

## AGENDA

**1:30 - 3:45 PM - Wednesday, December 15, 2010**

**Conference call:**

1-866-596-5278  
Code: 2499357#

Time	Length (min.)	#	Item	Presenter
1:30	5	1	Welcome and introductions	Brian
1:35	5	2	Review of agenda	Brian
1:40	5	3	Approval of minutes from September 22, 2010	Brian
1:45	5	4	Old business and action items from Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jack
1:50	10	5	Meeting with Shelagh Ryan-McNee	Kerry, John
2:00	15	6	MFML – Tree Imp. Branch updates - Organizational changes - Seed pricing	Brian
2:15	20	7	Land Base Investment Strategy update	Al Powelson
2:35	10	8	Three-year budget planning	Jack
2:45	15	9	Seed Transfer TAC process and plan update	Lee Charleson
3:00	10	10	“Applied biotechnology” (report on action item)	Jack / Annette
3:10	5	11	Update on FGC Business Plan and Annual Report	Jack
3:15	10	12	Update on TAC meetings and subprogram processes	Annette / Jack (for Tim)
3:25	10	13	Issues updates: - Professional reliance - Forest Practices Board seed transfer review	Brian
3:35	10	14	New business	
3:45		15	Adjourn	

### Agenda item 3 – Action items from September 22, 2010

Person	To be done	Action taken
Jack Woods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set up a meeting of the Applied Biotechnology Steering Committee to discuss terms of reference for setting up a call for proposals, and report back to FGC at the December 15, 2010 meeting.</li> <li>include statistics in the Annual Report on seed-use by genetic class and class-A seed use by species.</li> <li>PMTAC will be asked to recommend a new chair to the FGC by December 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 9<sup>th</sup> conference call. (under agenda item 10)</li> <li>Done. Annual Report in press</li> <li>Done. Jim Corrigan nominated and appointed by Council</li> </ul>
Brian Barber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brian to write letter of thanks to former decision-support subprogram members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Done</li> </ul>

**Attachments to the agenda (December 15, 2010)**

Lee Charleson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lee Charleson to serve as interim-lead of DSAC and, through consultation with FGC members, will recruit persons with representation from various client groups to develop a terms of reference for DSAC. TOR for DSAC to be consistent with findings and recommendations of the Decision Support Subprogram Review, and deliberations of council. Recommendations for new TOR, committee members, and a new chair (preferably an industry seed user) to be brought before FGC in December.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Done (see agenda item 9)</li> </ul>
Brian, Barrie Judi Jack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide recommendations to the FGC on restructuring subcommittee process for the development of a 3-year FGC business planning cycle (by December, 2010)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See agenda item 8</li> </ul>

**Agenda item 5 – Update on meeting with Shelagh Ryan-McNee – Kerry and John**

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Kerry, John, Brian, Barrie, Susanna Laksonen-Criag and Jack met with Shelagh Ryan-McNee (MFR) regarding the loss of FTE’s for tree breeding activities. While the meeting was productive, more recent changes in to the Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands have overshadowed this meeting outcome. The issues remain, however.

**Agenda item 6 – MFML Tree Improvement Branch updates – Brian**

1. **Organizational changes:** The Research Branch of the former MFR has been disbanded. All forest genetics section staff (breeders and technical staff) are now part of the Tree Improvement Branch. Organizational changes will be discussed.
2. **Seed pricing:** An update will be provided on progress towards new prices in the MFML for seed and for cone and seed services. This process was introduced to Council in September, 2010.

**Agenda item 7 – Land Base Investment Strategy – Al Powelson**

Al Powelson (MFML) will provide an update on the LBIS and expected future directions for this funding program.

**Agenda item 8 – Three-year budget planning – Jack**

The LBIS and the MFML are moving to 3-year budget planning, and the FGC has been asked to also provide 3-year budget projections. Council struck a subcommittee (Judi, Brian, Barrie, Jack) to discuss the implications of this for FGC budget processes. The following summarizes implications by subprogram. In general, moving to a 3-year budget process at the subprogram level will not be difficult, but doing so will not necessarily identify larger strategic shifts that may be necessary (i.e. shifting resources from breeding to genecology and seed transfer; orchard upgrades with climate-based seed transfer).

1. **Operational Tree Improvement Program (OTIP):** The call for proposals process currently used can ask for 3-year project estimates. This may help, but with changing projects, uncertain cone production from year to year, and some changing priorities, years 2 and 3 in a 3-year budget will have substantial error. Overall, however, reasonable budget estimates are possible.

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2. **Breeding:** Breeding programs already think in terms of longer-term needs. Three-year budget development will not be a significant problem and is already being implemented by Barrie.
3. **SelectSeed:** Multi-year budgets already presented. No change needed.
4. **Genetic conservation:** The TAC can be asked to project forward. There will be a tendency to underestimate future budgets, as new issues will tend to arise. This is manageable.
5. **Seed transfer:** Plan being put together now that includes multi-year budgeting.
6. **Cone and Seed Pest management:** New plans and priorities underway. 3-year budgeting can be incorporated. There will be a tendency to underestimate future budgets, as new issues will tend to arise. This is manageable.
7. **Extension:** Stable budgets for several years. This relatively small budget can be projected without any additional work.
8. **Decision Support:** Program under development. The Advisory Committee can be tasked with structuring a 3-year budget.
3. **Biotechnology:** process being re-designed. 3-year budgets can be requested.

At the level of the overall LBIS Tree Improvement Program budget (sum of above), I think we can make reasonable predictions for 3 years based on past needs and on knowledge of program trends. I suggest that we not task committees with a great deal of additional budget work that won't necessarily provide us with more accurate longer-term budget needs than can be obtained with simple projections. Also, we often end up adjusting budgets to the amounts allocated through a somewhat separate process, so longer-term budgeting, while useful, needs to be kept in context.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Seed Transfer TAC process and update – Lee Charleson**

The Seed Transfer TAC is developing a a new structure for planning and implementing 2011/12 projects, as well as a strategy that will lead to a fully implemented climate-based seed transfer system in BC. The following actions will be discussed:

- Development of a business-plan approach to genecology research being led by MFML scientists.
- Development of a call for proposals process for non-MFML research efforts, including some new and novel projects that may arise.
- Discussions on the development of climate-based seed transfer policy.

### **Agenda item 10 – Applied Biotechnology – Jack / Annette**

**Background:** The “Applied Biotechnology” project has never been officially structured as a subprogram of the FGC (unlike OTIP, Breeding, Seed Transfer, etc.). It originated in 2006 from encouragement by TIB to support work on orchard parental contributions and other projects as part of Dr. Yousry El-Kassaby's effort to develop an NSERC Industrial Chair of Applied Forest Genetics and Biotechnology. A committee was struck

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to review his annual workplans and to make funding recommendations to the FGC. This initially included funds for NSERC Industrial Chair support, but Council later redirected this Chair support through SelectSeed Ltd. The “Applied Biotech” project now consists only of Yousry’s research.

The Pli and Fd reproductive timing and hormone project done by Patrick von Aderkas has similar roots, but had a separate steering committee. Patrick’s project has ended, but it is conceivable that a broader “biotechnology” subprogram of Council would encompass projects of the sort done by Patrick rather than have them as stand-alone projects.

The Biotech Steering committee discussed opportunities for a “biotech” subprogram. Raoul Waert of the Canadian Wood Fiber Center was invited to join the discussion.

**Committee recommendation:**

Council broadly distribute a “Letter of Intent” seeking collaboration with others that will support FGC objectives and leverage existing programs and data. Letter to be prepared and distributed in 2011 to allow time for potential project development for 2012/13 budget.

Council direction needed.

**Agenda item 11 – FGC Business Plan and Annual Report - Jack**

The 2010/11 Business Plan document, with species plans, has been distributed.

The 2009/10 FGC Annual Report is currently being printed and will be distributed in late December.

**Agenda item 12 and 13**

Verbal reports will be provided at the meeting.

**Next meeting – March 23, 2010**