

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting December 14, 2011

Meeting held by conference call

Attending: Brian Barber, Rob Guy, Patti Kagawa, Scott King, Tim Lee, Kerry McGourlick (Chair), John Mitchell, Barrie Phillips, Annette Van Niejenhuis, Dan Peterson, Gernot Zemanek

Regrets: Larry Gardner, Joe LeBlanc, Raoul Wiart

Others: Dave Kolotelo, Darrell Wood, Jack Woods

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Jack	Request input from the Biotechnology Steering Committee on structuring of biotechnology support for FGC objectives.
Jack	Lead printing of about 100 copies of the FGC 2010/11 Annual Report and distribution to interested people.
Jack	Conduct an email vote by FGC members on acceptance of the revised Genetic Conservation plan on January 30, 2012.
Darrell	Update FGC mailing list with email addresses.
Jack	Include cost and revenue projections for the Fdi TO high orchard in the SelectSeed Business Plan to be presented to Council in March.
Bylaw committee	Complete edits to draft bylaws and lead a vote by email among FGC members on acceptance of the bylaws.
Dave Kolotelo	Accept comments on the new Genetic Conservation plan until January 13, 2012. A revised plan will be distributed to FGC members by January 23, 2012.
Lee Charleson	Distribute the current draft of the Climate-Based Seed Transfer project charter to FGC and STTAC members for input in advance of the March 14, 2012 FGC meeting.
Annette van Neijenhuis, Barry Phillips, Jack Woods	Develop criteria to use when nominating and choosing people for the FGC Achievement Award..

Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (King / van Neijenhuis): Minutes of the meeting held September 21, 2011 are hereby approved. CARRIED.
2. **MOVED** (van Neijenhuis / King): Final edits to the draft bylaws will be carried out by the bylaw committee and they will be distributed to FGC members for an email vote prior to the March, 2012 FGC meeting. CARRIED.
3. **MOVED** (Lee; van Neijenhuis) that FGC accepts the ITAC recommendation for the development of new Douglas-fir orchards for the Thompson Okanagan seed zone with elevations and sizes as follows:
 - Low elevation (600-1100m) orchard of approximately 800 ramets
 - High elevation (1100-1600m) orchard of approximately 1900 ramets.

CARRIED.

Meeting called to order at 1:30 P.M. by Kerry McGourlick (Industry Co-Chair)

1. **Welcome:** Dan Peterson (Acting Director, Resource Management for the Thompson Okanagan Region of the FLRN) and Patti Kagawa, Seed Planning Forester for BCTS were welcomed to Council by Brian Barber.
2. **Agenda:** Approved with additions to new business
3. **Approval of Sept 21, 2011 minutes:**

MOVED (King / van Neijenhuis): Minutes of the meeting held September 21, 2011 are hereby approved. CARRIED.

3. Old Business and Action Items from September 14, 2011

The following action items were reviewed and accepted as presented below.

Responsibility	Action requested	Action taken
Jack	Send email graphs prepared for the annual report to FGC members.	done
Jack	Send information on the FGC Achievement award and past criteria for FGC members to consider nominations.	Done – see agenda item
Jack	Work with others to develop a new technologies workshop in December, 2011 that will bring together invited people to discuss project types and funding mechanisms that will support FGC objectives.	Not completed. Discussion with GenomeBC underway to try to develop collaboration for some new technologies and for succession of skilled staff
FGC members	Direct ideas on a new-technologies workshop topic to Jack.	None received
Bylaw subcommittee	Review bylaws and bring recommendations to the December 14, 2011 meeting.	Bylaw subcommittee revised bylaws. See agenda item below

Further action item: Jack to request input from the Biotechnology Steering Committee on the structuring of biotechnology investments to support FGC objectives.

4. Letter from the Forest Nursery Association of BC – Brian

Brian reviewed the letter received from the FNABC. It was agreed that this matter is best dealt with by the MFLNRO Tree Improvement Branch.

5. FGC 10/11 Annual Report Distribution – Jack

The 2010/11 FGC Annual Report is complete. It was agreed that fewer copies should be printed this year (about 100) and the mailing list shortened. A pdf copy has been prepared and is posted

on the FGC website. The link to the Annual Report has been distributed to people who may be interested.

Action item: Jack to lead printing of about 100 copies of the FGC 2010/11 Annual Report and distribution to interested people.

Action Item: Darrell Wood to update FGC mailing list with email addresses.

6. Genetic conservation plan update – Dave Kolotelo

Dave provided an overview of a draft Genetic Conservation plan prepared by the GCTAC, and thanked GCTAC members for their substantial input and work. It is intended that the term of the plan will align with the FGC Strategic Plan ending in 2014. This will require an update of the GCTAC plan in alignment with the next Strategic Plan update. It was agreed that there should be a further period for review of the plan (until January 13, 2012), with a final draft to be provided to the FGC on January 23rd. FGC will vote by email on acceptance of the revised plan on January 30, 2012. This timing will allow GCTAC time to develop a budget for the 2012/13 fiscal year by early March.

Concern was expressed about GCTAC coordinating genetic conservation efforts among other groups or agencies. Dave explained that the vision is that GCTAC will help with collaboration among agencies but will not lead all genetic conservation efforts. GCTAC was also advised to not take a leadership role with whitebark pine conservation work.

Action Item: Dave Kolotelo will accept comments on the new Genetic Conservation plan until January 13, 2012. A revised plan will be distributed to FGC members by January 23, 2012.

Action Item: Jack will conduct an email vote by FGC members on acceptance of the revised Genetic Conservation plan on January 30, 2012.

7 FGC Bylaws – Bylaw committee

Jack provided a brief overview of the draft bylaws distributed prior to the meeting. Annette pointed out that some language in the draft bylaws set unreasonable expectations regarding what the FGC can do and that this language needs review. Brian mentioned that Jim Snetsinger has seen the draft bylaws and is comfortable with them but will want to approve a final draft from the FGC.

Further edits to the bylaws should be done and an email vote held following distribution of the edited bylaws to FGC members.

MOVED (van Neijenhuis / King): Final edits to the draft bylaws will be carried out by the bylaw committee and they will be distributed by Jack to FGC members for an email vote prior to the March, 2012 FGC meeting. **CARRIED.**

8. Allocation of Douglas-fir orchards for the Thompson Okanagan - Tim

Tim Lee provided an overview of the steps followed in the allocation of new Douglas-fir seed orchards for the Thompson Okanagan low and high elevation zones. Steps followed include:

1. Review of need
2. Breeder (B. Jaquish) recommendation on elevation split for these orchards and of available and suitable parent trees.
3. Expressions of interest by, a. MFLNRO, and b. PRT Ltd. working with SelectSeed Ltd.

4. Discussion among interested parties facilitated by Tim.
5. Agreement on the allocation of orchards for the low elevation band (600-1100m) to the MFLNRO at the Kalamalka Seed Orchard site, and the high elevation orchard to PRT and SelectSeed on the PRT-Grandview site.

The following motion was put forward by Tim:

MOVED that FGC accepts the ITAC recommendation for the development of new Douglas-fir orchards for the Thompson Okanagan seed zone with elevations, sizes and ownership as follows:

- Low elevation (600-1100m) orchard of approximately 800 ramets to be developed by the MFLNRO at the Kalamalka Seed Orchard site
- High elevation (1100-1600m) orchard of approximately 1900 ramets to be developed by PRT Ltd. and SelectSeed Ltd., on the PRT Armstrong site.

Following discussion, this motion was amended to the following:

MOVED (Lee; van Neijenhuis) that FGC accepts the ITAC recommendation for the development of new Douglas-fir orchards for the Thompson Okanagan seed zone with elevations and sizes as follows:

- Low elevation (600-1100m) orchard of approximately 800 ramets
- High elevation (1100-1600m) orchard of approximately 1900 ramets.

CARRIED.

SelectSeed involvement with PRT Ltd. in the development of the high elevation orchard was discussed. Council wants to better understand the cost implications for SelectSeed. It was explained that this will be outlined in the SelectSeed business plan to be presented to FGC in March 2012, but that further discussions between SelectSeed and PRT are required first.

Action Item: Jack will include cost and revenue projections for the Fdi TO high orchard in the SelectSeed Business Plan to be presented to Council in March.

9. Climate-based seed transfer update – Lee Charleson

Lee provided an update on climate-based seed transfer development. Preliminary work includes drafting a project charter, due March 31, 2012, and a project plan which is due June 30, 2012. A core working group from the MFLNRO, with two university people, has a drafted charter which will be sent out for review shortly. Overall, the project requires extensive consultation and it is expected that the FGC and its TACs will be involved. The plan will articulate goals and process.

Concern was expressed regarding the role of the Seed Transfer TAC relative to the current working group. Lee explained that the Charter will provide an opportunity for FGC and TAC members to review the overall project scope and responsibilities. FGC members requested that the FGC and STTAC role, particularly with respect to seed users, be given consideration.

Action item: Lee will distribute the current draft of the Climate-Based Seed Transfer project charter to FGC and STTAC members for input in advance of the March 14, 2012 FGC meeting.

10. Business planning update - Jack

FGC subcommittees responsible for overseeing subprograms are preparing 2012/13 projects and budgets to present at FGC in March 2012, as follows:

CTAC – meeting planned for February, 2012; breeding program budgets will be reviewed.

ITAC – Meeting planned for January 10 and 11, 2012; breeding program budgets will be reviewed.

ETAC – Meeting planned for January 11, 2012; program budget will be reviewed.

Genetic Conservation TAC – new plan presented (see agenda item 6); program budget review February, 2012.

Seed Transfer TAC – Genecology Call for Proposals deadline is January 13, 2012; Review of Proposals and the FLNR genecology business plan will be reviewed in February.

Pest Management TAC – Budget development will proceed in January.

Decision Support TAC – Meeting held in November, 2011, to discuss direction and priorities. Meeting to be held in February 2012 to develop a project plan and budget.

Applied Tree Improvement and Biotechnology – steering committee meeting will be held in February 2012 to receive a report on work being done and a budget request in the El Kassaby project. Other projects may also be considered at this time. As noted earlier in the meeting, the Biotechnology Steering Committee will be asked to comment on how this subprogram can be modified to create opportunities for new technology development that can potentially support FGC objectives.

11. FGC achievement award – Jack

Following discussion of this award, Council decided that criteria for choosing recipients are needed.

Action item: A subcommittee of Barrie Phillips, Annette van Neijenhuis and Jack Woods will develop criteria to use when nominating and choosing people for the FGC Achievement Award.

12. New business

- Brian announced that Jim Snetsinger, Provincial Chief Forester, will be retiring March 1, 2012. It was agreed that Jim should receive some recognition from the FGC for his support and guidance over the years. No word on his replacement at this time.
- FGC has been nominated for a Premier's Award for Partnership. Shortlisted nominees will be announced in late February/early March.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Next meeting: March 21, 2012 – to be held in Victoria

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods and Darrell Wood

