
MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Conference call December 16, 2009

Attending: Brian Barber, Judi Beck, Rob Guy, Joe Leblanc, Scott King, Tim Lee, Al McDonald, Kerry McGourlick, Bruce MacNicol, Barrie Phillips, Annette van Niejenhuis, John Mitchell, Gernot Zemanek

Regrets: Madeline Maley

Others: Jack Woods, Darrell Wood

Guests: David Reid, Lee Charleson

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Program Manager	Distribute the Chief Forester Principles document to the FGC and TACs for comment by January 7, 2010
Jack Woods, Bruce MacNicol, Tim Lee	Develop background information on lodgepole pine orchard financial viability for the FGC, with pros and cons of various approaches and with some pricing information.
Lee Charleson	Complete the GRDS report and make it available to FGC members prior to the March 25, 2009 meeting.
Brian and Jack	Provide an update on budget allocations for 2010/2011 when available
Program Financial Coordinator (Darrell)	Arrange for the Kalamalka Forestry Centre to host the March 25 th FGC meeting

Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED:** (Leblanc/Beck) to accept the December 17, 2009 FGC meeting agenda with additions. **CARRIED**
2. **MOVED:** (van Niejenhuis / MacNicol) Minutes from the meetings held September 16, 2009 and are hereby approved. **CARRIED**
3. **MOVED:** (van Niejenhuis / King) The report and rankings prepared by the Seed Transfer TAC and it's subcommittees is hereby approved. **CARRIED**

Meeting called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Kerry McGourlick (Co-Chair)

1. Welcome and introduction of new Council members:

- John Mitchell, RPF, Chief Forester, TimberWest Forest Products Ltd. – Coast Industry Seed Orchard owner representative

2. Review of agenda:

1. **MOVED:** (Leblanc/Beck) to accept the December 17, 2009 FGC meeting agenda with additions. **CARRIED**

3. Old business and action items

Action items from the previous minutes were reviewed, all were completed with the exception of a report on FIA budget allocations for next fiscal year. Allocations are not available at this time.

2. **MOVED:** (van Niejenhuis / MacNicol) Minutes from the meetings held September 16, 2009 and are hereby approved. **CARRIED**

4. Update on meeting with the Honorable John Rustad, Parliamentary Secretary for Silviculture

- At the recommendation of Forest Minister, Pat Bell, Jack Woods, Brian Barber, and Alvin Yanchuk briefed John Rustad on the provincial forest genetics program and its benefits.
- Mr. Rustad is interested in the provincial forest genetics program and its potential to add value. He hopes to tour the Kalamalka Forestry Centre to learn more.
- Mr. Rustad conveyed his interest in seeking policy changes that would encourage private sector investment in incremental silviculture activities – making silviculture an asset not a liability. Pending recommendations to Minister Bell, stemming from the input to the Growing Opportunities discussion paper, will prompt decisions and direction from government – and ultimately who will drive silviculture investments in the Province.

5. Update on 2009/10 budget allocations and expenditures – Darrell Wood

- Darrell provided an outline of FGC spending to date, including actual spending, commitments, surplus funds, and funds that remain uncommitted and are not yet considered surplus.
- Grant funds not sent at this time will not be approved for allocation.
- There is a surplus of about \$480,000 due to inability to obtain approvals. This money will be pulled back to the central treasury.

6. Breeding Priority Ranking Committee report

- On behalf of the Breeding Program Ranking Committee, Jack presented the Committee report and rankings. A ranking table was provided (see meeting agenda and background material).
- Committee members: Annette van Niejenhuis, Barrie Phillips, Alvin Yanchuk, Tim Lee, David Reid, Atmo Prasad, Guy Burdikin, Jack Woods (chair)
- The rankings will be presented to the breeder group and to Coast and Interior TAC members for comment and input.
- Rankings will be utilized by breeders and Research Branch management in developing activity and budget plans and priorities to ensure they align with FGC objectives.
- FGC endorsement of the rankings will wait until TAC review is complete.

7. Genecology priorities and Call for Proposals – Lee Charleson

- Lee reviewed how the Seed Transfer TAC set up priority rankings at the species level for genecology research and seed transfer policy development.
- A table was developed that identifies priorities in a matrix of species and activity types. This table will guide project proponents and review-committee members.
- A call for proposals is set to be released on Friday, December 18

3. **MOVED:** (van Niejenhuis / King) The report and rankings prepared by the Seed Transfer TAC and it's subcommittees is hereby approved. **CARRIED**

8. Genetic Resource Decision Subprogram review and recommendations - Lee Charleson

- Report currently in draft form and will be available in advance of budget process and the March 25th FGC meeting.
- Options are to either continue the subprogram or to end it. Continuation will be recommended.
- More communication with clients and others in the FGC program is needed, and a newsletter is being initiated.

Action – Lee will complete the report and make it available to FGC members prior to the March 25, 2009 meeting.

9. CTAC and ITAC updates – Annette van Niejenhuis and Tim Lee

- CTAC meeting held November 16; nursery representative included
- OTIP call for proposals out, reviewed eligibility lists
- Coastal breeding budget review meeting in February
- ITAC Reviewed OTIP eligibility lists
- ITAC meeting scheduled in Vernon January 14
- Reviewed voting members and members list

10. MFR Research Branch Forest Genetics Section review – Barrie Phillips

- Request from Jim Snetsinger to all sections to review priorities and alignment with MFR strategic objectives
- Process must align with FGC and Tree Improvement Branch objectives
- Review still in progress, but a shift of focus to more interior and less coastal breeding support is anticipated. A more developed report will be forthcoming for FGC comment in January 2010.

11. Chief Forester Guiding Principles for Public and Private Seed Orchard Management in BC – Brian Barber

- The Chief Forester Principles were developed from the background paper on public and private participation in seed orchards prepared by Jack Woods and Brian in consultation with private and public sector stakeholders.
- These principles set out MFR expectations with respect to seed orchards and seed orchard developments.
- Further comments from the FGC, TACs and others are welcome.

Action: the draft report will be distributed to FGC and TAC members for comment by January 7, 2010 (Jack)

- Comments received will be considered in a final draft of the Chief Forester Principles paper to be reviewed and signed of by Jim Snetsinger.

12. Vernon Seed Orchard Company request regarding lodgepole pine orchards – Bruce MacNicol and Tim Lee

- Existing lodgepole pine orchards in Vernon are not producing adequate seed to cover costs through seed sales
- Orchards are developed for Crown land reforestation
- VSOC is having difficulty operating these orchards due to the negative financial performance and they are not able to continue to subsidize them
- VSOC wishes to re-establish some of its pine production on a more northerly site near Quesnel in the hope that seed production will be more similar to orchards in the Prince George area. They are seeking support through the FGC program and FIA funds
- An annual support amount of \$3 per Pli ramet was requested for all Pli orchards.
- Al suggested that a subsidy could be difficult to control and would move us away from the concept of orchard support primarily coming from seed sales
- Brian advised that the Chief Forester Principles should be used to develop an approach
- Kerry pointed out that this is a core issue for all seed orchards and orchard operations must be able to recover costs from sales
- Al advised that adjustments to seed price may be a better approach.

Action: Jack, Bruce and Tim will develop background information for the FGC, with pros and cons of various approaches and with some pricing information.

13. Other business and updates**Climate-based seed transfer**

- Jim Snetsinger has requested that climate-based seed transfer be implemented for all species. This is also an objective in the FGC Strategic Plan
- Western larch and interior Douglas-fir are currently being considered. Barry Jaquish of the Research Branch is leading this work. A target is to have new zones in place by March 31, 2010.
- Barry Jaquish will present his work at the ITAC meeting in January.

Budget expectations for 2010/11

- No budget numbers are available at this time
- Brian will be meeting with Jim Snetsinger and others to stress the need for a better process for implementing the business planning put in place by the FGC.
- Industry members on the FGC were encouraged to make their views known to Deputy Minister, Dana Hayden regarding continued FIA support for the Forest Genetics program.

NEXT FGC MEETING will be held in Vernon – March 25, 2010

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods and Darrell Wood

