

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting September 19, 2007

Executive Inn – Westminster Hwy - Richmond BC

Attending: Annette Van Niejenhuis, Mike Madill, Mike Carlson, Dale Draper, John Elmsley, Frank Gundersen, Hamish Kerr (for Larry Promnitz), Scott King, Joe Leblanc, Bruce MacNicol, and Alvin Yanchuk

Regrets: Chris Hawkins, Gary Hogan, Al McDonald, Larry Promnitz

Others: Keith Thomas and Jack Woods

Guests: Brian Barber, Dave Kolotelo, Tim Lee (VSOC), Leslie McAuley, and David Reid

Special Guest: Roger Painter

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Program Manager	Jack will bring to the March FGC meeting recommended steps and schedule for update of the strategic plan with a completion-date target of December 2008.
Council members	<p>Councilors to give some thought on how they would like the annual report presented with respect to content and presentation and provide comments to Jack.</p> <p>Dale and Alvin to get direction from the Ministry with respect to the location of an FTE who will undertake conservation genetics work as recommended in the GCTAC plan. This information will be brought back to Council at the December meeting.</p> <p>Dale to arrange for Werner Kurtz to present at an upcoming FGC meeting</p>
Program Financial Administrator	Put Species Plan link on FGC site (with Jack).

Summary of Motions:

- MOVED** (King / MacNicol Hogan): Minutes of the meeting held June 13, 2007 are hereby approved. CARRIED.
- MOVED** (Carlson / Van Niejenhuis): The FGC Annual Report for 2006/07 is hereby approved for publication and distribution. CARRIED.
- MOVED** (Draper / Leblanc): Jack Woods and Alvin Yanchuk will develop a terms of reference for the tree breeding sub program review by mid-October CARRIED.
- MOVED** (Van Niejenhuis / Leblanc): The Genetic Conservation plan is accepted in principle pending recommendations from the Ministry of Forests by the December 12, 2007 FGC meeting regarding the location of a person to implement conservation actions recommended in the report. CARRIED.
- MOVED** (King / Madill): The allocation of an additional \$40,000 to the GRM Challenge Dialogue process is approved in principal and will be reviewed and confirmed at the December FGC meeting pending review of FIA TIP subprogram budgets. CARRIED.

6. **MOVED** (King / Draper): Brian Barber to work with Jack Woods to develop a framework for a process to develop new seed transfer standards (including timelines, risks, and budget) and bring it back to council for review at the December 12, 2007 meeting. CARRIED.

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

Agenda: Accepted as presented with no changes.

1. Approval of June 13, 2007 minutes:

1. **MOVED** (King / MacNicol): Minutes of the meeting held June 13, 2007 are hereby approved. CARRIED.

2. Old Business and Action Items from June 13, 2007

Subprogram Reviews – Jack Woods

Letter dated March 30, 2007, from Jim Snetsinger thanked Council for budget planning work and recommendations for 07/08, and asked that we continue with our program reviews (deferred to agenda item #5).

3. FGC Annual Report for 2006/07– Jack Woods

Jack presented an overview of 06/07 Annual Report. The theme of this year’s cover features the climate work of the UBC Center for Forest Genetic Conservation (Sally Aitken’s group). The 06/07 final budget was within \$15k of the original \$5.855M.

Final 2006/07 FIA Tree Improvement Program expenditures.

Subprogram	Ongoing	Incremental	Total	Final expenditures
Genetic Conservation	220	50	270	270
Tree Breeding	2,100	448	2,548	2,568
Operational Tree Improvement Program (OTIP)	686	123	809	847*
Extension and Communication	120	0	120	117
Gene Resource Information Management	50	30	80	75
Seed Orchard Pest Management	284	152	436	315
Administration (Tree Improvement Branch)	43	15	58	58
Incremental projects		682	682	558
SelectSeed Ltd. orchard and FGC program mgt.	867		867	867**
Uncommitted (returned)		96	96	180
Total	4,370	1,500	5,870	5,855

- Provincial performance indicator graph was presented. 119M total Class-A seed was sown which accounts for approx 50% of all seed sown. If B+ is added, total select seed

accounts for over 50% of all seed sown. The average GWg of orchard seed for 2006-07 was 14%.

BC orchards had a moderate cone year with a total crop of 604 kg (double 2005). This translates to approximately 88M seedlings with a value > \$2.5M. The 2007 crop forecast is expected to be 3 times 2006 = 250M seedlings.

2. **MOVED** (Carlson / Van Niejenhuis): The FGC Annual Report for 2006/07 is hereby approved for publication and distribution. CARRIED.

Action: Councilors to give some thought on how they would like the annual report presented with respect to content and presentation and provide comments to Jack.

4. **FGC Business Plan and species plans for 2007/08 – Jack Woods**

Jack provided a brief overview of the 2007/08 business plan and species plans. Printed copies were distributed to councillors

Action: Jack\Keith to put Species plan link on FGC site.

5. **Subprogram Review - letter from Chief Forester – Jack\ Dale**

In his March 30, 2007 letter, Jim Snetsinger asked that Council continue with its periodic review of subprograms (Pest management and Conservation done previously). Council agreed to review the breeding program and to focus on process, strategic alignment, indicators, and committee structures.

3. **MOVED** (Draper / Leblanc): Jack Woods and Alvin Yanchuk will develop a terms of reference for the tree breeding sub program review by mid-October CARRIED.

6. **Genetic Conservation Subprogram Plan – Dave Kolotelo**

Dave presented the report prepared by the Genetic Conservation TAC (sent as meeting background material). This report outlines recommended objectives, program structure, performance indicators and resource needs.

Council discussed the report and the location of the full-time genetic conservation person recommended in the report. It was concluded that this decision should take place within the MFR.

4. **MOVED** (Van Niejenhuis / Leblanc): The Genetic Conservation plan is accepted in principle pending recommendations from the Ministry of Forests by the December 12, 2007 FGC meeting regarding the location of a person to implement conservation actions recommended in the report. CARRIED.

Action: Dale and Alvin to get direction from the Ministry with respect to the location of an FTE who will undertake conservation genetics work as recommended in the GCTAC plan. This information will be brought back to Council at the December meeting.

7. **FGC Membership: First Nations – Jack, Dale**

An offer of FGC membership was made to the First Nations Forestry Council in a letter from Jim Snetsinger dated January 27, 2007. This offer will remain open. If a response is received it will be brought to Council's attention. No further action required at this time.

8. Challenge Dialogue Update – Brian Barber

Brian Barber presented an update on the Genetic Resource Management (GRM) Challenge Dialogue.

Purpose: to have a dialogue with GRM Community of Practice (COP) and stakeholders to create a collective vision and strategy for GRM that is consistent with sustainable forest management (SFM) and aligned with the Chief Forester’s Stewardship Framework.

Expected outcomes

1. Better understanding of GRM in SFM among the COP and stakeholders.
2. Identification of gaps and opportunities to respond (and support) current and future issues and SFM initiatives.
3. Alignment and shared ownership of GRM vision and goals
4. Improved partnerships and strengthened leadership within and between MOFR, FGC and other key GRM stakeholders.

Actions to date

- GRM COP dialogue Nov 06
- Progress report Jan 07
- Stakeholder and public dialogue May-June 2007 (54 responses received)
- Progress report August 2007

Next Steps

Workshop October 17 at River Rock Casino in Richmond (50 invited participants)

5. **MOVED** (King / Madill): The allocation of an additional \$40,000 to the GRM Challenge Dialogue process is approved in principal and will be reviewed and confirmed at the December FGC meeting pending review of FIA TIP subprogram budgets. **CARRIED.**

9. FGC Strategic Plan Update – Jack

The current FGC Strategic Plan is for the period 2004 to 2008. Development of a new plan is a natural progression of the Challenge Dialogue process.

Action: Jack will bring to the March FGC meeting recommended steps and schedule for update of the strategic plan with a completion-date target of December 2008.

