

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting December 12, 2012

Meeting held by conference call

Attending: Brian Barber (Chair), Patti Kagawa, Scott King, Joe LeBlanc, Tim Lee, Kerry McGourlick, John Mitchell, Dan Peterson, Barrie Phillips, Annette van Niejenhuis, Raoul Wiart, Gernot Zemanek

Regrets: Larry Gardner, Rob Guy

Others: Jack Woods

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Jack	Distribute the amended minutes from September 19, 2012 to Council members.
Jack	Include ranking of seed planning units for investment on the March 2012 meeting agenda.
Kerry	Ask Larry Gardner if he will join the SelectSeed Terms of Reference Review Committee.
FGC members	Review the existing SelectSeed Terms of Reference document and comment to Brian by December 21, 2012.
Jack	Canvas FGC and SelectSeed Board members to find a date for a joint meeting in early February, 2013.
Brian	Look into providing sponsorship funds to the Forest Genetics 2013 conference using current year LBIS Tree Improvement Program funds.
Brian	Send information about a planned whitebark pine recovery-plan workshop to FGC members when it is announced.
Jack	Conduct a Doodle poll of FGC members to determine the best dates for FGC meetings in 2013.

Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (Zemanek / LeBlanc): The agenda is approved as presented. CARRIED.
2. **MOVED** (LeBlanc / McGourlick): Minutes of the meeting held September 19, 2012 are hereby approved. CARRIED.

FGC meeting called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Brian Barber (FLNRO Co-Chair)

1. **Agenda:** Approved as provided

MOVED (Zemanek / LeBlanc): The agenda is approved as presented. CARRIED.

2. **Approval of September 19, 2012 minutes:**

MOVED (LeBlanc / McGourlick): Minutes of the meeting held September 19, 2012 are hereby approved as amended. CARRIED.

Action: Jack will distribute the amended minutes to Council members.

3. Old Business and Action Items from September 19, 2012

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

Action: Jack will include ranking of seed planning units for investment on the March 2012 meeting agenda.

Responsibility	Action	Action taken
Jack	Email an updated membership list to Council members with terms included	Done
Jack with OTIP Review Committee	Update the OTIP call for proposals based on Subcommittee recommendations	Done
OTIP Review Committee	Develop application and budget templates that are more efficient for applicants and reviewers	Done
Tim and Annette	The ITAC and CTAC chairs will seek review of the OTIP Review Committee recommendations from ITAC and CTAC members	Done
Brian, Barrie, Jack	Review OTIP contracting procedures within the MFLNR and TIB	Done
OTIP Review Subcommittee	Produce a final OTIP call for proposals document by late November, 2012	Done
Seed Transfer TAC	Request that the Seed Transfer TAC consider how they might participate in providing recommendations regarding orchard size adjustments due to climate-based seed transfer changes (Jack to pass request to STTAC).	In progress
Jack	Complete drafting of the FGC Annual Report for 2011/12 and distribute it to FGC members for review prior to printing.	Waiting for T. Ethier approval
Jack	Include alder for coastal areas in the SPU ranking analysis, with planting of approximately 1mm seedlings per year, and report back to the FGC in December 2012	Done.
Jack	Arrange a time to present the FGC Achievement award to Dr. Michael Carlson in conjunction with an upcoming ITAC meeting. Try to include Chief Forester, Dave Peterson, and possibly a local Vernon Council member.	Done.
Kerry	Provide the amended recommendations and conclusions of the committee reviewing the role and potential conflict-of-interest of the Program Manager for inclusion in the Minutes of this meeting for general distribution.	Done
Brian, Rob, Tim, Annette	Form an ad hoc committee to be led by Brian and including Rob, Tim, and Annette that will provide Council with a draft Terms of Reference for a review of SelectSeed's mandate in reference to FGC goals (TOR within 30 days).	In progress. (see below)

4. Meeting with Dave Peterson and Jim Sutherland – Brian / Kerry

Brian, Kerry and Jack met with provincial Chief Forester, Dave Peterson and Deputy Chief Jim Sutherland by conference call on November 28, 2012. The meeting was positive and Dave endorsed the draft FGC annual report for 2011/12. Comments from Dave included:

- The FGC presentation to the Special Committee on Mid-Term Timber Supply raised the profile of tree improvement and helped secure LBIS funding for next year.
- The current statistics reported by the FGC (use of select seed) don't consider natural regeneration. This warrants discussion.

An overview of the current FGC/SelectSeed structure was provided and no concerns were expressed. Dave wants to better understand how the changed FLNRO structure may impact this. Brian is seeking an opinion from the Ministry of the Attorney General.

5. Terms of reference and process for SelectSeed Ltd. review – Brian / Kerry

Brian provided an overview of the intent of a review of SelectSeed and of the discussion with Chief Forester, Dave Peterson on this matter. Dave Peterson agreed with the intent and timing of a review.

Kerry wants the FGC to be better informed about SelectSeed and the legal/organization structure prior to making any decisions.

Support was expressed for the approach proposed in the November 1, 2012 SelectSeed Board’s letter to Council proposing a joint discussion with SelectSeed board members and FGC members. It was agreed that a meeting would be held in January or February, 2013 and that it would be open to all members of Council and the SelectSeed board.

6. SelectSeed Ltd. structural overview – Jack

Jack reviewed the legal and structural framework for Council, the BC Forest Genetics Society, and SelectSeed Ltd. (slides below).

Given that Council will be setting up a new 5-year strategic plan for the period 2015-2019 over the next 18 months, this review is timely. A decision was made to convene a workshop with FGC members and members of the SelectSeed Board of Directors to review this structure, opportunities within this structure, and to consider whether a formal third-party review is desirable.

The existing SelectSeed Terms of Reference Review Committee consists of Brian, Kerry, Annette, Patti, and Rob. Tim was added to the committee and Larry Gardner will also be asked to bring in an interior licensee perspective. Council members were asked to review the existing Terms of Reference document and to provide comments to the review subcommittee by December 21, 2012. Brian would like the outcome of this discussion to be a renewal of the SelectSeed mandate with possible changes, and for this to be outlined in a report for the FGC and the Ministry by about June, 2013.

Action: Kerry will ask Larry Gardner if he will join the SelectSeed Terms of Reference Review Committee.

Action: FGC members will review the existing SelectSeed Terms of Reference document and comment to Brian by December 21, 2012.

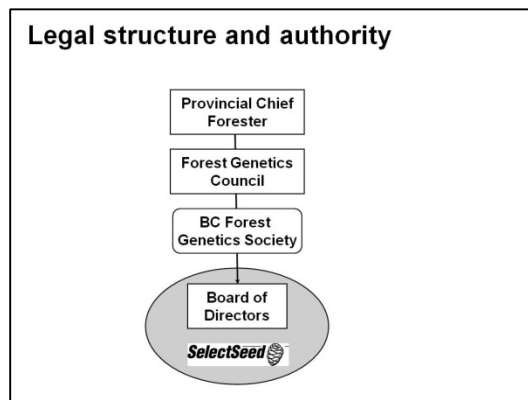
Action: Jack will canvas FGC and SelectSeed Board members to find a date for a joint meeting in early February, 2013.

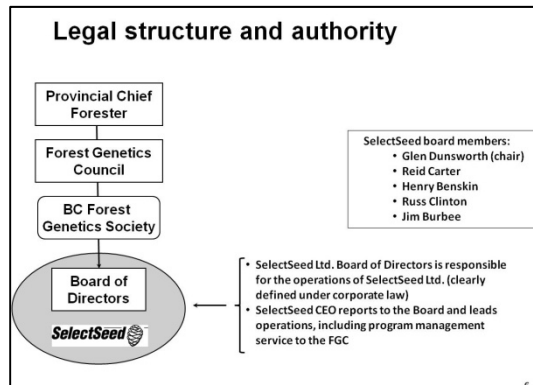
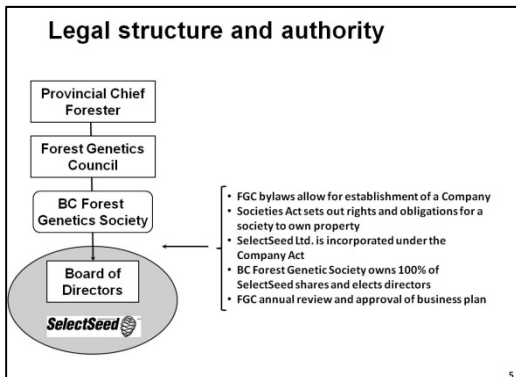
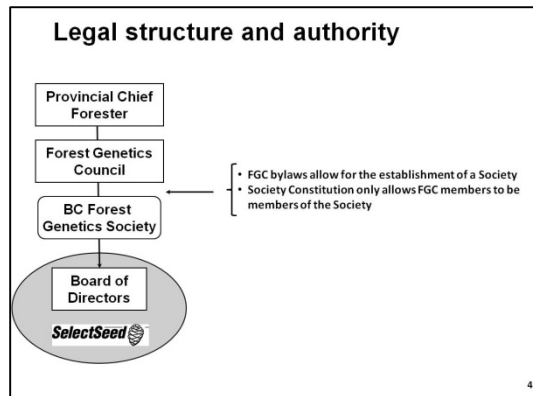
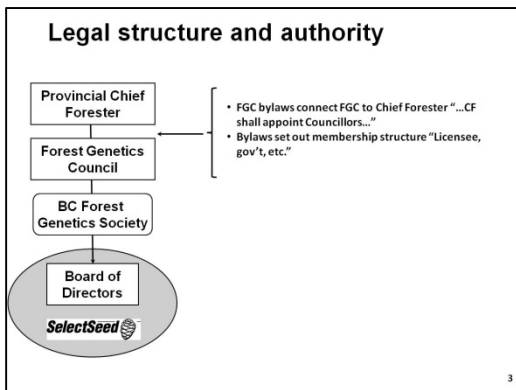
Slides from presentation on the existing legal and organization structure and authorities set up for the FGC, the BC Forest Genetics Society, and SelectSeed Ltd.

