agenda
Annette	Provide a statement of the steps followed by CTAC when preparing annual budget recommendations.
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
Brian	Discuss with Provincial Chief Forester Diane Nicholls whether there should be an ENGO representative on Council.
Brian, Jack	Initiate the process for FGC membership updates with the various constituency groups, as set out in FGC Bylaws.
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

Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (LeBlanc / van Niejenhuis): Minutes of the meeting held June 17, 2015 are hereby approved. **CARRIED.**
2. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / King) That the current draft of the FGC Strategic Plan, with the addition of reference under objective 3 to a seed supply-demand forecasting tool, is hereby approved. **CARRIED.**

FGC meeting called to order at 1:00 P.M. by Mark Tamas (Industry Co-Chair)

Mark chaired the meeting.

Introduction and welcome:

Dan Livingstone and Mike Brown welcomed Council members and guests to the PRT Armstrong facility and reviewed safety procedures.

Chris Stagg was welcomed to Council.

1. Review of agenda

The seed supply and demand discussion (agenda items 8 and 9) were moved up to follow agenda item #4. The agenda was approved (no formal motion).

2. Old minutes and action items:

Action items from the June 17th meeting were reviewed as follows:

Responsibility	Action	Action taken
Jack	Canvas FGC members to find a conference call date prior to September for a presentation on, and discussion of, the new pest resistance objective (objective 5) in the Strategic Plan.	Item deferred to Sept. FGC mtg.
Extension Review Committee (Annette, Mark T., Scott, Brian)	Continue discussion on a model for the delivery of extension and bring a report to Council at the September, 2015 FGC meeting.	Ongoing
Jack	Continue discussions about program support with the company wishing to access Class A seed for carbon-offset projects.	Ongoing
Stephen	Canvas ITAC members regarding their views on the need for a cone and seed management workshop for interior licensees.	Pending
Gernot	Contact the organizing committee of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations to see if a presentation on seed and seed supply can be added to their October, 2015 meeting.	Done
Jack	Complete the Interior Class-A seed supply and demand report for presentation at the September, 2015 FGC meeting.	Done
Mark Tamas, Jack	Work out a schedule for the September 23/24, 2015 FGC meeting and communicate it with FGC members and the SelectSeed Board.	Done

MOVED (LeBlanc / van Niejenhuis) Minutes of the meeting held June 17, 2015 are hereby approved.
CARRIED.

3. Presentation on climate-based seed transfer - Dr. Greg O'Neill

Greg (MFLNRO Tree Improvement Branch) presented the broad technical basis and the current status of climate-based seed transfer policy development. A technical paper is currently under review, with completion expected in December 2015. Policy development will follow. Recruitment of a policy officer, to fill the position recently vacated, is a priority. Some climate-based seed transfer is already in place (changed elevation transfers, western larch), but full implementation of a new policy will not likely begin until 2017.

4. Seed supply and demand for interior Pli, Sx and Fdi zones - Jack Woods

This issue was discussed in previous meetings. An updated report was presented. This report incorporated the most recent seed use and orchard production data. The analysis revealed some large discrepancies between forecast and actual seed demand for some seed planning units; particularly southern units.

SPUs were listed as having adequate seed supply, having excessive supply, and having inadequate supply. Only forecasts of inadequate supply is considered a problem that needs attention at this time. The following zones appear to have inadequate supply:

- Lodgepole pine - Prince George, Bulkley Valley and Central Plateau
- Interior spruce - Prince George

There was substantial discussion on the accuracy of future harvest expectations. Chris Stagg, Jeff Mycock (West Fraser Timber), and Neil Spendiff (Canfor) agreed to review the numbers provided for these SPU.

Action: 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, Jeff Mycock, and Neil Spendiff for review (Jack).

Action: 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 (Chris Stagg, Jeff Mycock, and Neil Spendiff).

