

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting September 21, 2011

Meeting held at the Provincial Tree Seed Center, Surrey, BC

Attending in person: Brian Barber (Chair), Larry Gardner, Rob Guy, Joe LeBlanc, Tim Lee, Barrie Phillips, Annette Van Niejenhuis, Gernot Zemanek

Attending by phone: Scott King, John Mitchell, Raoul Wiart

Regrets: Kerry McGourlick,

Others: Graham Archdekin, Susanna Laaksonen-Craig, Dave Kolotelo, David Reid, Darrell Wood, Jack Woods

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Jack	Email graphs prepared for the annual report to FGC members.
Jack	Send information on the FGC Achievement award and past criteria for FGC members to consider nominations.
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.
FGC members	Direct ideas on a new-technologies workshop topic to Jack.
Bylaw subcommittee	Review bylaws and bring recommendations to the December 14, 2011 meeting.

Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (LeBlanc / Phillips): Minutes of the meeting held June 15, 2011 are hereby approved.
CARRIED.

Meeting called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Brian Barber (FLNR Co-Chair)

1. **Agenda:** Approved as provided

2. **Approval of June 15, 2011 minutes:**

MOVED (LeBlanc / Phillips): Minutes of the meeting held June 15, 2011 are hereby approved.
CARRIED.

3. **Old Business and Action Items from June 15, 2011**

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

Responsibility	Action requested	Action taken
Jack	Include discussion of FGC Bylaws on the September meeting agenda.	On Sept. 21, 2011 agenda
Jack	Schedule for discussion at an upcoming FGC meeting the issue of increasing the FGC role to include organizing nursery support.	On Sept. 21, 2011 agenda
Annette	Will quantify issues associated with growing high-gain coastal Douglas-fir in nurseries, and pass this information to Brian Barber and Barrie Phillips for TIB staff to investigate.	Work underway; analysis planned and data gathering partially complete
GCTAC members	Review the 2007 Indigenous Tree Genetic Conservation plan and seek input beyond GCTAC members. A new draft is requested for the FGC to review in September, 2011. Complete a revised plan by December, 2011.	Underway; presentation on progress on this agenda.
Tim Lee	Lead discussions among the parties interested in the Thompson Okanagan high and low-elevation orchards and bring a recommendation to the FGC regarding where the orchards should be established.	Discussions continue. No immediate decision required. Meeting among parties planned for fall 2011.

4. Update on budget and contracts for the 2011/12 fiscal year – Darrell Wood

Darrell reported that budgets are on track with business plan recommendations and all contracts that need to be issued to date have been completed. This year's OTIP call for proposals is planned for late November this year to allow completion of reviews by the end of January.

5. FGC Annual Report for 2010/11 and Business Plan for 2011/12 – Jack Woods

Provincial performance indicators and other information were reported for the 2010/11 fiscal year. This information is being finalized in the FGC Annual Report and will be published in October. Select seed use for the 2011 sowing year reached 64% of total sowing of about 250 million. Average Genetic Worth of class A seed used remained at 16%. Both indicators are above long-term projections.

The FGC Business Plan and species plans are completed and are currently being printed.

Action item: Jack will email graphs prepared for the annual report to FGC members.

The point was raised that the FGC Achievement Award has not been given for several years and should be considered.

Action item: Jack will send information on the FGC Achievement award and past criteria for FGC members to consider nominations.

6. Overview of the Canadian Wood Fiber Center – Raoul Wiart

Raoul provided an overview of the management structure and strategic directions for the Canadian Wood Fiber Center. Further information is available online. Further discussion on increasing collaboration between the CWFC and BC tree improvement and forest genetics work is encouraged.

7. Member updates

Tim Lee and Brian Barber provided updates on Minister of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations visit to the Kalamalka Forestry Center and the Vernon Seed Orchard Company site. The tours were also attended by MLA Eric Foster and Vernon Mayor Wayne Lippert.

Jack announced a meeting to be held with GenomeBC executive in October. Discussion will be about increasing collaboration between GenomeBC and operational forest genetics activities in BC.

8. Update on a new Genetic Conservation Plan – Dave Kolotelo

Dave provided an update on Genetic Conservation TAC progress in the development of a new genetic conservation plan. A productive meeting was held and components of the plan have been developed. Sections require additional work. It was proposed that a draft plan be submitted to Council by October 28th and that this plan receive review in advance of the December 14th FGC meeting so that business planning for next fiscal year can proceed according to the new plan. There will be resourcing issues in the new plan and Dave was advised that these should come back to the FGC to find solutions.

Dave was thanked for his work on this project.

9. Support for new technologies that can contribute to FGC objectives

As new technologies arise that can contribute to FGC objectives, the concept of developing a mechanism to support useful projects was discussed. It was pointed out that the FLNR's ability to support grants is very limited at the current time. The following points were made about project types and general directions:

- Projects must support FGC objectives. For example, Pli seed production is a current priority.
- Transitions from basic to applied research, and more applied research is desirable.
- Projects should be transformative to help effect new ways of doing business, or support efficiencies with existing operational methods.

This topic should be brought up during an upcoming meeting that Brian and Jack will have with GenomeBC to look for ways to collaborate on support for new technologies. It is also proposed that a workshop be organized for invited people to discuss possibilities and ways that support might be injected to leverage other funding and to bring about work that will support FGC objectives.

Action item: FGC members will direct ideas on a new-technologies workshop topic to Jack.

Action item: Jack will work with others to develop a workshop in December, 2011 that will bring together invited people to discuss project types and funding mechanisms that will support FGC objectives.

10. Discussion on developing technical support for seedling nurseries as part of the FGC mandate

Extension and technical support for the seedling nursery industry that was provided by the BC Forest Service is no longer available. Nurseries are mostly small businesses and often cannot afford the cost of having very specialized staff. The concept of providing some level of nursery extension support within the FGC program was discussed. It was concluded that this type of support is not part of the FGC mandate, but that there is merit to FLNR providing some extension

support to help ensure the critical link of seedling production is not threatened within the reforestation value chain. It was pointed out that the Forest Nursery Association of BC should lead any requests to the FLNR TIB if they wish to advocate for increased nursery extension support.

11. Tree Seed Center tour – Heather Rooke, Dave Kolotelo, Dawn Stuble, Michael Postma, and Spencer Reitenbach

Staff from the Provincial Tree Seed Center provided a tour of the facility and an overview of their operation. TSC staff are thanked for a very informative tour.

12. Succession issues in BC forest genetics and tree improvement – Jack Woods

Staff losses in FLNR orchards, breeding programs, and in private orchards are threatening the long-term ability to meet FGC objectives. An overview of how these losses were eroding capacity was provided and Council was encouraged to look for new ways to deliver needed programs that were not limited by broader public service hiring limitations or encourage more cooperative management among orchards.

13. Review of FGC bylaws

A subcommittee was struck to review the bylaws and report to the FGC at the December, 2011 meeting. Members are Annette, Larry, Tim, Brian, and Jack. Topic moved to the December meeting.

Action item: Bylaw subcommittee to review bylaws and bring recommendations to the December 14, 2011 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Next meeting: December 14, 2011 (conference call)

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods and Darrell Wood

