

AGENDA

9:30 AM - Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Location:

Provincial Tree Seed Center
18793 - 32nd Avenue, Surrey, BC (see map and directions sent separately
(Tree Seed Center 604-541-1683) (Jack's cell 250-715-6285)

Time	Length (min.)	#	Item	Presenter
9:30	10	1	Welcome and introductions	Brian
9:40	5	2	Approval of minutes from June 15, 2011	
9:45	15	3	Old business and action items from June 15, 2011	Jack
10:00	10	4	Update on 2011/12 LBIS Tree Imp. Prog. budget	Darrell
10:10	20	5	2010/11 FGC Annual Report	Jack
10:30	20		Break	
10:50	30	6	FGC member updates	All
11:20	10	7	Update on a new Genetic Conservation plan	Dave Kolotelo
11:30	15	8	Call for proposals for new technologies that will support FGC objectives	Brian / Jack
11:45	15	9	Discussion on increasing the FGC mandate to provide technical support for seedling nurseries	Brian/Gernot
12:00	45		Lunch (provided)	
12:45	2.15 hours	10	Provincial Tree Seed Center tour and National Tree Day tree planting	
3:00	20	11	Succession issues in BC tree improvement	Jack
3:20	15	12	FGC Bylaws	Brian / Jack
3:35	15	13	Overview of Canadian Wood Fibre Center	Raoul
3:50	10	14	New business	
4:00		15	Adjourn	

Attachments to the agenda (September 21, 2011)

Agenda item 3 – Action items from June 15, 2011

Responsibility	Action requested	Action taken
Jack	Include discussion of FGC Bylaws on the September meeting agenda.	On this agenda
Jack	Schedule for discussion at an upcoming FGC meeting the issue of increasing the FGC role to include organizing nursery support.	On this agenda
Annette	Will quantify issues associated with growing high-gain coastal Douglas-fir in nurseries, and pass this information to Brian Barber and Barrie Phillips for TIB staff to investigate.	Work underway; analysis planned and data gathering partially complete
GCTAC members	Review the 2007 Indigenous Tree Genetic Conservation plan and seek input beyond GCTAC members. A new draft is requested for the FGC to review in September, 2011. Complete a revised plan by December, 2011.	Underway; presentation on progress on this agenda.
Tim Lee	Lead discussions among the parties interested in the Thompson Okanagan high and low-elevation orchards and bring a recommendation to the FGC regarding where the orchards should be established.	Discussions continue. No immediate decision required. Meeting among parties planned for fall 2011.

Agenda item 4 – Update on LBIS Tree Improvement Program Budget – Darrell Wood

The following LBIS Tree Improvement Program budget was approved by Council in March and forwarded to the Provincial Chief Forester. Darrell will provide an update on contract development and allocations to date.

2011/12 budget summary for LBIS Tree Improvement Program contributions to subprograms.

Subprogram	Allocation (\$ x 1000)
Genetic Conservation	205
Tree Breeding	1,156
Operational Tree Improvement Program (OTIP)	765
Extension and Communication	20
Genetic Resource Information Management	60
Cone and Seed Pest Management	130
Expansion of Orchard Seed Supply (SelectSeed Ltd.)	440
Genecology and Seed Transfer	620
Applied Tree Improvement and biotechnology (UBC)	137
Administration (Tree Improvement Branch)	30
Risk managed	-63
Total	3,500

Agenda item 5 – FGC 10/11 Annual Report (and 10/11 Business Plan document) - Jack

Annual report to be presented. 2011/12 Business Plan and Species plans completed and currently being printed.

Attachments to the agenda (September 21, 2011)

Agenda Item 7 – Update on a new Genetic Conservation plan – Dave Kolotelo, Genetic Conservation TAC chair

At the request of Council, the GCTAC is preparing an updated plan to guide genetic conservation investments. The GCTAC discussed the full range of activities at a meeting in July and assigned components of the plan to different TAC members. A draft plan is expected to be available for the December 2011 FGC meeting.

Agenda item 8 – Call for proposals for new technologies that will support FGC objectives – Brian

This agenda item was deferred from previous meetings.

At the present time, a funding allocation is made to an “Applied Tree Improvement and Biotechnology” project based at UBC and led by Dr. Yousry El-Kassaby. This work has been directed at understanding parental contributions to orchard seedlots and pollen contamination and other projects. An annual plan is reviewed by a subcommittee of Council with budget recommendations made to Council.

There has been interest expressed developing a call for proposals that would encompass this project and, potentially, others. This matter is open for FGC discussion and the development of a position.

Agenda item 10 – Provincial Tree Seed Center tour and National Tree Day

Heather Rooke and Dave Kolotelo will lead a tour of the Provincial Tree Seed Centre. This Center provides the majority of seed extraction and cleaning services in BC. Germination testing and seed storage for all seedlots is a Center responsibility. This well-run operation was a finalist for the Premiers’ Award in 2010.

As part of National Forest Week, the 21st of September has been designated as the first “National Tree Day”. In honour of this, there will be a ceremonial tree planting following the tour.

Agenda item 11 – Succession issues in BC Tree Improvement - Jack

Staff losses in both the FLNR and in private seed orchards threaten the long-term delivery of an effective and cooperative provincial tree improvement program.

Over a period of about 5 years, and as of 2010, the FLNR Research Branch staff delivering tree breeding, genecology, and physiology research in support of the provincial program had been reduced by 10 full time staff. Further attrition has resulted in the loss of another scientist.

In private orchards, two experienced seed orchard managers have left in the past year, and there have been other reductions in staff due to difficult financial times. FLNR orchards have lost 3 experienced managers and several senior orchard workers to retirement.



Attachments to the agenda (September 21, 2011)

The succession issue has been raised several times to Council and there have been discussions between FGC members and FLNR executive on the matter. However, general public service staff reductions are limiting.

In addition to the loss of experienced staff, there are very few younger people in the system who can fill any upcoming vacancies.

Issues will be presented for discussion of options.

Agenda item 12 – FGC Bylaws – Brian / Jack

FGC bylaws were developed in 2001 following an interim FGC and re-organization of tree improvement delivery and funding in the late '90's. The bylaws were revised in 2003.

A copy of the bylaws was sent with this agenda as a separate file.

Next meeting – December 14, 2011