

## MINUTES

### Forest Genetics Council – Meeting March 16, 2011

#### Meeting held at the Abercorn Best Western, Richmond, BC

Attending: Brian Barber, Larry Gardner, Rob Guy, Tim Lee, Joe LeBlanc, Kerry McGourlick (Chair),  
Barrie Phillips, Annette van Niejenhuis, Barrie Phillips, Gernot Zemanek

*Regrets:* Scott King, Al McDonald, John Mitchell, Raoul Wiart

*Others:* Darrell Wood, Jack Woods

*Guests:* Lee Charleson, Dave Kolotelo, John Russell, Chris Walsh

#### Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Jack, Brian, Kerry	Draft a letter from the FGC to Jim Snetsinger about the importance of genetic conservation and the social license component, and stress the need to have these activities properly resourced.
Jack	FGC members will review the Terms of Reference for the Decision Support subprogram and vote on whether to endorse it by an email vote.
Jack to lead	FGC members will vote by email on appointing Guy Burdikin as DSTAC chair.
Jack to lead	Prepare a letter by March 18, 2010, to Jim Snetsinger, recommending LBIS Tree Improvement Program budget allocations.
Jack	Schedule for discussion at an upcoming FGC meeting the issue of increasing the FGC role to include organizing nursery support.
Annette	Outline possible issues associated with growing high-gain coastal Douglas-fir in nurseries, and pass this information to Sylvia L'Hirondelle for her to investigate.
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.
Lee Charleson	Communicate with anyone who may be interested about the availability of Aspen root-cuttings from genecology collections made in 2010.
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.
Larry, Jack, Lee Charleson, Guy Burdikin	Develop information outlined in the 4 steps above regarding Pli seed supply in the Big Bar and Chilcotin (see item # 5) and distribute to FGC members for discussion prior to the June 15, 2011 meeting

#### Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (LeBlanc / van Niejenhuis): Meeting agenda accepted with amendments. **CARRIED.**
2. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Lee): Minutes of the meeting held December 15, 2010 are hereby approved. **CARRIED.**
3. **MOVED** (Lee / Zemanek): The SelectSeed Business Plan for 2011/12 is hereby approved, with final budget approval pending a LBIS Tree Improvement Program allocation and FGC recommendations. **CARRIED.**

4. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Lee): The budget recommendation shown in Table 1 is hereby accepted and will be recommended to Chief Forester, Jim Snetsinger. CARRIED.
5. **MOVED** (Zemanek / Barber): There being no further business to discuss, the meeting is hereby adjourned. CARRIED.

**Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Kerry McGourlick (Industry Co-Chair)**

1. **Agenda:** Items regarding forest nursery support and a MOU between Tree Improvement Branch and coastal companies were added to the agenda.

**MOVED** (LeBlanc / van Niejenhuis): Meeting agenda accepted with amendments. CARRIED.

2. **Approval of December 15, 2010 minutes:**

**MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Lee): Minutes of the meeting held December 15, 2010 are hereby approved. CARRIED.

3. **Old Business and Action Items from December 15, 2010**

The following action items were reviewed and accepted as presented.

**Summary of action items and progress from the December 17, 2009 FGC meeting**

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Action requested</b>	<b>Action taken</b>
Jack Woods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lead the preparation of a "Letter of Intent" (regarding a biotechnology call-for-proposals) on behalf of Council</li> <li>• ensure that CTAC and ITAC meeting agendas are sent to FGC members</li> <li>• screen FGC members regarding school spring break time and their availability on these two dates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• underway (Barrie Phillips, Raoul Wiert, Jack Woods)</li> <li>• done</li> <li>• done</li> </ul>
Al Powelson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• distribute a list of the people on the Natural Resource Board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• done</li> </ul>
Brian Barber, Joe LeBlanc, Larry Gardner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review recommendations in Lee's terms-of-reference report for the Decision Support subprogram in advance of discussions during the March FGC meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• see item under GRDS budget below</li> </ul>
Brian Barber, Annette van Niejenhuis, Joe LeBlanc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• further discuss white pine seed costs to see if any solutions are available to lower seed cost and increase use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discussed. Will take to coastal operational issues forum for further discussion.</li> </ul>
Barrie Phillips, Judi Beck, Jack Woods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up a workshop for May, 2011 to discuss issues and opportunities and to inform a possible call for proposals on new technologies that could support FGC objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underway</li> </ul>

4. **Update on 2011 sowing and class A seed use – Jack**

Provincial sowing has rebounded to about 235 million this year from 180 million last year. The use of select seed has also increased to about 148 million (14 million B+; 134 million Class A), the highest level yet both in numbers and percent (62%). Good seed production years in most orchards in 2009 and 2010 helped. Lack of Class A Pli remains the primary barrier to meeting provincial objectives.

**5. Pli seed needs and inventory in the Big Bar and Chilcotin zones - Larry**

Harvest is tending to shift back to the BB and CHL zones and will remain there for approximately a decade. Conflicting information on seed inventories and demand is creating difficulty with making a decision regarding a seed supply strategy.

The following steps are proposed:

1. Complete demand forecast by seed zone and elevation
2. Complete seed supply forecast by seed zone and elevation
3. Develop transfer tables for seed supply to understand what other seed might be available
4. Develop estimates of years seed supply by zone and elevation.

**ACTION ITEM:** Larry, Guy Burdikin, Lee Charleson, Jack Woods – develop information outlined in the 4 steps above and distribute to FGC members for discussion prior to the June 15, 2011 meeting.

**6. Douglas-fir Thompson Okanagan orchards – Tim Lee**

Discussions regarding low and high-elevation Fdi orchards for the TO zone continue. Barry Jaquish is conducting an analysis to determine where the elevation cut-off should be and what selected parent trees should make up orchard populations. Both the Ministry of Forests Mines and Lands and Pacific Regeneration Technologies (in partnership with SelectSeed Ltd.), continue to be interested in establishing an orchard.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tim will lead discussions among the parties interested in these orchards and bring a recommendation to the FGC regarding where the orchards should be established.

**7. Update on the new provincial cabinet and changes in the MFML**

Brian outlined information currently available to him on the return of responsibilities that were placed under the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations to the Ministry of Forests Mines and Lands. New Minister, Steve Thompson. Mines has been moved out of the new ministry, now known as the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Doug Konkin is back as Deputy Minister. Few changes are anticipated for the Forestry Division and for Tree Improvement Branch.

**8. Update on meeting with Jim Snetsinger – Brian Barber and Kerry McGourlick**

On March 3rd, Kerry, Brian, Barrie Phillips and Jack Woods met with Jim, Susanna Laaksonen-Craig and Keith Thomas. Jack provided an update on FGC activities and progress over the previous year. There was good discussion on budgets for 2011/12, with Jim suggesting that the LBIS Tree Improvement budget should target 3.5 million. Climate-based seed transfer need and values to BC were discussed and Jack provided an overview of an economic impact analysis of climate-based seed transfer investments.

Jim thanked Council for their ongoing inputs and work on behalf of the provincial tree improvement program.

**9. Presentation on AdapTree proposal to Genome Canada – Sally Aitken**

Sally provided an overview of the AdapTree proposal submitted to Genome Canada. The proposal is led by Dr. Aitken and Dr. Andreas Hamann from the University of Alberta. It will focus on Pli and Sx climate-based seed transfer in BC and Alberta, and bring existing genomics technology and expertise to the development of practical seed transfer policy. The GE<sup>3</sup>LS (genetic, economic, environmental, ethical and legal) component of the program will bring together viewpoints from a

broad range of stakeholders. This proposal is for 3.5 years and has a total budget of about \$4.7 million, of which it is hoped the FGC will contribute a total (over the next 3 years) of about \$220,000. These funds would be primarily part of genecology projects and ongoing genetic conservation budgets and would not entail any new funding. Project results will directly support the FGC objective for genecology and climate-based seed transfer.

Rob provided an overview of other proposals submitted to Genome Canada by UBC faculty members.

#### **10. Subprogram budgets and business planning for 2011/12**

*See meeting briefing materials for more information on budget requests by subprogram.*

The overall business planning and budget process was reviewed by Jack. At this point, all Council subcommittees have completed their budget development work and are prepared to pass along recommendations to Council. A final LBIS Tree Improvement Program allocation has not been received at this time, so Council will not be able to finalize budgets.

More information on subprogram budgets is provided in material distributed in advance of the meeting. Table 1 shows budget proposals by subprogram.

#### **Tree Breeding:**

Barrie Phillips provided an overview of the Tree Breeding budget. It was pointed out that the budget for coastal breeding shown in meeting briefing notes was \$34,000 below that recommended by the CTAC. Budget process included presentation of breeding program needs by breeders to the CTAC and ITAC, followed by discussion and recommendations. The total breeding program request for 2011/12 is \$1.131 million. This includes about \$160,000 for salary to cover two “recovered” positions, \$560,000 for the coastal breeding operations and \$411,000 for interior breeding.

#### **Operational Tree Improvement Program:**

Darrell Wood provided an overview of the OTIP business planning process and the outcomes of coast and interior proposal submissions and reviews. Proposals totaling about \$844,000 were received. The total for projects recommended by review committees is \$115,000 for the coast and \$650,000 for the interior (\$765,000 total). A second option would remove lower-ranked proposals, resulting in a total budget of \$730,000.

#### **Genetic Conservation:**

Process, projects, and budget proposals were presented by Dave Kolotelo, GCTAC chair. Uncertainty regarding Jodie Krakowski’s position with the MFML is a concern, as she is central to much of the genetic conservation work undertaken in BC.

Dave also communicated a recommendation from the GCTAC to review the 2007 Genetic Conservation Plan document. This recommendation was supported by FGC.

**ACTION ITEM:** The GCTAC will 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.

The importance of a strong genetic conservation program to ensure there is a “social license” to pursue commercial activities related to tree improvement was stressed by Kerry.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jack, Brian and Kerry will draft a letter from the FGC to Jim Snetsinger about the importance of genetic conservation and the social license component, and stress the need to have these activities properly resourced.

Total requested for the Genetic Conservation subprogram is \$205,165.

#### **Orchard Expansion subprogram (SelectSeed Ltd.)**

Jack presented a business plan for SelectSeed Ltd that was approved by the SelectSeed Board of Directors on February 25, 2011. SelectSeed is on track with long term expectations. The overall budget request is for \$454,000, down from \$543,000 in 2010/11 as seed sales increase. Second and third budget options will increase cash carry-over for SelectSeed and reduce cash reserves going forward.

**MOVED** (Lee / Zemanek): The SelectSeed Business Plan for 2011/12 is hereby approved, with final budget approval pending a LBIS Tree Improvement Program allocation and FGC recommendations. **CARRIED.**

#### **Extension**

Diane Douglas reviewed the Extension TAC budget process and recommendations. Projects are listed in meeting materials provided. The overall budget request for 2011/12 is \$22,000.

Workshops on GRM and seed procurement with members of the BC Woodlot Owners Federation, with members of the North Island Woodlot Owners, and with consultants involved in silviculture planning were encouraged.

#### **Cone and Seed Pest Management:**

Jack presented the budget developed by the Pest Management TAC under the leadership of chair, Jim Corrigan. The proposed budget for 2011/12 will continue ongoing projects, with no new projects pending a comprehensive subprogram review during the year. The total budget request is for \$130,555.

#### **Genecology and Seed Transfer**

Lee Charleson presented the process and budget developed by the Seed Transfer TAC. It is anticipated that the Assisted Migration and Adaptation Trial (AMAT), previously funded through the Forest Science Program, will be supported through this subprogram. The budget option presented includes projects developed through a much-reduced call for proposals that includes only non-MFML proponents, plus a budget for MFML staff working on genecology and seed transfer. This latter budget component was reviewed and endorsed by the STTAC. The total subprogram budget request is for \$627,296. Options for reductions are shown in briefing notes.

There was discussion on the Aspen genecology project that was approved last fiscal year and is not recommended for funding in 2011/12 (Review Committee recommendation). It is recommended that material collected in 2010 as part of this project will be made available to interested parties.

**ACTION ITEM:** Lee Charleson will communicate with anyone who may be interested about the availability of Aspen root-cuttings from genecology collections made in 2010.

### Genetic Resource Decision Support subprogram

Lee Charleson presented a DSTAC budget of \$70,000. An additional item was added for Tree Improvement Branch support for seed use and seed inventory requests expected to develop during the fiscal year.

There was further discussion on the GRDS subprogram Terms of Reference developed by Lee with input from committee members, and on the nomination of Guy Burdikin (West Fraser Timber) as subprogram Chair.

**ACTION ITEM:** FGC members will review the Terms of Reference for the Decision Support subprogram and vote on whether to endorse it by an email vote (Jack to lead voting process).

**ACTION ITEM:** FGC members will vote by email on appointing Guy Burdikin as DSTAC chair (Jack to lead voting process).

### Applied Tree Improvement and Biotechnology project at UBC – Yousry El-Kassaby (presented by Jack)

The Steering committee for this project approved a budget totaling \$137,000. This project continues to focus on parental contributions to seedlots.

### Overall budget options and recommendations

**Table 1. Budget requests and FGC recommendation by subprogram for 2011/12**

Subprogram	Option 1 Requested	Option 2	Option 3	FGC recommendation
Genetic Conservation	\$ 205,165	\$182,455	\$170,305	\$205,000
Tree Breeding*	\$ 1,131,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,131,000
Operational Tree Imp. Prog.	\$765,000	\$730,000	\$695,000	\$765,000
SelectSeed Ltd.	\$454,000	\$430,000	\$400,000	\$440,000
Extension and Communication	\$22,000	\$19,000	\$16,000	\$20,000
Cone and Seed Pest Mgt.	\$131,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$130,000
Genecology and Seed Transfer	\$627,000	\$531,000	\$477,000	\$620,000
Genetic Resource Decision Sup.	\$70,000	\$50,000	\$40,000	\$60,000
Administration*	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$30,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,435,165</b>	<b>\$3,142,455</b>	<b>\$2,943,305</b>	<b>\$3,401,000</b>
<b>Incremental projects</b>				
Applied Tree Impr. and biotechnology (YE-K UBC)	\$137,000	\$120,000	\$110,000	\$137,000
CLRS clonebank maintenance	\$85,000	\$60,000	\$50,000	\$25,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$222,000</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	<b>\$162,000</b>
<b>TIB risk management</b>				<b>\$63,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,657,165</b>	<b>\$3,322,455</b>	<b>\$3,103,305</b>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>

**MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Lee): The budget recommendation shown in Table 1 is hereby accepted and will be recommended to Chief Forester, Jim Snetsinger. **CARRIED.**

**ACTION ITEM:** Jack will prepare a letter by March 18, 2010, to Jim Snetsinger, recommending LBIS Tree Improvement Program budget allocations.

**11. Climate Based Seed Transfer workshop update**

Lee reviewed a workshop held February 24<sup>th</sup> on climate-based seed transfer. It was well attended by MFML staff and university researchers. Presentations covered a broad range of topics from genecology to climate modeling to policy development. Information sharing of this sort is an important component of moving forward with new seed-transfer policy.

**12. New business**

- a) The new MFLNRO seed and seed services price schedule that was discussed with Council in 2010 has now been approved and will come into effect on April 1, 2011. These prices will only apply to MFLNRO seed sales.
- b) A Memorandum of Understanding between coastal private seed orchard owners and the MFLNRO is under development. This process is proceeding well and will outline the terms of sharing select material and it's use.
- c) Brian asked for views on an FGC role in seedling nursery support. Gernot pointed out that nurseries currently consult with private consultants.

**Action item:** Jack will schedule for discussion at an upcoming FGC meeting the issue of increasing the FGC role to include organizing nursery support.

**Action item:** Annette will outline possible issues associated with growing high-gain coastal Douglas-fir in nurseries, and pass this information to Sylvia L'Hirondelle for her to investigate.

**MOVED** (Zemanek / Barber): There being no further business to discuss, the meeting is hereby adjourned. CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

**Next meeting: June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (to be held in Williams Lake)**

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods and Darrell Wood

