

## MINUTES

### Forest Genetics Council – Meeting March 20, 2013

#### Meeting held at the Sheraton Airport Inn, Richmond, BC

Attending: Rob Guy, Domenico Iannidinardo, Patti Kagawa, Tim Lee, Joe LeBlanc, Kerry McGourlick (Chair), Barrie Phillips, Annette van Niejenhuis, Gernot Zemanek

*Regrets:* Larry Gardner, Scott King, Dan Peterson, Raoul Wiart

*Others:* Jack Woods, Phil Lepage

#### Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Jack	Put the MFLNRO Co-Chair issue on the June 2013 FGC meeting agenda for discussion if it is not resolved by that time
Barrie	Check to see if the whitebark pine recovery plan workshop has been scheduled yet and communicate back to Council
Jack	Conduct a Doodle poll of FGC members to determine meeting dates for the remainder of 2013
Annette	Collate and summarize available terms of reference information for the SelectSeed review and distribute it to FGC members prior to the June, 2013 meeting
Jack	Email FGC members a file containing Phil Lepage's slides
Annette, Domenico, Alvin Yanchuk, Jack	Form a subcommittee to review whether further contributions through SelectSeed Ltd. to the NSERC Industrial Chair of Applied Forest Genetics and Biotechnology will advance Forest Genetics Council objectives and report back to the FGC by May 15, 2013. Subcommittee members are Annette, Domenico, Alvin Yanchuk, and Jack
Jack	Prepare a letter by April 4, 2013, to Chief Forester, Dave Peterson, outlining the LBIS Tree Improvement Program budget allocations recommended by Council
Jack	Send a message to the person who forwarded the request for FGC participation on the CDFCP stating that participation does not fit the FGC mandate, but future possible collaboration with the GCTAC on projects may be considered

#### Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (Lee / LeBlanc): Minutes of the meeting held December 12, 2012 are hereby approved. **CARRIED.**
2. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Lee): That the FGC establish alder in the Maritime seed zone as a category 2 seed planning unit. **CARRIED.**
3. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Zemanek): That the FGC find a way to donate \$2,500 either through the MFLNRO TIB providing funds through the LBIS Tree Improvement Program allocation, or through SelectSeed Ltd providing a donation. **No vote was held and the motion was deferred until later in the meeting. This motion was later modified to Motion #5.**
4. **MOVED** (Zemanek / van Niejenhuis): The SelectSeed Business Plan for 2013/14 is hereby approved as presented. **CARRIED.**

5. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Zemanek): That \$3,000 will be added to the Extension budget presented for support of the Forest Genetics 2013 conference, and these funds will be transferred to the conference through the MFLNRO Tree Improvement Branch (TIB). Should the TIB be unable to transfer these funds, then SelectSeed is hereby asked to provide \$3,000 support to the Forest Genetics 2013 conference.
6. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Lee): The budget recommendation shown in Table 1 is hereby accepted and will be recommended to Chief Forester, Dave Peterson. **CARRIED.**
7. **MOVED** (Zemanek / van Niejenhuis): There being no further business to discuss, the meeting is hereby adjourned. **CARRIED.**

**Meeting called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Kerry McGourlick (Industry Co-Chair)**

1. **Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. New-business items were added.**

2. **FGC membership review:**

Concern was expressed regarding Brian Barber being moved to a special assignment in the MFLNRO and the current lack of stability at the Director level in the Tree Improvement Branch and MFLNRO FGC Co-Chair. It was decided that it is too soon to raise this concern with MFLNRO executive, as they are aware of the issue and there is an expectation that it will be resolved in the next few months.

**ACTION:** Put the MFLNRO Co-Chair issue on the June 2013 FGC meeting agenda for discussion if it is not resolved by that time.

3. **Old Business and Action Items from December 12, 2012**

The following action items were reviewed.

