

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council—Meeting June 17, 2009

Meeting held by conference call

Brian Barber, Judi Beck, Rob Guy, Joe Leblanc, Tim Lee, Bruce MacNicol, Al McDonald, Madeline Maley, Gerry Still; Annette Van Niejenhuis

Regrets: Scott King, Larry Promintz

Others: Jack Woods, Cheri Tayler

Guests: Greg Pieper (Tolko); Alvin Yanchuk

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
CTAC and ITAC chairs,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAC chairs to seek representation on CTAC and ITAC from the BCTSDA and the Forest Nursery Association (ongoing).
Brian Barber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian to contact Dave Bodak regarding a non-voting FIA seat on Council (outstanding from April 30, 2009). Brian to request that Jim Snetsinger recruit an industry Co-Chair (outstanding from April 30, 2009) Genetic Resource Decision Support subprogram report is being prepared by Lee Charleson (MFR Tree Imp. Br.) and will be presented to Council in September (outstanding from April 30, 2009) Brian and Jack to meet with Jim Snetsinger regarding the orchard discussion paper on July 7, 2009
FGC members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide comments to Jack on the orchard discussion paper by June 29, 2009 Consider edits to the Strategic Plan that relate to biofuels and C fixation and forward to Jack.
Jack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put FGC member names and email addresses on the FGC website A final draft of the discussion paper will be distributed to Council for final approval or comment during a conference call on July 6, 2009. Prepare a summary of information for prioritization and bring it to Council at the September 2009 meeting. Send FGC members a MSWord version of the Strategic Plan Add words to the current Strategic Plan regarding bioenergy and carbon fixation, based on comments received from FGC members. Resend note to Council members re: Environment Canada request for comments on ABS Send Council members broad agenda for the September 16, 2009 FGC meeting

Summary of Motions Carried

1. **MOVED** (Macnicol / van Niejenhuis): Minutes of the meeting held March 11, 2009 are hereby approved. CARRIED
2. **MOVED** (Leblanc; MacNicol): Minutes of the meeting held April 30, 2009 are hereby approved. CARRIED

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

Brian Barber chaired the meeting.

Agenda adopted as presented.

Brian welcomed new Council members:

Judi Beck, CFS; Rob Guy, UBC; Madeline Maley, MFR, Southern Interior Region;
Gerry Still, MFR, Research Branch

1. Approval of March 11, 2009 and April 30, 2009 minutes

1. **MOVED** (MacNicol / van Niejenhuis): Minutes of the meeting held March 11, 2009 are hereby approved. CARRIED
2. **MOVED** (Leblanc; MacNicol): Minutes of the meeting held April 30, 2009 are hereby approved. CARRIED

2. Action items from March 11 and April 30, 2009

- a. A letter was sent to Don Pigott conveying reasons for a Council recommendation against BCTSDA membership on Council.
- b. Brian to contact Dave Bodak regarding a non-voting FIA seat on Council (outstanding).
- c. Brian to request that Jim Snetsinger recruit an industry Co-Chair (outstanding)
- d. Genetic Resource Decision Support subprogram report is being prepared by Lee Charleson (MFR Tree Imp. Br.) and will be presented to Council in September (outstanding)
- e. TAC chairs to seek representation on CTAC and ITAC from the BCTSDA and the Forest Nursery Association (ongoing).
- f. A budget recommendation from the FGC, as approved at the April 30, 2009 FGC meeting, was sent to Chief Forester, Jim Snetsinger.
- g. JW sent a response to the Pacific Carbon Trusts request for information that outlined a cooperative approach, coordinated by SelectSeed Ltd. and the FGC, for capturing carbon credits from the use of select seed and flowing the benefits back to seed buyers and to seed producers. The submission was previously distributed to Council members.
- h. A letter-of-support from the FGC for the nomination of Sally Aitken for the CIF Scientific Achievement Award was forwarded to Annette on April 30th.
- i. Brian Barber informed Shawn Mansfield that the FGC is not able to provide support for the Whistler biotechnology conference.

3. Seed orchard options discussion paper

Jack and Brian presented the discussion paper entitled "*Public and Private Sector Participation in BC Seed Orchards: Issues and Options*". Bruce felt the paper missed important items presented by VSOC members and requested an opportunity to discuss the paper prior to it going to Jim Snetsinger.

FGC members would like to view and discuss a final draft prior to it going to Jim Snetsinger on July 7, 2009.

ACTION: FGC members will provide comments to Jack on the orchard discussion paper by June 29, 2009.

ACTION: A final draft of the discussion paper will be distributed to Council for final approval or comment during a conference call on July 6, 2009 (10:00 AM).

4. Update on budgets

Brian provided the following update on the budget situation:

Since a budget recommendation was sent to Jim Snetsinger on April 30th, there has been a set of limitations imposed by the Treasury Board that restrict provincial government spending in certain areas. This has resulted in no support forthcoming to the UBC Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics, the UVic project on cone induction being led by Partick von Aderkas, white pine blister rust screening work led by David Noshad with the CFS, and the Applied Biotechnology work being led by Yousry El-Kassaby at UBC. There is no expectation these will be resolved before late August or September. In addition, limits on contract have prevented progress in many program areas. Brian will provide a further update at the September meeting.

Concern was expressed for some key program elements that were suffering from these limitations, such as the ClimateBC model which is a cornerstone for assisted migration and other climate change response elements of the FGC and MFR programs. Annette inquired whether SelectSeed could provide support for ClimateBC work. Brian cautioned that a thorough look would need to be taken at all SelectSeed commitments before requesting that of the SelectSeed Board, as Council would not want to undermine the primary function of SelectSeed.

5. FGC Strategic Plan

The plan will be reviewed with Jim Snetsinger on July 7th. It was agreed that the plan could proceed to printing when approved by Jim (J. Woods note: pending consideration of comments received under item 6 below).

6. Chief Forester requests regarding program reviews

The following questions were posed by Jim Snetsinger in his address to Council on April 30th.

- Is the tree improvement priority list for species and seed planning units still relevant in light of declining planting #s, MPB, and climate change?
- How much genetic gain is enough? Are there missing gaps and opportunities?
- Can we stop investments in breeding for some seed planning units and just let existing orchards continue to produce seed with acceptable levels of gain?
- Do we have the right balance in funding being directed to conservation vs. seed transfer vs. breeding, and the supporting subprograms?

Discussion ensued on the timing of the Strategic Plan and addressing the above questions. In particular, new values and products such as biofuels and carbon fixation may shift priorities. It was pointed out, however, that in the foreseeable future, biofuels will be derived from residual wood from lumber

operations as there is insufficient value in energy to warrant harvest and hauling for biofuels. It was agreed that the current draft of the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan adequately addresses gains in timber supply.

ACTION: (Jack) Prepare a summary of information for prioritization and bring it to Council at the September 2009 meeting.

ACTION: (Jack) Send FGC members a MSWord version of the Strategic Plan

ACTION: (FGC members) Consider edits to the Strategic Plan that relate to biofuels and C fixation and forward to Jack.

ACTION: (Jack) Add words to the current Strategic Plan regarding bioenergy and carbon fixation, based on comments received from FGC members.

7. Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) of biological materials

Brian urged non-government Council members to reply to Environment Canada's request for comments document that was originally sent our May 27, 2009. A stakeholder workshop will be scheduled in Ottawa in mid-July.

ACTION: Jack to resend note to Council members re: Environment Canada request for comments on ABS.

8. Next FGC Meeting

The next FGC meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2009, at the Cowichan Lake Research Station, as Council has not met at a coastal site for several years. Some Council members expressed concern over travel restrictions and their ability to attend.

ACTION: Jack to send Council members broad agenda for the September 16, 2009 FGC meeting.

Next FGC meeting September 16, 2009 at the Cowichan Lake Research Station

Minutes prepared by Cheri Tayler and Jack Woods

