

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting June 27, 2016

Meeting held via conference call.

Attendees: Brian Barber (Co-Chair; acted as meeting chair), Mark Tamas (Co-Chair), Shane Ford, Rob Guy, Mark Hays, Domenico Iannidinardo, Stephen Joyce, Joe LeBlanc, Scott King, Gerry MacDougall, Raoul Wiart, Gernot Zemanek

Regrets: Chris Stagg, Annette van Niejenhuis

Others: Henry Benskin, Alana Phillips, Darrell Wood, Kori Vernier (for Chris Stagg), Jack Woods

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
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 .
Jack Woods	Put ITAC Chair membership on the agenda for the Oct 2016 meeting
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 if being posted.
Joe LeBlanc / Jack Woods	Finalize organization of October meeting, including field trips and agenda.

Summary of Motions:

1. MOVED (Joe LeBlanc / Domenico Iannidinardo) that the agenda for this meeting is approved as presented. CARRIED.
2. MOVED (Mark Tamas, Rob Guy) that the minutes from the March 10, 2016 meeting are hereby approved. CARRIED.
3. MOVED (Shane Ford / Rob Guy) to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 am. CARRIED.

Meeting called to order at 10:53 A.M. by Brian Barber (meeting chair)

- Noted by Jack Woods that proxy votes are held as follows: Mark Tamas for Chris Stagg

1. Agenda:

MOVED (Joe LeBlanc / Domenico Iannidinardo) that the agenda is approved as presented. CARRIED.

2. Old business and action items from March 10, 2016

The following action items were reviewed.

Responsibility	Action	Action taken
All FGC members	Review bylaws pertaining to member-meeting attendance and the assignment of delegates to meetings for discussion at the June FGC meeting.	Underway
Jack	Complete an analysis of seed supply and demand for all interior seed planning units using harvest flow information.	Done; recommend deferral to Oct. meeting for discussion
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 demand (before September 2016).	Underway
Stephen and Jack	Prepare a clear motion on interior seed orchard expansions for FGC decision at the September, 2016 FGC meeting.	Pending
Jack	Post the document "Guiding Principles Respecting Public and Private Seed Orchard Management in BC" on the FGC website.	Done
Brian, Darrell Wood	Review the purpose of OTIP and eligibility criteria as part of the LEAN review process.	Underway
Jack, Brian, Mark T.	Prepare a letter with a budget recommendation for the Provincial Chief Forester by March 20, 2016.	Done
Jack	Communicate with TAC chairs on the approved budget levels.	Done
Brian, Mark T., Jack, others who can participate	Present the budget recommendation to the Provincial Chief Forester and identify shortfalls.	Done
Brian, Shane	Prepare a recommendation for an additional \$300,000 of "unfunded pressures" to be added to the 2016/17 LBIS Tree Improvement Program budget for internal MFLNRO review.	Done
Jack	Determine how much was given to the BC SOA last time they held a meeting, and send an email vote to FGC members to canvas them regarding support for their 2016 meeting.	Done
Jack	Poll FGC members to find meeting dates in mid June and September, 2016.	Done

Notes:

- Item #3 (GRM workshops): Three workshops are planned for September. Potential locations are East Kootenay, Quesnel, Vernon. Use ITAC to get the word out.
- Item #10 (additional LBIS funding): Brian Barber and Shane Ford will present recommendations to the Provincial Chief Forester again in September.

3. March 10, 2016 minutes:

MOVED (Mark Tamas, Rob Guy) that the minutes from the March 10, 2016 meeting are hereby approved. **CARRIED**.

4. FGC bylaws

An action item from the March 10, 2016 meeting was to review Bylaw Article 8, pertaining to meeting attendance and the assignment of delegates.

Discussion notes:

- Article 8, Sections 5+6 clarify what options are available for members who cannot attend. Specifically, Council members are responsible for identifying an alternate to attend meetings, and for designating a proxy. Proxy can only be given to another council member.

- Article 8 does not mention any procedures for dealing with absenteeism by Council members. An informal process has occurred to date, wherein the co-chairs and/or Jack Woods have had conversations with delinquent members to manage expectations and follow up.
- It was noted that the ultimate responsibility to appoint or remove Council members rest with the Chief Forester.

Action: 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 (Jack Woods).

It was noted that Stephen Joyce's membership (as ITAC Chair) is up for renewal in September 2016.

Action: Put ITAC Chair membership on the agenda for the Oct 2016 meeting (Jack Woods).

Note: Mark Tamas and Raoul Wiart left the meeting at this point (11:25)

5. Program Manager succession:

Henry Benskin provided an update on the succession process being undertaken by the SelectSeed Board:

- The SelectSeed CEO job description is in its final review and will be posted on the FGC website on Wed, June 29, 2016. Applications will be accepted until July 27, 2016. Applicants will be screened during August and interviews will take place in September.
- Glen Dunsworth will accept the applications. Mark Tamas will continue acting as the Council's designate for the recruitment process.
- An announcement of the posting will be sent to all FGC email lists, forest genetics associations, and to university and other organizations.
- It was suggested that the posting also be placed on the ABCFP and Canadian Forests Websites.

Action: Designate and identify a point person for inquiries about the SelectSeed CEO position, and include in the job ad prior to it being posted (Henry Benskin / Jack Woods).

Note: Henry Benskin left the meeting (11:40)

6. Standing items:

Climate-based seed transfer

- Margot Spence's group has been meeting with policy officers in the BC Government and with industry stakeholders. A Stakeholders' Advisory Group is set up and will meet this summer. Feedback is being provided on a new CBST online tool.
- Brian outlined the key policy decision to separate species choice from seedlot choice. Choice of the suitable species for a site is a decision linked to Forest Stewardship Plans, public input, silviculture plans, etc. Seedlot choice is a technical decision that will apply after suitable species are chosen.
- Brian Barber, Margot Spence and Shane Ford will meet with the Chief Forester on July 25, 2016. The program is on track for implementation for sowing requests by 2020.

Succession

- Two Research Technologists (Growers) were hired in May; one in Vernon and one at the Cowichan Lake Research Station (CLRS). Selection is currently underway for two additional Research Technologists (same locations) and should be completed soon.
- A position for a Provincial Forest Genetics Data Coordinator is under development and a job description should be available in late July / early August. The role will be to manage all provincial forest genetics program data, and the successful candidate will be located at one of the Tree Improvement Branch sites in Victoria, Surrey, Vernon or Lake Cowichan.
- Mark Griffin has accepted a new role and over the next few weeks will be assisting with conversations and recruitment for a Research Station Manager for CLRS.

7. New business and announcements

There was no new business.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be hosted by Interfor in Campbell River on October 12-13, 2016.

Action: Joe and Jack to finalize organization of the October meeting, including field trips and agenda.

MOVED (Shane Ford / Rob Guy) to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 am. **CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.



Minutes prepared by Jack Woods with support from Alana Phillips