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Action requested</b>	<b>Actions done</b>
Jack	Distribute the amended minutes from September 19, 2012 to Council members.	Done
Jack	Include ranking of seed planning units for investment on the March 2013 meeting agenda.	Done – to be discussed March 20, 2013
Kerry	Ask Larry Gardner if he will join the SelectSeed Terms of Reference Review Committee.	Done
FGC members	Review the existing SelectSeed Terms of Reference document and comment to Brian by December 21, 2012.	Done
Jack	Canvas FGC and SelectSeed Board members to find a date for a joint meeting in early February, 2013.	Done – meeting subsequently postponed
Brian	Look into providing sponsorship funds to the Forest Genetics 2013 conference using current year LBIS Tree Improvement Program funds.	Done by Brian; not possible
Brian	Send information about a planned whitebark pine recovery-plan workshop to FGC members when is it announced.	Not done
Jack	Conduct a Doodle poll of FGC members to determine the best dates for FGC meetings in 2013.	Still to be done

**ACTION:** Barrie will check to see if the whitebark pine recovery plan workshop has been scheduled yet.

**ACTION:** Jack will conduct a Doodle poll of FGC members to determine meeting dates for the remainder of 2013.

**4. Approval of December 12, 2012 minutes:**

**MOVED** (Lee / LeBlanc): Minutes of the meeting held December 12, 2012 are hereby approved.  
CARRIED.

**5. SelectSeed Ltd. terms of reference review**

The review originally proposed for February 13, 2013 was postponed when Brian Barber, who was leading the review, was reassigned within the MFLNRO. Council still wants to complete this review. Interest was expressed to continue this discussion at the September, 2013 meeting and to perhaps visit a SelectSeed orchard as part of the meeting.

**6. Presentation: Assessment of Old Off-Site Tree Plantations in the Northwest Interior of British Columbia – Phil LePage, MFLNRO**

Phil presented the results of a study of Douglas-fir and western larch plantations in the Smithers area that were established up to 40 years ago well outside their natural geographic range. This project was supported through the genecology subprogram. A pdf file containing PowerPoint slides will be distributed following the meeting.

Phil was thanked for taking time to attend the meeting and present his study.

**ACTION:** Jack will email to FGC members a file containing Phil Lepage's slides.

**7. Seed Planning Unit rankings and red alder**

Council previously discussed including red alder as a category 2 program (1<sup>st</sup>-generation testing and selection) for investment in its ranking table. Jack presented updated rankings using current average planting levels for red alder and a ranking that assumes planting of about 1 million seedlings per year. Annette and Joe pointed out that alder planting is rising on the coast and that more high-quality alder presents opportunities.

**MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Lee): That the FGC establish alder in the Maritime seed zone as a category 2 seed planning unit. CARRIED.

**8. Forest Genetics 2013 conference support**

Jack presented an overview of a planned joint conference of the Canadian Forest Genetics Association, the Western Forest Genetics Association and two IUFRO working groups. This conference will be held at Whistler in July, 2013, and is the most significant forest genetics conference held in the world this year. Conference organizers (Co-Chairs Sally Aitken and Lee Charleson) are requesting support from the FGC and suggest \$5,000.

FGC members inquired about other sponsorship support. Jack said other sponsors currently include UBC, GenomeBC, Genome Canada, Alberta Innovation and Bio Solutions, Brookfield Timberlands Management, and Vernon Seed Orchard Company. Several more sponsors are expected. In addition, SelectSeed Ltd. has loaned funds to the conference to help organizers meet financial obligations in advance of fees and sponsorship money being received.

**MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Zemanek): That the FGC find a way to donate \$2,500 either through the MFLNRO TIB providing funds through the LBIS Tree Improvement Program allocation, or through SelectSeed Ltd providing a donation. **No vote on the motion was held and the motion deferred until after the end of the budget discussion. This motion was later modified.**

#### **9. Subprogram budgets and business planning for 2013/14**

Barrie outlined the expectation for a \$3 million LBIS Tree Improvement Program allocation for 2013/14. This is down \$0.5 million from last year, but with SelectSeed no longer requiring any funds, the allocation is effectively unchanged. The overall business planning and budget process was reviewed by Jack. At this point, all Council subcommittees have completed their budget development work and are prepared to pass along recommendations to Council.

More information on subprogram budgets is provided in material distributed in advance of the meeting. Table 1 shows budget proposals by subprogram.

#### **Tree Breeding:**

Annette and Tim presented CTAC- and ITAC-approved budget recommendations for coastal and interior breeding programs of \$595,000 and \$670,000, respectively. This is for operational activities only and includes no FLNRO salary costs.

#### **Operational Tree Improvement Program:**

On behalf of Lee Charleson, who led OTIP process for the FLNRO TIB, Jack provided an overview of the OTIP call-for-proposals process and the outcomes of coast and interior proposal submissions and reviews. Proposals totaling about \$717,734 were received. The total for projects recommended by review committees is \$123,309 for the coast and \$401,141 for the interior (\$524,499 total). A second option would remove lower-ranked proposals, resulting in a total budget of \$519,028.

#### **Genetic Conservation:**

On behalf of Dave Kolotelo, Jack provided an overview of the budget process followed by the Genetic Conservation TAC (GCTAC). Projects were approved for 4 groups (UBC Center for Forest Conservation Genetics, FLNRO TIB Forest Genetics Section, FLNRO Tree Seed Center, and the University of Victoria.

The total budget recommended by the GCTAC is \$251,940, with a second option of \$225,820 that removes some projects from the UBC, Tree Seed Center and TIB Forest Genetics Section budgets.

#### **Orchard Expansion subprogram (SelectSeed Ltd.)**

Jack presented a business plan for SelectSeed Ltd that was approved by the SelectSeed Board of Directors on March 18, 2012. SelectSeed anticipates total revenue of over \$900,000, which is sufficient to pay for both SelectSeed costs and for FGC management costs. There is no funding request for LBIS funds.

The SelectSeed budget includes \$55,000 of support for the NSERC-Industrial Chair of Applied Forest Genetics and Biotechnology. Discussion of this expenditure was deferred until all subprogram budgets had been presented.

**MOVED** (Zemanek / van Niejenhuis): The SelectSeed Business Plan for 2013/14 is hereby approved as presented. **CARRIED.**

### **Extension**

Jack reviewed the Extension TAC budget process and recommendations on behalf of Diane Douglas. Council acknowledged the need for flexibility in extension projects to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. It was agreed that support for the Forest Genetics 2013 conference should be part of the Extension budget. Following discussion Council added \$3,000 to the Extension budget to support the conference.

**MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Zemanek): That \$3,000 will be added to the Extension budget presented for support of the Forest Genetics 2013 conference, and these funds will be transferred to the conference through the MFLNRO Tree Improvement Branch (TIB). Should the TIB be unable to transfer these funds, then SelectSeed is hereby asked to provide \$3,000 support to the Forest Genetics 2013 conference.

### **Cone and Seed Pest Management:**

Jack presented the Cone and Seed Pest Management TAC (PMTAC) budget recommendation on behalf of PMTAC chair, Jim Corrigan. The proposed budget for 2013/14 will continue ongoing projects, with focus on applied solutions to orchard pest issues and to the registration of new pesticides. The total budget request is for \$124,950, with a second option for \$119,150. The second option reduces support for pest biologist activities.

### **Genecology and Seed Transfer**

Jack presented the budget recommendation from the Seed Transfer TAC, on behalf of Lee Charleson. This budget consists of two components; two projects resulting from a genecology call for proposals, totaling \$66,185, and funds for genecology work led by FLNRO TIB staff. This latter component totals \$320, 600. The total budget recommended by the Seed Transfer TAC is \$386,785. One of the projects recommended for support through the call for proposals is leveraged with the Genome Canada supported AdapTree proposal, worth over \$1 million per year.

### **Genetic Resource Decision Support subprogram**

Jack presented the budget recommendation from the Genetic Resource Decision Support TAC (DSTAC) on behalf of Guy Burdikin, DSTAC chair. This budget includes four projects, totaling \$65,000. Included is a project to compile a list of plantations that were planted either out of the species natural range, or that involved substantial movement of seed outside the normal seed zone policy requirements. The objective of this project is to find older plantings that can be assessed to provide data on climate-based seed transfer, similar to the project presented by Phil Lepage, but for southern- and central-interior areas of the province.

### **Applied Tree Improvement and Biotechnology subprogram**

Jack presented the budget recommendation from the Applied Tree Improvement and Biotechnology Steering committee. Four project proposals were submitted to the Steering Committee and two are recommended for funding. One of the two recommended projects was reduced in size to better fit with program needs. A total budget of \$182,173 is recommended.

Support through SelectSeed Ltd. for the NSERC-Industrial Chair of Applied Forest Genetics and Biotechnology was discussed. With the incumbent moving to a Department Head position at UBC as of June 1, 2013, it was felt that a review of this support is warranted. Rob Guy pointed out that the SelectSeed support all goes to research and the full salary for the position comes from UBC. A subcommittee consisting of Annette, Domenico, Alvin Yanchuk, and Jack will review further contributions to the NSERC Industrial Chair and report back to Council by May 15, 2013.

**ACTION:** Form a subcommittee to review whether further contributions through SelectSeed Ltd. to the NSERC Industrial Chair of Applied Forest Genetics and Biotechnology will advance Forest Genetics Council objectives and report back to the FGC by May 15, 2013. Subcommittee members are Annette, Domenico, Alvin Yanchuk, and Jack.

**Overall budget options and recommendations**

Table 1. FGC budget requests and recommendations by subprogram.

Subprogram	2012/13 allocations	Recommended by Technical Advisory Committees			Recommended by the FGC
		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	
Genetic Conservation	\$ 220,000	\$ 251,940	\$225,820	\$225,820	\$ 251,940
Tree Breeding	\$1,062,000	\$1,265,000	\$1,233,000	\$1,233,000	\$1,265,000
Operational Tree Imp. Prog.	\$584,000	\$524,449	\$519,028	\$517,122	\$524,449
SelectSeed Ltd.	\$540,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Extension and Communication	\$28,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$18,000
Cone and Seed Pest Mgt.	\$112,500	\$124,950	\$119,950	\$119,950	\$124,950
Genecology and Seed Transfer	\$544,240	\$386,785	\$386,785	\$386,785	\$386,785
Decision Support	\$90,000	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
Tree Imp. Branch administration	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Applied Tree Impr. and Biotechnology	\$289,260	\$182,173	\$182,173	\$182,173	\$182,173
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,855,297</b>	<b>\$2,786,756</b>	<b>\$2,784,850</b>	<b>\$ 2,858,297</b>
<b>TIB risk maangement</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>	<b>\$2,855,297</b>	<b>\$2,786,756</b>	<b>\$2,784,850</b>	<b>\$2,858,297</b>
<b>Unallocated</b>		<b>\$ 144,703</b>	<b>\$ 213,244</b>	<b>\$ 215,150</b>	<b>\$ 141,703</b>

**MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / Lee): The budget recommendation shown in Table 1 is hereby accepted and will be recommended to Chief Forester, Dave Peterson. **CARRIED.**

**ACTION:** Jack will prepare a letter by April 4, 2013, to Chief Forester, Dave Peterson, outlining the LBIS Tree Improvement Program budget allocations recommended by Council.

**10. Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems Conservation Partnership (CDFCP) request for participation**

Domenico pointed out that the issues the CDFCP is seeking support for do not apply to genetics or seed production and are, therefore, not FGC issues. Gernot felt that the information provided was not specific enough to warrant the FGC signing on. Kerry feels that as the issues don't fit the FGC mandate, it would be more appropriate for individual members of the FGC to sign on to the partnership if they feel it is appropriate. It was pointed out that genetic conservation issues with Garry Oak could have some overlap with the CDFCP stated objectives. However, Council and its TACs, particularly the Genetics Conservation TAC, could provide information or collaborate with CDFCP activities, if appropriate.

**ACTION:** Send a message to the person who forwarded the request for FGC participation on the CDFCP stating that participation does not fit the FGC mandate, but future possible collaboration with the GCTAC on projects may be considered. (Jack)

**11. New business**

a) A meeting with Norm McDonald was proposed to brief him on the overall value and need for a provincial forest genetics and tree improvement program. This is supported by the FGC and is considered worth pursuing. As this was suggested by Guy Burdikin in conjunction with Jack, Council supports Jack working with Guy to set up a meeting.

b) Jack announced that he was asked to speak at a Genome Canada meeting in Ottawa on March 21<sup>st</sup>. This meeting includes all the regional Genomics centers, including GenomeBC. GenomeBC is covering travel. The Genomics centers are seeking collaboration on applied forest genetics work that use genomics. Messaging to the meeting will be that BC has long-standing collaboration on applied forest genetics and that we would welcome investment in the application of genomics to programs that support FGC objectives. Further, investments are appropriately delivered with consideration for the existing business planning structure under the FGC.

**MOVED** (Zemanek / van Niejenhuis): There being no further business to discuss, the meeting is hereby adjourned. **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

**Next meeting: June 2013 – Date to be determined – conference call**

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods