

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting June 16, 2010

Meeting held by conference call

Attending: Brian Barber, Rob Guy, Tim Lee, Scott King, Joe Leblanc, Al McDonald, Kerry McGourlick (chair), John Mitchell, Barrie Phillips, Annette van Niejenhuis

Regrets: Judi Beck, Madeline Maley, Gernot Zemanek

Others: Darrell Wood, Jack Woods

Guests: Lorne Bedford, Doug Maynard, Al Powelson, Alvin Yanchuk

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Jack	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare a letter to Jim Snetsinger and Kathy Chopik thanking them for LBIS funding support, and express concern regarding FGC and MFR ability to meet MFR Service Plan objectives that are based on the provincial genetics/ tree improvement program given recent staffing cuts in the Research and Tree Improvement Branches.• Contact all FGC subprogram leaders and seek proposals for LBIS tree improvement funds that are unallocated. Response date June 30th. A recommendation will be prepared for Jim Snetsinger by July 7th.• Put the three-year business planning process on the September FGC meeting agenda for discussion.• Add professional reliance and climate-based seed transfer to the September FGC meeting agenda

Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED:** (Al McDonald / Joe Leblanc): Meeting agenda accepted with addition. CARRIED.
2. **MOVED:** (Scott King / Joe Leblanc): Minutes of the meeting held December 16, 2009 are hereby approved. CARRIED.
3. **MOVED:** (Annette van Niejenhuis / Tim Lee): Budget allocations shown in the budget table presented, along with recommendations for the unallocated \$144,000, to be developed by June 30, 2010, are hereby approved and will be recommended to the Provincial Chief Forester. (CARRIED).

Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Brian Barber (MFR Co-Chair)

1. Agenda:

A new item on changes within the MFR was added by Brian.

MOVED (Al McDonald / Joe Leblanc): Meeting agenda accepted with addition. CARRIED.

2. Approval of March 25, 2010 minutes:

MOVED (Scott King / Joe Leblanc): Minutes of the meeting held March 25, 2010 are hereby approved.
CARRIED.

3. Old Business and Action Items from March 25, 2010

Summary of action items and progress from the March 25, 2010 FGC meeting

Responsibility	Action requested	Action taken
Jack	Contact interior seed-orchard owning companies regarding a new representative on Council. COFI will also be informed.	Underway
Jack and Darrell	Organize an FGC conference call when the final FIA Tree Improvement Program allocation is released.	Part of June 16 th meeting
Pli Support Committee	Tim, Annette, Jack: Prepare a briefing note for the September FGC meeting regarding a request for assistance for Pli orchards	To be done
University overhead committee.	University overhead rates will need to be resolved before a final budget recommendation can be brought forward. Brian, Rob, Barrie, Darrell, Jill Petersen, and Jack will review and resolve this issue.	Discussion held: 25% contracts and new projects 8% grandfathered projects
Brian Barber	Distribute the final Chief Forester Principles document regarding private and public participation in seed orchards prior to the June 16, 2010 meeting	Ongoing

Action items reviewed and accepted as presented.

4. MFR workforce adjustments – Brian Barber

Brian outlined the affects MFR workforce adjustments on both Tree Improvement Branch (2 staff) and Research Branch (6 staff) and how these may affect MFR ability to meet targets and objectives.

Lorne Bedford and Al Powelson discussed the Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS) that has replaced FIA. A key MFR performance measure (7.1 million m³ from silviculture investments) is expected to be met with a strong contribution from the tree improvement program (over 50% of the 7.1 million m³).

LBIS Tree Improvement funding for 2010/11 will be \$3.53 million. These funds will flow to projects developed through FGC business planning in the same way that FIA funding were previously allocated. The MFR is moving to a 3-year planning cycle, and this should also be considered for FGC business planning.

Concern was expressed by FGC members regarding the ability of Council and the MFR to meet objectives set out in both the FGC Strategic Plan and the MFR Service Plan with reductions to genetics and tree improvement staff in the MFR. It was agreed that this issue would be raised by industry members of Council at the MFR-Industry forum on June 26th and when opportunities arise during communications with senior MFR staff. It was also agreed that a letter, on FGC letterhead, would be sent to Cathy Chopik and Jim Snetsinger thanking them for LBIS funding support and expressing concerns about the impact of staffing reductions.

Action: Prepare a letter to Jim Snetsinger and Kathy Chopik thanking them for LBIS funding support, and express concern regarding FGC and MFR ability to meet MFR Service Plan objectives

that are based on the provincial genetics/ tree improvement program given recent staffing cuts in the Research and Tree Improvement Branches (Jack).

5. Finalizing budget allocations to subprograms

The Land Base Investment Strategy funding allocation to the Tree Improvement Program is \$3.53 million for 2010/11. This amount excludes MFR salary that had previously been included in Forest Investment Account funding allocations. The following table outlines subprogram requests and amounts approved by the FGC.

Table 1: 2010/11 LBIS funding requests and recommendations by subprogram and project

Subprogram	Requested amount	June 16, 2010 amount approved by FGC	Notes
Genetic Conservation	\$ 210,100	\$248,000	Increased UBC CFCG grant approved by MFR for ClimateBC
Tree Breeding*	\$1,166,172	\$1,141,000	Funds added for clonebank upgrade at Cowichan Lake Res. Stn.
Operational Tree Imp. Prog.	\$683,333	\$684,000	Adjustments to projects overheads done
SelectSeed Ltd.	\$586,000	\$543,000	Amount previously set by MFR outside of FGC planning process
Extension and Communication	\$20,500	\$20,500	
Cone and Seed Pest Mgt.	\$156,700	\$162,000	Increases due to adjustments for University overhead
Genecology and Seed Transfer	\$422,673	\$436,000	Increases due to adjustments for University overhead and to an additional project added
Genetic Resource Decision Sup.	\$0	\$0	
Administration*	\$15,000	\$30,000	Increased to allow meeting and other FGC support
Incremental project			
Applied Tree Impr. and biotechnology (YE-K UBC)	\$180,360	\$122,000	Amount previously set by MFR outside of FGC planning process
TOTAL	\$3,440,838	\$3,386,500	
UNALLOCATED	\$ 89,162	\$143,500	Propoject proposals to be requested.

An unallocated amount of \$144,000 remains. The Provincial Chief Forester has given Council until July 7th to bring forward ideas on how this amount can be allocated to projects that support FGC and MFR Service Plan objectives.

Action: Contact all FGC subprogram leaders and seek proposals for LBIS tree improvement funds that are unallocated. Response date June 30th. A recommendation will be prepared for Jim Snetsinger by July 7th.

MOVED: (Annette van Niejenhuis / Tim Lee) Budget allocations shown in the budget table presented, along with recommendations for the unallocated \$144,000, to be developed by June 30, 2010, are hereby approved and will be recommended to the Provincial Chief Forester. (CARRIED).

6. New business

a. 3-year Land Based Investment Strategy:

Brian outlined how the MFR and the LBIS is moving to a 3-year plan for budget and outcomes. The FGC should also consider this.

Action: Jack will put the three-year business planning process on the September FGC meeting agenda for discussion.

b. Climate-based seed transfer

Increased professional reliance is being reviewed within the MFR. Brian would like to initiate an FGC discussion on the increased use of professional reliance as a means of influencing seed transfer decisions.

Action: Add professional reliance and climate-based seed transfer to the September FGC meeting agenda (Jack).

7. Location for September 22, 2010 meeting

Kerry kindly volunteered to host the September 22nd meeting at the Western Forest Products Saanich Forestry Centre. This location was confirmed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Next meeting: September 22, 2010 (WFP Saanich Forestry Center)

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods and Darrell Wood