10. Presentation Request from Forest Investment Council – Jack

FIC has asked for a 10-15 minute presentation at their October 4th meeting. Messages will include: 1) KPI’s and performance over the past 8 years, 2) TI has a positive effect on C sequestration, 3) Genetic Conservation directions, 4) stable budget expectation over the next 5 years. Jack will make the presentation on behalf of Council with help from Keith Thomas.

11. Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) of genetic resources – issue overview – Dale

Dale provided an overview of the ABS paper that was circulated prior to the meeting. ABS is not perceived as an immediate action item. FGC could respond separately from the Ministry's response. Dale will keep council informed of developments. Councilors will send Dale comments on the paper.

12. Whitebark pine conference update – Alvin

Alvin provided a brief update of the Whitebark Conservation and Genetics conference held at Whistler in August. Council was a partial sponsor of the conference, and SelectSeed managed cash flow. It was a very successful workshop. It is now accepted that planting is the key to the successful establishment of the species and fire is no longer considered as important as a management tool.

13. FGC Seed transfer guidelines and climate change – strategic review – Brian, Jack

New data from genecology tests and climate change are both leading us towards changing seed transfer standards. There is currently no framework or strategy in place for carrying out these changes. A process is required to develop this framework. There are profound implications on breeding and orchard demands, so a careful change-management plan is needed to ensure new transfer standards are implemented in a way that is compatible with operations (both orchards and licensees/BCTS).

This issue will come before the FGC in the next year.

6. **MOVED** (King / Draper): Brian Barber to work with Jack Woods to develop a framework for a process to develop new seed transfer standards (including timelines, risks, and budget) and bring it back to council for review at the December 12, 2007 meeting.
CARRIED.

14. FGC information to Chief Forester on somatic embryogenesis technology for BC – Jack, Dale

Jack provided brief overview of an article that appeared in the Financial Post on September 8, 2007 entitled "Little interest in Canada's 'tech trees'; BC-based Cellfor knows how to build a better tree but has no domestic market". A paper for Jim Snetsinger explaining FGC's position on the issue may be appropriate, but this is not a pressing matter, and it was decided that no action is required at this time.

15. Forest Science Board eligible genetics research topics – Jack

Jack provided an update on the results of FSB deliberations and research priorities for the upcoming year. Two forest genetics topics made it through and are eligible for funding for this call for proposals. This is considered to be a successful outcome of discussions with the FSB.

16. New Business

A) Reserving A-class seed – Scott King

The new market-based stumpage system allocates an operator-average amount for reforestation. There is a potential disparity among companies because some have access to A-class seed and others do not.

The issue was discussed, and Council determined that it is not in a position to deal with it, as it is not up to Council to determine who should and should not establish an orchard, and Council does not control seed sales or pricing. Companies who wish to buy class A seed can influence their ability to do so through the price they are willing to pay.

B) Coast Futures Strategy - Update - Brian BarberPurpose:

- Increase cost competitiveness and investment in coast forest industry
- Facilitate transition from old growth to second growth stands - due to economic and environmental constraints
- Explore options – tenure, AAC partitions, silviculture

Terms of Reference:

- Determine productive capacity of the coastal THLB using basal area index.
- Determine potential volume and economic gains thru tree Improvement, fertilization and other treatments.
- Develop options for intensively managing second growth stands (with a positive ROI).
- Develop a transition strategy from current second growth stands to some future desired state.

Results and Direction:

- \$400k/yr FIA funds approved for at least 3 yrs for incremental TI activities. To be used in support of coast strategy objectives.
- Administered by TIB - in accordance with FGC strategic direction and business planning.
- Funding and expenditures to be tracked and reported separately from other MFR and FGC programs.
- Can be used for increasing capacity (e.g. salaries) as well as operations.

C) Forest Carbon – Dale Draper

There is an opportunity for marketing of credits associated with GW >5. This Carbon credit opportunity may be useful as potential funding source for Tree Improvement, but a logical aggregation of Carbon Credits is needed. Carbon-credit accounting tools will have to provide a rational, defensible position around the carbon credits.

Action: Dale to arrange for Werner Kurtz to make a presentation on carbon credits and forestry at an upcoming FGC meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Next meeting: December 12th, 2007

Minutes prepared by,

Keith Thomas and

