

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council — Conference Call

February 28, 2006

Attending

Councillors: Sally Aitken, John Barker, Dale Draper, John Elmslie, Frank Gundersen, Chris Hawkins, Scott King, Mike Madill, Al McDonald, Alvin Yanchuk,

Regrets: Michael Carlson, Gary Hogan

Others: Jack Woods

Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M.

Purpose:

To discuss the request from Provincial Chief Forester, Jim Snetsinger, to review FGC membership (letter of November 16, 2005).

Summary of Discussion:

1. Dale Draper reviewed his discussion with Jim Snetsinger and Henry Benskin on Council membership, and raised the following points:
 - FGC, as with all advisory groups, needs to review membership from time to time and keep up-to-date.
 - Are the boundaries in the FGC role (as captured in the current FGC Strategic Plan) still relevant?
 - What is the process for reconciling conflicting advice among stakeholder groups (including the FGC)?
 - The rate of change in forest management and licensees is currently high, with increased presence of First Nations, Community Forests, and Woodlots. Should these groups have a role on the FGC?
 - Limitations on the current FGC membership, to connect with small licensees, are understood.
 - The time frame for FGC membership review is not tight, but the Chief Forester would like Council to consider membership over the next few months.
2. The following points were raised concerning Council's "science" role vs. "policy" role:

- FGC is a bridge between science and policy,
 - Membership should understand the breadth of stakeholders (licensees), and members should represent a full political spectrum. However, it is not always practical to represent all stakeholders.
 - Concern was expressed regarding the practicality of drawing in small tenure holders that are not represented by an association with a clear constituency.
 - First Nations role is increasing, and substantial federal funds are going to their programs. Genetics programs may need this support in the future.
 - Council's role is one of policy, but it directs and receives science input through technical committees. This needs to be understood in membership planning.
3. Clear identification of the following membership drivers is needed:
- Current FGC membership relative to the Strategic Plan (2004-2008)
 - Percentage of provincial AAC by membership
 - Identification of potential groups and their AAC percentage; look for significant gaps.
 - FGC progress to objectives.
 - Major opportunities to help FGC meet objectives.
 - What are the primary gaps with respect to process and mandate.
4. FGC is strong on bottom-up technical process, but lacks interaction with other important initiatives such as Forests For Tomorrow, the Future Forests initiative, etc. FGC should consider ways to strengthen linkages.

Summary of Action Items:

- A. Complete points under #3 above (Jack Woods lead).
- B. FGC members will send Jack their ideas on membership. Dale, John Elmslie, and Jack will synthesize and present to Council on March 8th.
- C. Dale and Mike Madill will further discuss how the FGC might contribute to ongoing Ministry policy initiatives.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM

Next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2006 .

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods, FGC Program Manager