

AGENDA

Starting at 9:00 AM - Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Location:

Cowichan Lake Research Station,
Mesachie Lake, BC (see map below)
(CLRS tel. 1-250-746-1421) (Jack's cell 250-715-6285)

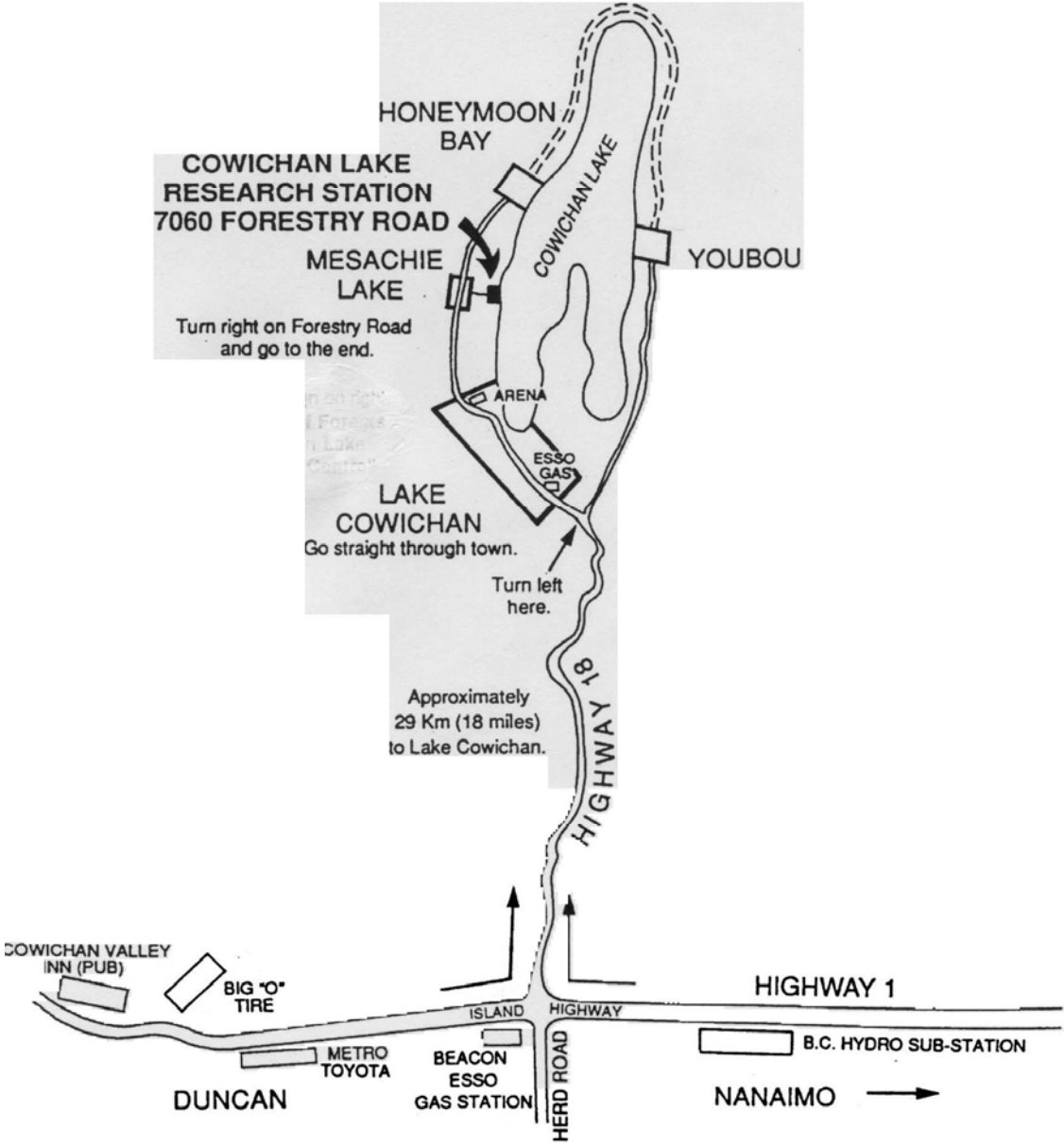
The meeting will be held in the conference room in the brown building at the west end of the camp parking lot beside the lake. Once on the Station, proceed on the paved road past the greenhouses and older white office buildings to the lower camp area.

Council members are invited to attend the Recognition Event for 50 years of Coastal Tree Improvement History, to be held starting at about 2:30 PM. There will be a tour with retirees who were involved in tree improvement, a BBQ, and an evening of sharing stories and presentations.

