

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting September 19, 2012

Meeting held at the Provincial Wildfire Control Center, Kamloops, BC

Attending in person: Kerry McGourlick (Chair), Rob Guy, Scott King, Tim Lee, Dan Peterson, Barrie Phillips, Annette van Niejenhuis, Gernot Zemanek

Attending by phone or video: Brian Barber, Joe LeBlanc, Raoul Wiart

Regrets: Larry Gardner, John Mitchell, Patti Kagawa

Others: Jack Woods

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Jack	Email an updated membership list to Council members with terms included
Jack with OTIP Review Committee	Update the OTIP call for proposals based on Subcommittee recommendations
OTIP Review Committee	Develop application and budget templates that are more efficient for applicants and reviewers
Tim and Annette	The ITAC and CTAC chairs will seek review of the OTIP Review Committee recommendations from ITAC and CTAC members
Brian, Barrie, Jack	Review OTIP contracting procedures within the MFLNRO and TIB
OTIP Review Subcommittee	Produce a final OTIP call for proposals document by late November, 2012
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).
Jack	Complete drafting of the FGC Annual Report for 2011/12 and distribute it to FGC members for review prior to printing.
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
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.
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.
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).

Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / King): Minutes of the meeting held June 26, 2012 are hereby approved. **CARRIED**.

2. **MOVED** (King / Phillips): That Council accept the OTIP Review Committee report and recommendations as presented and authorizes the Committee to proceed to implementing the next steps outlined. CARRIED.
3. **MOVED** (King / Lee): Authorization was given to proceed with developing the final FGC Annual Report for 2011/12 and to print the report after Council members have had an opportunity to review it. CARRIED.
4. **MOVED** (Lee / King) That the FGC Achievement Award be given to Dr. Michael Carlson. CARRIED.
5. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Phillips) That the FGC accept the FGC Conflict of Interest guidelines as presented at the June, 2012 FGC meeting, with no further changes. CARRIED.
6. **MOVED** (Barber / LeBlanc) That the mandate of SelectSeed will be reviewed with reference to FGC goals. CARRIED
7. **MOVED** (King / Zemanek) That the meeting be moved out of camera and Jack invited to return to the meeting. CARRIED.

September 18th tour:

FGC members and several others toured seed orchard and research installations at Skimikin Seed Orchards, propagation work at Skimikin Nursery Ltd., and the SelectSeed lodgepole pine orchards operated by Sorrento Nurseries Ltd. Council members thank the following people for their excellent presentations and discussions:

Hilary Graham and Karen Turner – Tree Improvement Branch, Skimikin Seed Orchards
Barry Jaquish, Greg O'Neill, and Vicky Berger – Forest Genetics Section, Tree Improvement Branch
Jim Kusisto – Skimikin Nursery Ltd.
Dave Barnard and Brett Barnard – Sorrento Nurseries Ltd.

September 19th: FGC meeting called to order at 8:30 A.M. by Kerry McGourlick (FLNR Co-Chair)

1. **Agenda:** Approved as provided
2. **Approval of June 26, 2012 minutes:**

MOVED (van Niejenhuis / King): Minutes of the meeting held June 26, 2012 are hereby approved. CARRIED.

3. **Old Business and Action Items from June 26, 2012**

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

Responsibility	Action	
Jack	Post the FGC Achievement Award Criteria on the FGC website.	Done
	Post the FGC bylaws on the FGC website.	Done
Annette, Tim	Distribute the COI guidelines to the CTAC and ITAC for comment.	Done
Brian, Kerry, Annette, Larry, Patti	Develop information for discussion at the September 2012 FGC meeting on potential conflict of interest for the FGC Program Manager with the dual role of providing management services to the FGC while also leading operations in FGC-owned SelectSeed Ltd. This will include input from the SelectSeed Board of Directors, information from FGC minutes where this matter was raised in the past, and any specific issues that may have been raised. It will also include discussion on others who may also have potential conflict of interest due to their roles on committees and as project proponents.	Done
OTIP Eligibility Committee	The OTIP Eligibility Committee will proceed to stage two of the OTIP review and develop guidelines for OTIP projects that will be eligible for funding under the 2013/14 call for proposals. Draft guidelines will be reported back to Council in September, 2012.	Report to be presented
Jack, Larry, Kerry	Prepare a report for presentation or submission to the Timber Supply Review Committee.	Presentation and submission made
Brian	Follow-up with FGC members whose appointments expire in 2012 to confirm their interest in remaining on Council and to confirm reappointments with Dave Peterson.	Done

4. FGC membership update – Brian

All FGC members whose terms are expiring chose to remain as members of the FGC. Reappointment letters were prepared and signed by Tom Ethier and Dave Peterson and will be mailed in the next few days.

Action item: Jack will email an updated membership list to Council members with terms included.

5. OTIP Subcommittee Report – Annette , Tim, Jack

Members of the OTIP Review Committee (Annette, Tim, Jack, and Chris Walsh) reported on their recommendations as requested in an action item from the June 26th FGC meeting. A number of changes were recommended and summarized. These changes include modifications to eligible activities and streamlining application, review and contracting procedures. Annette presented the follow report:



OTIP Eligibility Committee report

- Members: Annette, Tim, Chris Walsh, Jack
- COI – all members noted that they are potentially in a conflict of interest situation
- 2 meetings by conference call + background work

Background

- The OTIP subprogram is intended to provide support for quality and quantity boosts in orchards
- In place since 1996; adjusted several times over the years
- This committee was asked to review mandate and project eligibility in two stages
 - Overall mandate
 - Specific types of work and processes
- Stage 1 completed in June, 2012 (Q. and Q. boost mandate endorsed)

Recommendations – orchard redundancy

- Continues to be a problem
- Addressed in Chief Forester Guiding Principles document of 2010
 - Redundancy discouraged as it removed the business case for orchard ownership and it wastes resources
- Recommended that OTIP funding will be eligible only when
 - Less than 5 years worth of seed in storage (any owner) but subject to Review Committee discretion
 - Contract letters to proponents with redundant orchards will warn that future funding is at risk
 - Projects for ramet replacement may still be eligible if gain is meaningfully increased and redundancy is not perpetuated

Recommendations - redundancy

- Recommendation to FGC to encourage orchard owners to deal with the redundancy issue as it is
 - inefficient
 - discourages private investments
 - creates difficulties in program areas such as OTIP
- Must recognize the uncertainties such as
 - forecast seed needs and production
 - likely trends with new climate-based seed transfer standards

Recommendations

- Orchard management – work category 327
 - General principle that seed sale revenue should pay for the costs of orchard management (i.e. crown management, irrigation, fertilization, mowing, etc.)
 - Category 327 should be dropped and activities related to replacing ramets moved to other work categories
 - Dropped for producing and non-replacement ramets are
 - Crown management
 - Foliar analysis
 - Moved to category 323 (Ramet replacement) are, for up to 6 years from planting
 - Fertilization
 - Crown management
 - Foliar analysis



Recommendations by work category

- Categories 321, 322, 324, 326, 341, 342, 343
 - No changes
- 323 – ramet replacement
 - Add support for management activities for up to 6 years from planting
- 325 – SMP and CP
 - Drop all controlled pollination (expensive and little done operationally)
- 331 – cutting donor plants
 - allow cutting donor maintenance for up to 3 years from grafting or rooting
- 350 – Technical support projects
 - Improve proposal application information requirements
 - Have technical support projects reviewed by a group more attuned to research-type projects, rather than the OTIP review committees
 - Perhaps the Applied Tree Improvement and Biotechnology review committee

Recommendations – climate based seed transfer changes

- Recommended that Council ask the CTAC and ITAC for guidance on how to evaluate decisions on orchard capacity adjustments that are needed to meet seed needs with changed seed transfer standards, including
 - What degree of change is needed to trigger review of orchard capacity.
 - Who will be tasked with reviewing changes and making recommendations
 - How these recommendations will be recorded and communicated to others
 - How Council should proceed when the capacity of existing impacted orchards cannot accommodate needed changes (i.e. current sites are unable or unwilling to put in the orchard capacity that is needed)
 - This is already set out in the CF Principles document and FGC structures
- Recommended that impacted orchards should be given a right of 1st refusal on changes to be supported by OTIP funding
- Recommended that OTIP review committees will evaluate only proposals that support FGC orchard adjustment recommendations and that proposals will be ranked relative to other OTIP proposals

Recommendations – proposal quality

- Proposal quality continues to be an issue in some cases
 - Dilemma: work is needed to advance FGC objectives, but a proposal is unclear
- Modify application procedures to help proponents provide the needed information
 - More specific cost and performance details
 - Spreadsheet being developed for more of a “fill-in-the-blanks” approach for budgets and performance indicators

Recommendations – administration

- Put all approved proposals from each company into a single contract

Next steps

- Rework the OTIP call for proposals
- Develop application templates and a budget template
- Review by CTAC and ITAC members
- Review of contract procedures in the MFLNRO
- Final call for proposals document (by late November)



MOVED (King / Phillips): That Council accepts the OTIP Review Committee report and recommendations as presented and authorizes the Committee to proceed with implementing the next steps outlined. CARRIED.

Action items:

- Update the OTIP call for proposals based on Subcommittee recommendations
- Develop application and budget templates that are more efficient for applicants and reviewers
- The ITAC and CTAC chairs will seek review of these recommendations from ITAC and CTAC members
- Review contracting procedures within the MFLNRO and TIB (Brian, Barrie, Jack)
- Produce a final call for proposals document by late November, 2012

Regarding recommendations for orchard size adjustments based on climate-based seed transfer changes, Council requested review of the concept and procedures by the Seed Transfer TAC.

Action: 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).6. FGC Annual Report for 2011/12 – Jack
Annual report statistics and budgets for the 2011/12 fiscal year were presented. The Annual Report is still being written but will be completed and printed in October.

MOVED (King / Lee): Authorization was given to proceed with developing the final FGC Annual Report for 2011/12 and to print the report after Council members have had an opportunity to review it. CARRIED.

Action: Complete drafting of the FGC Annual Report for 2011/12 and distribute it to FGC members for review prior to printing.

7. Presentation to the Mid-Term Timber Supply Review Committee – Jack, Kerry

An overview of the report presented to the Mid-Term Timber Supply Review Committee by Jack and Larry in July was presented. The response in the Mid-Term Timber Supply Committee report was to call for tree improvement funding to be maintained or increased. No further actions are recommended until the response from the MFLNRO to the Committee's report is available.

8. Seed Planning Unit (SPU) investment ranking and genecology investment ranking criteria - Jack

An overview of the criteria used to rank SPU for tree improvement investments was provided. This process is repeated every 2 or 3 years to ensure it is up to date.

Action: Include alder for coastal areas in the analysis, with planting of approximately 1mm seedlings per year, and report back to the FGC in December, 2012 (Jack).

9. FGC Achievement Award Nomination

A nomination to award Dr. Michael Carlson with the FGC Achievement Award for his exceptional contributions to forest genetics and tree improvement in BC and for his participation on the FGC as the ITAC chair was received from Jack Woods and Roger Painter. The nomination was unanimously and enthusiastically accepted.

MOVED (Lee / King) That the FGC Achievement Award be given to Dr. Michael Carlson. CARRIED.

Action: Jack will arrange a time to present the FGC Achievement Award to Dr. Michael Carlson award in conjunction with an upcoming ITAC meeting, and will try to include Chief Forester, Dave Peterson and possibly a local Vernon Council member.

10. Conflict of Interest guidelines – Comments received – Tim

Only two comments were received on the COI Guidelines distributed to CTAC and ITAC members. Concern was expressed that the guidelines were excessively complicated. Council members felt, however, that they are appropriate as written and provide broad guidance when conflict of interest might arise.

MOVED (van Niejenhuis / Phillips) That the FGC will be accept the FGC Conflict of Interest guidelines as presented at the June, 2012 FGC meeting, with no further changes. CARRIED.

11. Whitebark pine blister rust screening proposal – Brian, Barrie

A brief overview of whitebark pine (Pa) and a project proposal developed by Charlie Cartwright and Nick Ukrainetz was provided. Pa is blue-listed provincially and listed as endangered under the federal Species At Risk Act. The proposal sets out a long-term set of field trials and some shorter-term blister rust testing to determine if there are differences among Pa populations and individual trees for resistance to blister rust and to identify seed sources for future conservation planting.

Kerry inquired whether this project was part of a broader recovery strategy for Pa. It is not, as there is no recovery strategy at this time. Barrie informed Council that there is limited interest in Pa in the Ministry of Environment as they have no resources to deal with it.

Council would like this Pa proposal to fit into a broader recovery strategy but does not want to fetter the ability of the GCTAC to develop and bring forward proposals.

Action: Barrie will discuss the outcome of the FGC discussion with Charlie Cartwright.

Start of in-camera session – The FGC Program Manager, Jack Woods, left the meeting.

Minutes for this in-camera session were prepared by Annette van Niejenhuis

12. Program manager role and SelectSeed Co. subprogram review

No motion was made to move the meeting in-camera, however, Jack Woods is not present and will return at our invitation after we have completed items 14 and 13 on the agenda (Program Manager role and conflict of interest, Proposed subprogram review: SelectSeed Ltd).

Kerry brought forward the report of the ad hoc committee who reviewed potential conflict of interest of the FGC Program Manager in the dual role of providing management services to the FGC while also leading operations of FGC-owned SelectSeed Ltd. Brian moves that FGC accepts the recommendations and conclusions of the committee as amended; this motion was seconded by Scott and passed unanimously.

Action: Kerry will provide the amended recommendations and conclusions for inclusion in the Minutes of this meeting for general distribution.

MOVED: (Barber / LeBlanc) That the mandate of SelectSeed will be reviewed with reference to FGC goals. CARRIED unanimously.

Action: An ad hoc committee to be led by Brian and including Rob, Tim, and Annette will provide Council with a draft Terms of Reference for the review in 30 days.

Tim noted that he represents VSOC who has contracts with Select Seed, but this does not appear to be an issue of conflict for developing TOR.

See separate conflict of interest report prepared by the committee reviewing this matter.

MOVED (King / Zemanek) That the meeting be moved out of camera and Jack invited to return to the meeting. **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Next meeting: Afternoon of December 12, 2012 (conference call)

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods; In-camera minutes prepared by Annette van Niejenhuis