5. FGC Strategic Plan - pest objective

Jack reviewed the process followed to develop the new Strategic Plan objective for the production and use of seed that contains some level of genetic resistance to pests. These steps were:

- MRLNRO Regional pest specialists were canvassed for their opinions on the most important pests to consider in each seed planning unit (SPU) and what percentage of planting for each SPU would ideally contain some resistance.
- MRLNRO breeders reviewed the compiled data from the pest specialists and provided their views on priority pests and the appropriate percent of planting in each SPU that would contain genetic resistance.
- All data were compiled and reviewed by FGC members.
- Based on the above, a Strategic Plan target was set for 50% planting using resistant seed by 2035.

Mark requested an addition to Objective 3 of a seed supply-demand forecasting tool.

MOVED (van Niejenhuis / King) That the current draft of the FGC Strategic Plan, with the addition of reference under objective 3 to a seed supply-demand forecasting tool, is hereby approved.
CARRIED.

6. Succession planning

Michael introduced Dr. Trevor Doerksen who recently started with the MFLNRO Tree Improvement Branch. Trevor will be working initially on interior Douglas-fir and western larch breeding programs with guidance from Barry Jaquish. The financial support from SelectSeed for this position was acknowledged.

Jack announced that he would like to set an approximate retirement date for the fall of 2017 and that he will begin discussions with the SelectSeed Board to develop a succession plan. There was agreement that the FGC will need to work with the SelectSeed board in the development of a plan. This should be initiated by the SelectSeed board.

7. FGC Annual report for 2014/15

Jack presented the annual report performance indicators and provided an overview of what the annual report document will look like. This document is largely written at this point and will be circulated for review.

Mark asked for the development of a FGC position on excessive Class B seed inventories that are held by Licensees. It was agreed that this will be put on the December agenda.

Action: Put the issue of Licensee excessive Class B seed inventories on the December 2015 FGC meeting agenda (Jack).

8. Streamlining and improving annual business planning processes

Brian outlined the need to review and improve the FGC business planning process. This should include Tree Improvement Branch (TIB) limitations on providing support, succession planning for the FGC Program Manager, and succession within the TIB. He proposed the use of the LEAN exercise; a review process being proposed by the Provincial Government for all Ministries. Darrell Wood is currently being trained to facilitate reviews using this process.

Raoul pointed out the need to better align FGC discussions on budget matters with the level of budget. He feels that too much time is spent on small budget items and too little is spent on some of the larger budget areas. Discussion should be more strategic to ensure alignment with broad directions set out in the FGC Strategic Plan, and should not be specific to projects.

Action: Annette will provide a statement of the steps followed by CTAC when preparing annual budget recommendations.

9. Funding request from the BC Seed Orchard Managers Association

A request for support for the June, 2016 BC Seed Orchard Managers Association meeting to be held on Vancouver Island was received. This request will be considered as part of the March, 2016 budget discussions.

Action: 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 (Jack).

10. FGC membership

Brian Barber reviewed Council membership and reminded members that the terms for Rob Guy, Scott King, Gernot Zemanek, Joe LeBlanc, and Raoul Wiart end this month. As per FGC Bylaws, it is expected that the constituency for each will provide a recommendation to Council and the Provincial Chief Forester. Appointments are made by the Chief Forester.

Scott made the point that there is a substantial learning curve and less membership turnover helps maintain an informed Council.

It was agreed that there should be an open discussion with each constituency group regarding a representative.

The question was raised whether there should be a representative on Council from an Environmental NGO. Brian will discuss this with Chief Forester, Diane Nicholls. Mark pointed out that ENGO groups can also be asked to provide input without sitting on Council.

Action item: Brian will discuss with Provincial Chief Forester Diane Nicholls whether there should be an ENGO representative on Council.

Action item: Initiate the process for FGC membership updates with the various constituency groups, as set out in FGC Bylaws (Brian, Jack).

11. Next meeting

A face-to-face meeting to be held at the Provincial Tree Seed Center in Surrey was considered. Jack was asked to poll FGC members to find a date in the second week of September.

Action item: 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 December vs. a conference call, and to set a date for the preferred meeting type (Jack).

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM

A viewing the crown pruning machine purchased by SelectSeed Ltd. was held on September 24th. This was followed by a tour of orchards at the PRT Armstrong site.

PRT Growing Services staff are sincerely thanked for providing the meeting venue and a tour of their site.

Next meeting: Date to be determined in early December