| Time | Length (min.) | # | Item | Presenter |
|-------|---------------|----|--|----------------------------|
| 9:00 | 10 | 1 | Welcome and introduction of new Council members | Brian |
| 9:10 | 10 | 2 | Opening address from A/Deputy Chief Forester | Melanie Boyce |
| 9:20 | 10 | 3 | Approval of minutes from June 17 and July 6, 2009 | |
| 9:30 | 10 | 4 | Old business and action items from June 17, 2009 | Jack |
| 9:40 | 15 | 5 | Chief Forester principles for Public and Private Seed Orchards | Brian |
| 9:55 | 15 | 6 | Provincial budget and FIA update | Melanie / Brian |
| | | | Process for prioritizing FGC program activities | Brian |
| 10:10 | 20 | 7 | Update on past business planning and prioritization process | Jack |
| 10:30 | 20 | | Break | |
| | | | Subprogram presentations (status, priorities, risks) | |
| | | | - Genetic Conservation – Dave Kolotelo | |
| | | | - Tree Breeding – Barrie Phillips | |
| | | | - OTIP – Cheri Tayler | |
| 10:50 | 70 | 7 | - Seed Transfer – Lee Charleson | TAC and subcommittee leads |
| | | | - Extension and Communication – Diane Douglas | |
| | | | - Cone and Seed Pest Mgt. – Robb Bennett | |
| | | | - Decision Support – Lee Charleson | |
| | | | - SelectSeed - Jack | |
| 12:00 | 45 | | Lunch (provided) | |
| 12:45 | 50 | 7 | Cont. subprogram prioritization discussion | |
| 1:35 | 15 | 8 | Summary of 2008/09 Annual Report | Jack |
| 1:50 | 15 | 9 | Fall presentation to the Forest Investment Council | Jack / Brian |
| | | | Updates: | |
| 2:05 | 20 | 10 | - Silviculture discussion paper and regional focus mtgs. | Brian |
| | | | - Forest carbon protocols | |
| | | | - Skimikin fire and property acquisition | |
| 2:25 | 20 | 11 | Adjourn | all |
| 2:30 | | | Join Coastal TI Retirees for coffee and Station tour | |
| 5:00 | | | Social hour and BBQ | |
| 7:00 | | | Evening presentations and sharing stories of coastal tree impr. history | |

Next meeting – December 16, 2009

DIRECTIONS TO COWICHAN LAKE RESEARCH STATION



Attachments to the agenda (September 16, 2009)

Agenda item 5 – Provincial Chief Forester principles for public and private seed orchards

Based on input from the paper prepared on behalf of Council, entitled “Public and Private Participation in BC’s Seed Orchards: Issues and Options”, Jim Snetsinger and his staff are preparing a MFR position document that will clarify roles and expectations. Brian will discuss this process and elements of the MFR position.

Agenda item 7 – Prioritizing FGC program activities

In his address to Council on April 30th, and in anticipation of tightening budgets, Jim Snetsinger posed the following questions to Council:

- 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?

This agenda item will initiate process to begin addressing these questions. Jack will provide an overview of business planning procedures used last fiscal year, and of the ranking processes involved. Subprogram leaders will provide updates on progress and issues associated with their subprogram, and their thoughts on how prioritization might proceed in business planning for 2010/11.

Prioritization of activities was an objective of previous business planning processes, but new issues and priorities must be considered.

As most of the FGC-directed budget goes to activities related to the development production of select seed through the Breeding, OTIP, Cone and Seed Pest Management, and SelectSeed, subprograms, this will be the broad area requiring the most focus for prioritization effort and for finding budget reductions. The past process focused on seed planning units (SPU are species / seed zone / elevation band combinations), and set priorities based on the following set of criteria (see attachment sent separately – *SPU Ranks and Categories.pdf*).

- Net present value estimated using information on # trees planted per year, mean MAI for the SPU, expected genetic gains, rotation age, and log value
- Technical feasibility for breeding (are there significant biological barriers to efficiently proceeding with breeding and seed orchards)
- Value of tree improvement gains to a management unit based on projected timber supply over time. Some MU’s have profiles that can benefit more than others
- Uncertainty and risk; is there likely to be a sustained long-term demand for select seed in the SPU.
- Specific opportunities for substantial gains (such as the potential for more browse resistant Cwr)
- Genecology information needs (this criterion is now shifted to the Genecology and Seed Transfer Subprogram).

Attachments to the agenda (September 16, 2009)

Agenda item 8 – FGC 08/09 Annual Report (and 09/10 Business Plan document)

An overview of the Annual report will be presented. The Annual Report is still in preparation and was delayed this year by a variety of other priorities.

The 2009/10 Business Plan document is ready, but species plans are still not complete. Species plan preparation has been delayed by the need to adjust data inputs to new seed zone elevation transfers. These will be ready by about mid October.

Agenda Item 9 – Fall presentation to the Forest Investment Council

A presentation on behalf of the FGC is normally given to the Forest Investment Council in the fall. This provides FIC with an update on issues and progress prior to their budget discussions. It's anticipated that a presentation will be made this year as well, but we don't yet have any information on when this will happen.

Discussion on priorities and messaging would be appreciated.

Coastal Tree Improvement History gathering

Through the combined efforts of Brian Barber and Gerry Burch (BC Forest Products retired VP Forestry), with the able organization of Diane Douglas, several gatherings have been held with retired foresters who have been involved in tree improvement. The objective is to recognize some 50 years of TI history on the coast, and to give them an opportunity to tell their stories and to learn more about past activities.

There will be about 30 retirees attending this session, beginning with a tour at 3:00. Following a BBQ, there will be brief presentations by Jack and Alvin Yanchuk on current provincial programs and informal story telling by our retired colleagues.

Please stay if you can....have a beer....relax.....enjoy the stories..... learn about the rich history!

Next meeting – December 16, 2009