
MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting June 26, 2012

Meeting held by conference call

Attending: Brian Barber (chair), Kerry McGourlick, Scott King, Larry Gardner, Patti Kagawa, Tim Lee, John Mitchell, Barrie Phillips, Annette Van Niejenhuis

Regrets: Rob Guy, Joe LeBlanc, Dan Peterson, Raoul Wiart, Gernot Zemanek

Others: Jack Woods

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Jack	Post the FGC Achievement Award Criteria on the FGC website. Post the FGC bylaws on the FGC website.
Annette, Tim	Distribute the COI guidelines to the CTAC and ITAC for comment.
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.
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.
Jack, Larry, Kerry	Prepare a report for presentation or submission to the Timber Supply Review Committee.
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.

Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (Phillips / Van Niejenhuis): Minutes of the meeting held March 26, 2012 are hereby approved. **CARRIED.**

Meeting called to order at 9:45 A.M. by Brian Barber (Ministry Co-Chair)

1. **Agenda:** Council membership renewal was added to the agenda.
2. **Approval March 26, 2012 minutes:**

MOVED (Phillips / Van Niejenhuis): Minutes of the meeting held March 26, 2012 are hereby approved. **CARRIED.**

3. Old Business and Action Items from March 26, 2012

The following action items were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Summary of action items and progress from the March 26, 2012 FGC meeting

Responsibility	Action to be done	Action
Annette, Barrie, Jack	Revise the FGC Achievement Award criteria and send to FGC members for an email vote on the following motion: <i>(van Niejenhuis / Lee) The FGC Achievement Award criteria, as revised, are hereby accepted.</i>	Done; email vote completed May 4, 2012
Lee Charleson	Further comments on the CBST Project Charter and associated 2-page communication document will be accepted by Lee until April 10, 2012, and Lee will send a revised version of the CBST Project Charter to the CTAC and ITAC for comment and information.	Done
Conflict-of-Interest Committee	A committee (Raoul, Barrie, Annette, Tim, Jack) will prepare conflict-of-interest guidelines for FGC review at the June 2012 meeting. These guidelines will define conflict, identify the role of the Chair of various FGC subcommittees in managing conflict-of-interest, and provide guidelines for members of the FGC and FGC committees.	Done
Jack, Council members	Seed planning unit rankings will be updated in advance of the September 2012 FGC meeting. Jack will send out the current priority ranking table and re-populate data. Council members will provide input to Jack.	Re-ranking underway
OTIP Eligibility Committee	A committee of Tim, Annette, Darrell Wood, David Reid, and Jack will review in two stages orchard redundancy, eligibility when significant amounts of seed are in storage, and the type of activities that are eligible for OTIP support. Stage 1 will be to return a discussion at the June FGC meeting of the principles related to the OTIP subprogram and how it supports FGC objectives. Stage 2 will be to develop specific guidelines to be followed in the 2013/14 OTIP call for proposals.	Stage 1 done
Jack	Prepare a letter from the FGC to Jim Sutherland by March 25, 2012 recommending LBIS Tree Improvement Program budget allocations.	Done
Jack	Poll FGC members to find a date for the June 2012 FGC meeting.	Done

- a. **ACTION ITEM:** Jack will post the FGC Achievement Award Criteria on the FGC website.
- b. Brian announced that Acting Chief Forester Jim Sutherland approved the FGC Bylaws as presented to him following the March 26, 2012 FGC meeting. This is also an affirmation of the role of the FGC. **ACTION ITEM:** Jack will post the FGC bylaws on the FGC website.

4. Conflict of interest guidelines

Draft conflict of interest (COI) guidelines were presented by the COI committee. The question was asked whether these guidelines would place someone in conflict if they advocated any position that could be perceived to be beneficial to their employer or to them. There was agreement that this was not the case if the position also supported FGC objectives and that all COI issues would need to be interpreted with judgment and based on the circumstances.

ACTION ITEM: 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.

ACTION ITEM: The CTAC and ITAC chairs will distribute the COI guidelines to their TAC's for comment.

Annette expressed concern that the FGC Program Manager may be placed in a position of conflict from time to time due to the dual roles of providing program management service to the FGC and leading Council-owned SelectSeed Ltd. on behalf of the FGC. It was agreed that this would be placed on the FGC agenda for further discussion at the September, 2012 meeting. A committee of

Annette, Brian, Kerry, Larry, and Patti will develop information for discussion, including 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. Barrie suggested that this committee should consider others who may also have potential conflict of interest, and not just the Program Manager. It was agreed that there should be an open discussion on the COI guidelines in September, with the intent to adjust these if necessary at that time.

ACTION ITEM: A committee of Annette, Brian, Kerry, Larry, and Patti will develop information for discussion at the September 2012 FGC meeting on potential COI 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.

5. Operational Tree Improvement Program (OTIP) purpose and project eligibility

The committee set up to review the OTIP purpose and structure presented their stage 1 report on the history and purpose of the OTIP subprogram. It was agreed by Council members that the primary purpose of this subprogram, in the context of other subprograms combining to meet overall FGC objectives, should remain primarily to boost seed production and quality from orchards serving Crown land. Added to this is a new and growing need to adjust orchard sizes and configurations to ensure sufficient seed is produced to meet provincial needs under new climate-based seed transfer guidelines.

Based on the purpose of the subprogram, the committee is asked to continue with the second phase of the review and develop specific guidelines for project eligibility and report back to Council at the September, 2012 meeting. These guidelines will be used in the call for proposals to be developed for the 2013/14 call. The committee was also asked to consider administrative efficiencies that may be realized with the call-for-proposal process.

Action item: 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.

6. Meeting with Dave Peterson and Tom Ethier

A meeting was held on June 5th that included Chief Forester Dave Peterson, ADM Tom Ethier, Brian Barber, Kerry McGourlick, Barrie Phillips, and Jack Woods. Jack made a presentation on behalf of the FGC that provided an overview of provincial objectives and cooperative structures. There was a very favourable response and a great deal of interest shown by Dave Peterson. Brian does not anticipate a diminished role for the FGC with the recent split of responsibilities between the Chief Forester and the ADM position filled by Tom Ethier, however, there may be some increased autonomy. In addition, LBIS budgets appear to be reasonably secure for the next 2 years.

Larry pointed out that the current focus on mid-term timber supply is reinforcing the role of tree improvement and the FGC. To this end, it was agreed that a written or verbal presentation should be made to the Timber Supply Review Committee on behalf of Council to ensure that they are aware of the benefits to timber supply through the use of genetically selected seed and that they better understand how the cooperative system in BC works.

ACTION ITEM: Jack, Kerry and Larry will prepare a report for presentation or submission to the Timber Supply Review Committee.

7. FGC membership

ACTION ITEM: Brian will 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.

Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held September 18 and 19, 2012 (one business day and one field trip day). The field trips will include Sorrento orchards, Skimikin orchards, and perhaps propagation at Skimikin Nursery Ltd., with a business meeting to be held the second day in Kamloops. The schedule will be arranged to allow travel to and from Kamloops on the morning of the 18th and the PM of the 19th, if possible.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods

