

AGENDA

**9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Wednesday, December 12, 2007**

Location:

Richmond Inn Best Western,
7551 Westminster Hwy.
Richmond, B.C.
(hotel tel. 1-800-663-0299) (Jack's cell 250-715-6285)

Time	Length (min.)	#	Item	Presenter
8:30			Coffee and snacks available prior to the meeting	
9:00	5	1	Approval of minutes from September 19, 2007	
9:05	10	2	FGC MFR Co-Chair	Brian / Jack
9:15	20	3	Old business and action items - Genetic Conservation FTE proposed in GC plan	Brian
9:35	100	4	Mid-year subprogram reports - OTIP - Tree breeding - Genetic Resource Information Management - Seed and Orchard Pest Management - Extension	Keith Thomas Michael Stoehr Brian Barber Robb Bennett Diane Douglas
10:30	15		Break - Genetic Conservation and UBC Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics - SelectSeed Ltd.	Sally Aitken Jack
		5	Climate change and seed transfer - Climate change implications for tree populations	Sally Aitken
12:00	45		Lunch – to be provided	
12:45	30		- Seed transfer and climate change	Greg O'Neill
1:15	15		- Change management issues	Jack
1:30	15		- Seed policy: transfer and process	Brian
1:45	30		Discussion	Jack
2:15	15		Break	
2:30	15	6	Forest Investment Council request for new program name	Jack
2:45	20	7	Policy on the allocation of limited scion to orchards	Annette
3:05	20	8	GRM Challenge Dialogue update / FGC Strategic Plan development	Brian / Jack
3:25	15	9	Disposition of Pope and Talbot seedling orders	Jack
3:40	20	10	New business	
4:00			Adjourn	

Agenda item 2 – FGC Ministry of Forest Co-Chair

Letter from Craig Sutherland, Deputy Chief Forester (sent as a separate document) announces that Brian Barber will replace Dale Draper as the Ministry Co-Chair on Council, effective immediately. Brian will provide further information at the meeting.

Agenda item 3 – Old Business and action items

September 19, meeting action items:

- FGC Strategic Plan update – to be discussed under Item #8
- Genetic Conservation specialist in the MFR.
 - o Brian Barber will outline the decision reached between the Research Branch and Tree Improvement Branch.

Agenda item 4 – Mid-Year reports by subprogram

Sub-program leaders will provide updates on activities undertaken so far this fiscal year. These verbal updates will replace the written mid-term report prepared in previous years, as agreed upon by Council on September 19, 2007.

Agenda item 5 – Climate change and seed transfer

Response to climate change is becoming a priority within the provincial government, and was recognized in the Challenge Dialogue process as a key issue. Over the ensuing several years it is expected that substantial effort will be required to improve the knowledge base, decision support tools, and the policy framework. Four presentations will be made, as follows:

Dr. Sally Aitken, UBC - Climate change implications for tree populations

Dr. Greg O'Neill, MFR - Seed transfer and climate change

Jack Woods - Change management issues

Brian Barber - Seed policy transfer and process

A significant component of a climate-change response in forestry is the matching of sites with appropriately adapted tree seed. In the future, for some parts of BC, this may mean adjusting seed transfer standards to facilitate the movement of seedlots to areas outside their current seed zones. Such facilitated or assisted migration of seed requires substantial knowledge and policy development. The above presentations will outline the scientific, pragmatic, and policy issues involved. The intent is to initiate discussion on how Council can move forward with this issue.

Agenda item 6 – Forest Investment Council request to the FGC for a new name

At the present time, the FGC conducts business planning for the Forest Investment Account Tree Improvement Program. Following an October presentation to the FIC on the Tree Improvement Program, FIC members asked that the FGC consider a new program name that better reflects the range of activities undertaken. Concern was expressed about using the words “gene” or “genetics”, as these could result in members of the public assuming that the program has a genetic engineering component.

The following words are descriptive of activities in the overall program.

Seed; Tree See; Conservation; Select; Planning; Management

The following names are some that might be considered:

Seed Management Program (SMP)

Seed Conservation and Management (SCMP)

Seed Selection and Management Program (SSMP)

Seed Selection and Conservation Program (SSCP)

Tree Seed Management Program (TSMP)

Tree Seed Management and Conservation Program (TSMCP)

Tree Seed Planning and Conservation Program (TSPCP)

Agenda item 7 – Policy for access to limited scion from high-gain parent-tree selections

At times, limited scion material is available from new and high-gain parent trees. When multiple parties want the scion for orchard development, it would be helpful to have policy that sets out how to distribute scion or grafts. A Policy statement was discussed at a Coastal TAC meeting in November, and will be presented by Annette Van Neijenhuis.

Agenda item 8 – Challenge Dialogue update / FGC Strategic Plan update – Brian and Jack

The Genetic Resource Management Challenge Dialogue process culminated with a workshop held November 17th. Information and priorities provide background information which will assist with the development of a new FGC Strategic Plan for the period 2009 to 2114.

The following process for Strategic Plan development is recommended (Action item from September, 2008 FGC meeting):

Recommended process for development of a new FGC Strategic Plan for 2009 to 2114

Action	Who	When
Complete Challenge Dialogue report	Barber, Yanchuk, Woods, Consultants	January, 2008
Consolidate new drafts of FGC goals and objectives using Challenge Dialogue input, species plan forecasts, Genetic Conservation Plan recommendations, and other information.	Woods, Barber, subprogram leaders	March, 2008
FGC discussion on draft goals and objectives	FGC	March, 2008
Prepare Strategic Plan draft 1	Woods	June, 2008
Review of Strategic Plan draft 1	FGC	June, 2008
Revise, and send Strategic Plan draft 2 to the CTAC, ITAC for review	CTAC and ITAC members	By August, 2008
Review comments discussed by FGC	FGC	September, 2008
Strategic Plan draft 3 to the Provincial Chief Forester for review and comment	Barber	October, 2008
Present Strategic Plan draft 3 to the Forest Investment Council for comment	Woods (with Co-Chairs)	Fall, 2008 meeting
Strategic Plan draft 4 prepared for publication (graphic art, layout, etc.)	Woods	December, 2008
Strategic Plan Draft 4 presented to FGC for final approval	Woods	December, 2008
Printing and distribution	Woods	December, 2008; Jan. 2009

Agenda item 9 – Disposition of Pope and Talbot seedling orders

This item is on the agenda at the request of John Kitchen, CEO PRT Ltd.

Pope and Talbot has roughly 7 million seedlings in cold storage for 2009 planting. About 50% of this stock is with PRT Ltd. The current issues with Pope and Talbot may result in missing the planting window, should legal issues not get resolved in time. Approximately 40% of the stock is grown from orchard seed.

PRT is trying to initiate discussion in the hopes that a plan can be developed to plant these seedlings and not lose investments in stock, site preparation, and a years growth. In addition, planting contractors in the Pope and Talbot operating area will have difficulty maintaining staff and business continuity if there is no planting.