**Forest Genetics Council of BC
 Structure, reporting and opportunities**

- Development history
- Legal structure and authority
- Broad objectives and results
- SelectSeed contractual obligations

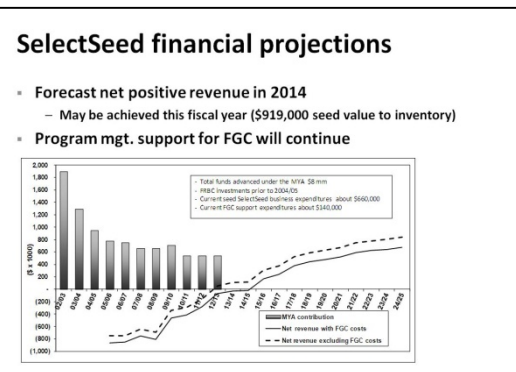
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- ### Broad objectives
- SelectSeed objectives:
 - Support FGC objectives for the development of seed orchards to meet provincial demand for genetically selected seed
 - Effective program management
 - Transparent seed pricing
 - Financial independence

- ### What do we get
- Cooperative Council
 - Alignment on province-wide objectives
 - Connection and authority resting with Chief Forester
 - FGC ability to own property, manage funds, and direct operations
 - 14 years of stable cooperation and successful delivery
 - A seed production system for Crown land that largely operates on seed sale revenues



- ### SelectSeed contractual obligations
- Multi-Year Agreement
 - Entered into between FRBC and SelectSeed Ltd. in March 2001
 - Only non-revocable multi-year agreement taken on by FRBC
 - Expires March 31, 2031
 - Significant terms:
 - » Allows funding up to \$17.2 mm (about \$8mm drawn to date)
 - » Requires annual approval of business plan by the FGC
 - » Requires annual reporting
 - » Allows for 50% of net income to return to FRBC at FRBC discretion
 - Transfer of MYA and all obligations to the MFLNRO in June 2002

- ### SelectSeed contractual obligations
- Long-term seed orchard agreements
 - 11 entered into for 14 orchards in 2001 and 2002
 - About 25 year terms with renewal clauses
 - Cost and seed sharing defined
 - Set out terms for developing annual plans and costs
 - 1 new agreement under negotiation (with PRT for Fdi TO high orchard)

7. Coast and Interior Technical Advisory Committee updates – Annette and Tim

Annette left the meeting for a previous commitment, so Jack provided an update on Coast TAC activities:

- Species committee meetings were held for Yc and Pw to insure orchard planning and OTIP eligibility lined up with progress and deployment strategies in these species. Additional species committee meetings will be held in January and February.
- CTAC met on November 29th to ratify the 2013-14 OTIP eligibility list for coastal orchard and technical support projects. Orchard redundancy was discussed. OTIP eligibility was confirmed for all coastal seed planning units.
- CTAC will meet again in the winter to review the Breeders' programs - review progress and ratify plans for 2013-14.
- Conflict of interest was the first item discussed at each of our meetings. We are recommending that breeders present their programs, and then leave the CTAC meeting briefly while their budget is discussed and voted on. This will better align the breeders' review with the OTIP review process.

Tim provided an update on ITAC activities:

- The OTIP eligibility table for interior orchards was reviewed and updated.
- Species committee and an ITAC meeting are scheduled for January 15 and 16, 2013 in Vernon.

8. Forest Genetics 2013 Conference – Jack

A joint forest genetics conference of the Canadian Forest Genetics Association, the Western Forest Genetics Association, the IUFRO working groups for Breeding and Genetic Resources of PNW conifers and for Population, Ecological and Conservation Genetics will be held at Whistler in July 22-25, 2013. This conference is called Forest Genetics 2013. Organizing committee co-chairs are Sally Aitken (UBC) and Lee Charleson (Tree Imp. Branch).

The FGC was advised that there would be a request for sponsorship funding from the conference organizing committee. Brian said that he would look into providing funds from current fiscal year budgets. Jack asked about approaching forest companies for sponsorship and was advised to proceed as there that there may be some willingness to help.

Action item: Brian will look into providing sponsorship funds to the Forest Genetics 2013 conference using current year LBIS Tree Improvement Program funds.

9. Whitebark pine harvest and communication – Jack

The issue of whitebark pine (Pa) harvest was raised. This issue was discussed several years ago by the FGC and communication documents were prepared. These included a brochure and a letter from the Provincial Chief Forester. Pa harvest is incidental in cut blocks targeting other species, but is impacting mature Pa in some areas.

Brian said that the Ministry of Environment (James Quayle) is discussing a Pa recovery plan in association with the federal government. At this point the outcome may be a full plan or a decision to not develop a plan. Brian recommended holding off on re-issuing any documentation on Pa until after a planned recovery strategy workshop has been held.

Action item: Brian will send information about a planned Pa recovery-plan workshop to FGC members when is it announced.

10. Upcoming FGC meeting dates

Action item: Jack will conduct a Doodle poll of FGC members to determine the best dates for FGC meetings in 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Next meeting: March, 2013 (day to be determined)

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods

