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## MINUTES

### Forest Genetics Council – Meeting December 12, 2007

#### Location: Best Western Richmond Inn - Richmond BC

*Attending:* Brian Barber, John Elmslie, Mike Carlson, Chris Hawkins, Gary Hogan, Scott King, Joe Leblanc, Bruce MacNicol, Larry Promnitz, Annette van Niejenhuis

*Regrets:* Frank Gundersen, Mike Madill, Al McDonald, Alvin Yanchuk

*Support:* Keith Thomas, Jack Woods

*Guests:* Sally Aitken, Robb Bennett, Diane Douglas, Tim Lee, Leslie McAuley, Greg O'Neill, David Reid, Michael Stoehr

#### Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Program Manager (Jack and others)	The CTAC and ITAC are asked to review the coast and interior Broadleaf Reports, and recommendations are to be brought to the FGC for discussion.
	A whitebark pine information note and letter to licensees, discussed during the August whitebark pine workshop, is to be completed and sent to Council and the MFR for review (Jack, Mike Carlson, Scott)
	Jack, Brian, and Keith to discuss a change in the name of the FIA Tree Improvement Program with FIC members at an upcoming meeting, and explain the rationale for including the work "genetic".
	FGC requested that the recommended policy on the allocation of limited scion to orchards be forwarded to the ITAC for consideration at their January 2008 meeting, and that ITAC bring back their recommendation at the March, 2008 FGC meeting. (Annette, Michael Carlson, and Jack,)
	An option will be developed to make FGC documents available on either the FGC or MFR - TIB website through password access (Jack, Keith, and Diane Douglas)
Program Financial Administrator (Keith)	The Coast Strategy Work Plan and Project List will be distributed to the FGC

#### Summary of Motions Carried:

1. **MOVED:** (van Niejenhuis / Promnitz): Minutes of the meeting held September 19, 2007 are hereby approved. CARRIED
2. **MOVED** (King / van Niejenhuis) To strike a Climate change and Seed Transfer Process Committee that will recommend a business process that integrates with FGC business planning, and report back to Council at the March 2008 meeting for implementation in the upcoming budget cycle. CARRIED
3. **MOVED** (Promnitz / van Niejenhuis): Council endorses the amended process for development of a new Strategic Plan (shown in body of minutes). CARRIED

## Meeting called to order at 09:15 A.M. by John Elmslie (Co-Chair)

**Agenda:** Accepted as presented

### 1. Approval of Minutes, September 19, 2007

1. **MOVED:** (van Niejenhuis / Promnitz): Minutes of the meeting held September 19, 2007 are hereby approved. **CARRIED**

### 2. FGC MFR Co-Chair

Brian Barber was welcomed as the new MFR Co-chair. Brian reiterated that he is temporarily appointed as Director of Tree Improvement. A final appointment will depend on what happens with Dale Draper's application for a new position as Director of Climate Change and Forest Carbon.

A letter from Craig Sutherland appointing Brian Barber was acknowledged.

### 3. Old Business and Action Items from September 19, 2007

**Strategic plan update** – will be discussed under item #8

**Genetic Conservation specialist** – The location of this position in the MFR was discussed between Brian and Alvin, and it was agreed that the position will be in the Research Branch. Next steps are to discuss this with Gerry Still (Director, Research Branch) and Craig Sutherland (Deputy Chief Forester) regarding resourcing with FIA funds. Jack pointed out that 25% of the current FIA allocation is supporting FTEs within the Ministry at this point in time. This reduces flexibility if the FIA Tree Improvement Program allocation is reduced.

### 4. Mid-year Sub program reports

#### OTIP – Keith Thomas

- All performance indicators are on track. Presently risk-managing about \$40k on an \$825k budget
- The 2008/09 Call for Proposals has been let

#### Tree Breeding – Michael Stoehr

- 83% of funding spent to date; spending and deliverables are on track
- An overview of each of the breeding programs was provided
- Michael briefly discussed the broadleaf reports (coast and interior) commissioned on behalf of Council by the Broadleaf Committee led by Chang-Yi Xie. These reports were brought to the attention of Jim Snetsinger, and Jim asked Council to review them. Joe Leblanc pointed out that the Coast Region Implementation Team is reviewing broadleaf policy.

**Action:** The CTAC and ITAC are asked to review the coast and interior Broadleaf Reports, and recommendations are to be brought to the FGC for discussion.

#### Genetic Resource Information Management – Lesley McAuley

- Some sub-program projects were changed from those set out in the FGC Business Plan
- Projects underway include:
  - GRM Challenge Dialogue
  - GRM Decision Support System
  - Data Quality Assessment (Genetic Source – Seedlot)
  - Forest Resource Evaluation Program Seed Use Report

- UBC Spatial Analysis (MSc Thesis)

#### **Seed Orchard and Pest Management – Robb Bennett**

- Program spending and projects generally on track
- Extension efforts by Jim Corrigan have provided very useful pest management information to interior seed orchard operations
- Ward Strong is leading research efforts
- Progress summaries were provided for *Synanthedon* (Pitch moths), *Leptoglossus occidentalis* infrared foraging cues, *Adelgid* species composition, and *Contarinia* impacts

#### **Extension – Diane Douglas**

- Extension Activities for 07/08 were reviewed
- Budget and activities are on track

#### **Genetic Conservation and UBC Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics – Sally Aitken**

- Accomplishments were outlined for 07/08
- Total budget = 295k, plus leverage with student fellowships
- 45k – FIA incremental project on climate change and seed transfer
- Under-spent on whitebark pine and limber pine seed collection by about \$15k
- Overspent CFGC budget by about \$20k
- Budget is generally on-track at this point

**Action:** A whitebark pine information note and letter to licensees, discussed during the August whitebark pine workshop, is to be completed and sent to Council and the MFR for review (Jack, Mike Carlson, Scott)

#### **SelectSeed Ltd. – Jack Woods**

- Crops harvested in 10 of 14 orchards
- Pli - approx 6.5 kg; Fdi - 27.6 kg
- On track for all spending except crop harvest, which is up due to larger than expected crops
- Initial revenue forecast \$45k; now at over \$120k
- Performance indicators on track.

### **5. Climate Change and Seed Transfer**

The following presentations were made to Council:

- Adaptation, Migration or Extirpation: Effects of Climate Change on Native Tree Populations – Sally Aitken
- Seed Transfer and Climate Change – Greg O’Neill
- Change-Management Issues – Jack Woods
- Seed Policy and Transfer Process – Brian Barber

The first three presentations were originally prepared for a Climate Change conference in Ontario

#### **Key Points from the ensuing discussion include:**

- Brian pointed out that a technical meeting on climate change information and research needs will be held in January

- Gary noted that we need to separate the approach taken to support research from the science itself, and bring together the right people through a well-developed funding process
  - John pointed out that the existing FGC committee structure may need some changes to properly support climate change and genecology work
2. **MOVED** (King / van Niejenhuis) To strike a Climate change and Seed Transfer Process Committee that will recommend a business process that integrates with FGC business planning, and report back to Council at the March 2008 meeting for implementation in the upcoming budget cycle. CARRIED.

Committee Membership: Brian Barber, Gary Hogan, Michael Carlson, Annette van Niejenhuis, Scott King, Jack Woods, Alvin Yanchuk

## 6. Forest Investment Council request for new name for the Tree Improvement Program

Following the October presentation to the Forest Investment Council on the FIA Tree Improvement Program, there was discussion on how appropriate the program name is given the emphasis on conservation, seed transfer, etc. FIC asked that the FGC provide them with a recommendation for a possible new name. During the October presentation, Deputy Minister Konkin expressed concern about the use of the words “genetic” or “gene”.

The following name was developed through FGC discussion: “Forest Genetic Conservation and Management” It was felt by Council members that we could not avoid use of the words “genetic” or “gene”, as they are central to the intent and thrust of the program. Council asked that the name and a rationale be presented to the FIC.

**Action:** Jack, Brian, and Keith to discuss a change in the name of the FIA Tree Improvement Program with FIC members at an upcoming meeting, and explain the rationale for including the work “genetic”.

## 7. Policy on the allocation of limited scion to orchards – Annette van Niejenhuis

Annette presented the following CTAC recommendation regarding the disposition of limited scion and/or grafts for orchard development when more than one operator is seeking the material:

***Part 1:*** *Who should receive scion or grafts from forward selections?*

***Recommended option:***

*Any interested party demonstrating that they will deploy seed in British Columbia, and willing to sign MFR Agreement, may request and expect to receive scion or grafts from forward selections where limited scion supply is a concern.*

***Part 2:*** *Where insufficient numbers of scion or grafts are available, how should the limited material be distributed?*

***Recommended option:***

*Approved orchards with a known interest in the forward selections will be invited to confirm their interest in each specific clone, and will receive an equal share of the scion or grafts available.*

**Action:** FGC requested that this recommended policy on the allocation of limited scion to orchards be forwarded to the ITAC for consideration at their January 2008 meeting,

and that ITAC bring back their recommendation at the March, 2008 FGC meeting. (Annette, Michael Carlson, and Jack,)

**8. GRM Challenge Dialogue Update/FGC Strategic Plan Development (Brian and Jack)**

The Genetic Resource Management Challenge Dialogue process will be completed in January, 2008.

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

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
Complete Challenge Dialogue report and distribute for final review and comment	Barber, Yanchuk, Woods, Consultants	January-March, 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

**3. MOVED (Prominitz / van Niejenhuis):** Council endorses the amended process for development of a new Strategic Plan (shown above). CARRIED

**9. Disposition of Pope and Talbot seedling orders – Jack Woods**

This item was put on the agenda following a request originating with John Kitchen, CEO, PRT Ltd. The issues relate to roughly 7 million seedlings owned by Pope and Talbot Ltd. and held in cold storage for 2008 planting. 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 year's growth.

Following discussion, Council concluded that this issue is outside their scope of responsibility. No action was recommended.

**10. New Business**

**A) Coast Strategy Update – Brian Barber**

**Purpose:**

- Provincial government initiative to increase cost competitiveness and investment in the coast forest industry

**Terms of Reference:**

- Determine potential volume and economic gains through tree improvement, fertilization, and other treatments
- Develop options for intensively managing second growth stands (with a positive ROI)
- Develop a transition strategy from old growth to second growth stands

**Results and Direction:**

- \$400k/yr FIA funds approved for at least 3 yrs for incremental TI activities
- Administered by TIB - in accordance with an “FGC strategy”
- Funding and expenditures to be tracked and reported separately from other MFR and FGC programs (e.g. OTIP)
- Can be used for increasing capacity (e.g. salaries) as well as operations.
- Projects delivered by Research Branch and Tree Improvement Branch (TIB)
- A number of outstanding policy issues will be addressed

**Research Branch Projects:**

- Staff addition (Jody Krakowski)
- Michael Stoehr is developing an Fdc nucleus breeding population
- John Russell is advancing Cw breeding and developing a high-turpene content population for deer-browse resistance
- Charlie Cartwright is accelerating the measurement of progeny trials to expedite new orchard developments

**Action:** The Coast Strategy Work Plan and Project List will be distributed to the FGC (Keith Thomas)

**C) Distribution of FGC presentations - Gary Hogan**

Gary asked if a practical option could be developed for making minutes, presentations, and other material available on the FGC website.

**Action:** An option will be developed to make FGC documents available on either the FGC or MFR - TIB website through password access (Jack, Keith, and Diane Douglas)

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

**Next meeting: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Minutes prepared by:

*Keith Thomas* and

