



**MINUTES**

**Forest Genetics Council—Meeting June 11, 2008**

**Meeting held by conference call**

Attending: Brian Barber, John Elmslie, Frank Gundersen, Chris Hawkins, Scott King, Joe Leblanc, Al McDonald, Bruce MacNicol, Annette van Niejenhuis, Alvin Yanchuk

*Regrets:* Mike Carlson, Gary Hogan, Mike Madill, Larry Promnitz (proxy to Annette)

*Others:* Keith Thomas, Jack Woods

**Action Items**

Responsibility	Action
CTAC and ITAC chairs, Keith Thomas and Jack Woods	Meet by conference call regarding Species Committee meeting process, TAC meeting process, and how information will be reported back to the FGC. Recommendations to be brought to the FGC in September.
Jack	Contact Tim Lee to make arrangements and coordinate the September 16 and 17, 2008 dinner and meeting.  Arrange to have awards made for Dale.

**Summary of Motions Carried**

1. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / MacNicol): Minutes of the meeting held March 12, 2008 are hereby approved. CARRIED
2. **MOVED** (Yanchuk / van Niejenhuis) that the report of the Breeding Subprogram Review Committee, dated May 27, 2008, is hereby approved and recommendations contained therein will be implemented in the next business cycle of Council. CARRIED.
3. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / MacNicol) that there being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 10:50 AM. CARRIED.

**Meeting called to order at 10:45 A.M. by John Elmslie (Co-Chair)**

John Elmslie chaired the meeting.

Agenda adopted as presented

**1. Approval of March 14, 2007 minutes**

1. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / MacNicol): Minutes of the meeting held March 12, 2008 are hereby approved. CARRIED

**2. Action items from March 12, 2008**

- a. Letter to the provincial Chief Forester regarding coast and interior broadleaf reports:  
Action: letter drafted by Woods; being reviewed by Yanchuk
- b. Broadleaf reports to be posted on the FGC website  
Action: MFR checking moral rights in contract. Interior report can be posted; Coastal report pending.
- c. Letter from the FGC to the MFR regarding scion distribution policy:  
Action: complete.
- d. Inform the Extension TAC of the need for seed and forest genetics extension activities in the Southern Interior:  
Action: done; extension activities planned
- e. Breeding subprogram review report:  
Action: complete; presented later in the meeting
- f. Fdc reproductive biology manual cost sharing with other jurisdictions:  
Action: Jack contacted the NWTIC, IETIC and Weyerhaeuser in the US. NWTIC has no funds. Possible interest with the IETIC. Weyco suggested the Weyerhaeuser Foundation. No further actions at this time, pending an October response from the IETIC. Weyco Foundation problematic, as it would involve dealing with a US agency and US tax reporting (not enough value for the added work).
- g. Discuss training on seed supply and planning with the ETAC and with MFR staff leading SPAR training:  
Action: Done; training under consideration for fall 2008.
- h. Whitebark pine information note; discussion with Craig Sutherland re. MFR role:  
Action: complete. Rack card and letter from Jim Snetsinger in preparation.
- i. Discuss first nations membership on FGC with Jim Snetsinger:  
Action: complete; hold off until the First Nations Forestry Council is prepared to deal with the question.
- j. Statement from the FGC at Charlie Johnson's memorial:  
Action: Not done; information about the memorial wasn't received.
- k. Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation lifetime membership:  
Action: complete; Diane Douglas and Keith Thomas paid a FGC membership from surplus 2007/08 funds.
- l. Policy action items. It was noted that the action item described in the March 12, 2008 minutes was incorrect. The following pertains to the 2 action items that should have been identified:
  - i. Allowing a company to group their 5% allowance for planting outside defined seed zones for all of their licenses within a Timber Supply Area:  
Action: Policy change underway, but not yet complete.
  - ii. Allow companies to apply the regulation that allows 5% planting outside seed zone boundaries to apply to Forest Practices Code blocks:  
Action: Policy change reviewed, but not considered necessary as very little planting still takes place under the Forest Practices Code (Nearly all harvested areas now fall under the Forest and Range Practices Act).

### **3. Final report from the Tree Breeding Subprogram Review Committee**

JW presented the report on behalf of the Review Committee. Recommendations in the report were accepted. It was noted that good process at TAC meetings, and careful review of programs by Species Committees was key to allowing other stakeholders to participate, learn, and influence program direction.

**Action:** CTAC and ITAC chairs, Keith Thomas and Jack Woods will have a conference call regarding Species Committee meeting process, TAC meeting process, and how information will be reported back to the FGC. Recommendations to be brought to the FGC in September.

2. **MOVED** (Yanchuk / van Niejenhuis) that the report of the Breeding Subprogram Review Committee, dated May 27, 2008, is hereby approved and recommendations contained therein will be implemented in the next business cycle of Council. **CARRIED.**

### **4. Update on the Genecology and Seed Transfer Review Committee**

JW presented a progress report on behalf of the Committee. The following Terms of Reference were agreed to:

**TOR 1 - Ranking method**

Develop a method for ranking genecology research priorities and seed transfer policy needs.

**TOR 2 - Administrative system for funding**

Develop a system for funding genecology research priorities with FIA Forest Genetic Conservation and Management funds that is directed, efficient for researchers, and has a low administrative cost.

**TOR 3 - Reporting and performance indicators**

Recommend a system of performance indicators that can be used by the FGC for setting objectives, tracking project progress, and reporting.

**TOR 4 - Budget development and review committee structure**

Recommend a committee structure to oversee, on behalf of Council, the development of budgets, reporting, and stakeholder input.

The committee is on track to present a full report and recommendation to Council at the September meeting.

The Committee report was acknowledged and the direction of the committee is supported.

### **5. Report from the Genetic Conservation TAC regarding FTE and budget**

Brian updated Council on the GCTAC recommendation to support a MFR recommendation that Jodie Krakowski of the Research Branch will take responsibility for genetic conservation functions set out in the GCTAC plan of September 17, 2007. It is recommended that an annual business plan for use of these funds should be developed by Jodie. Approval of the plan will fall to the GCTAC, and ultimately to the FGC as part of the business cycle and Genetic Conservation subprogram.

The GCTAC recommendation was acknowledged and is supported. No formal resolution needed.

### **6. Updates on seed transfer standards and a Genome Canada meeting**

- a. Brian Barber announced that the MFR is in the process of updating seed transfer standards to a climate-based system. Technical work is proceeding. The FGC will be kept informed, and TAC's will be asked to participate and provide review.

- b. Genome Canada is reviewing their priorities for investments in tree genomics and in broader areas of the environment, including areas like bioremediation, fisheries, etc. A workshop was held in Ottawa in May, and was attended by Brian. Several people in BC are contributing information to the review. (This item is for information only)

**7. New Business**

- a. Brian announced that the Provincial Tree Seed Centre (TSC) is having it's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. There will be a Tree Seed Efficiency meeting held July 30 and 31 at the TSC and some celebrations in recognition of the anniversary will be included. Brian asked for the names of people who have contributed to the Centre over the years.
- b. Planning for the September 17<sup>th</sup> FGC meeting: Meeting to be held at the Vernon Seed Orchard (VSOC) site. VSOC will be having a celebration for their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and would like to combine it with the FGC meeting (likely a BBQ on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>).

**Action:** Jack will contact Tim Lee to make arrangements and coordinate the meeting and dinner.

**Action:** Jack will have awards made for Dale.

**8. Motion to adjourn**

- 2. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / MacNicol) that there being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 10:50 AM. **CARRIED.**

**Next FGC meeting September 16/17, 2008 in Vernon**

Minutes prepared by Keith Thomas and Jack Woods

*Keith Thomas*

