

**Coastal TAC Meeting  
Victoria, BC.  
Western Forest Products  
November 25, 2004**

**Meeting started at 9:20 A.M.**

**Attendance**<sup>1</sup>: Annette van Niejenhuis (VM), Chang-yi Xie (VM), Yousry El Kassaby, Diane Douglas, Tim Crowder (VM), Joe Webber (VM), Michael Stoehr (VM), Patti Brown (VM), Tania Johnson, Jack Woods, Roger Painter, Sally Aitken (VM), Abul Ekramoddoullah, David Kolotelo (VM), Debbie Poldrugovac, Carolyn Lohr, Charlie Cartwright (VM), Cheng Ying, Craig Newton, Don Carson, David Reid (VM), Dan Rudolph, John King (VM)

**Regrets:** Diane Medves,

**Summary of Action Items:**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>
Sally will ask Leslie McAuley to join the CTAC and will talk to Diane Medves about meeting attendance or finding a replacement. Sally will also talk to Al MacDonald of BCTS, and possibly someone from Interfor to join the Committee.	Sally Aitken
Roger is to bring forward to FGC the recommendation from CTAC to fund 3 urgent project requests	Roger Painter
Sally will bring forward to FGC (ITAC/CTAC committee re: DNA Marking)	Sally Aitken
FDC committee supports request for one year blanket variance to cover the need for approximately 1 million seedlings from BC sources for over 800 metres (to be brought forward to FGC – high priority issue).	
John Russell will talk to TIB about changing transfer limits – want to move up to 600 m (Western Red Cedar)	John Russell
Roger will talk to Robb Bennett to make sure that everyone gets notification of OTIP Call for Proposals (Pest Mgmt).	Roger

**Summary of Motions:**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Carried (yes/no)</b>
To accept minutes from last year's mtg. (Kolotelo/Van Niejenhuis)	yes

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<sup>1</sup> VM = Voting Member

To accept the activities – 326 be added to SPU31 Fdc, 326 be removed from SPU 8 Pw. (Brown/Van Niejenhuis)	yes
To accept review committee's recommendation to Recommend funding for Optimal Rooting Strategy study \$9900. (Brown/Crowder).	yes
To accept recommendation from special review committee for all 3 urgent project requests. (Pigott / Kolotelo).	yes
Strike CTAC/ITAC committee to review the need for greater molecular monitoring and checking seedlots (proposed costs range in the neighbourhood of \$150K - \$200K) (Van Niejenhuis/ Stoehr).	yes
To support Robb Bennett presentation to FGC on the need for increased pest management research support. (Kolotelo/Crowder).	Yes
To accept Species Committee report from Fdc committee (Brown/Van Niejenhuis).	Yes
To accept Cedar Species Committee report (Kolotelo/King)	yes
To accept Hemlock Species Committee report (King/Crowder)	Yes
To accept True-fir Species Committee report (Douglas/van Niejenhuis)	Yes
To accept Sitka spruce Species Committee report (Pigott/Cartwright)	Yes
To accept White Pine Species Committee report (Crowder/Douglas)	Yes
To accept Coastal Hardwood Species Committee report (Pigott/Crowder)	Yes
To strike a committee to assist Jack Woods with the GASM report on Gamete contributions (van Niejenhuis/Stoehr)	yes

**Business arising from last Mtg:**

Charlie Cartwright noted that approval transfer of true fir to the Island was recommended, that CTAC passed motion but nothing happened. It was pointed out that there is a need to make sure motions are acted upon. Someone needs to pass recommendations on to TIB and make sure that they are dealt with. In the future all action items will be identified in the Mtgs and the person responsible will ensure that each action item is dealt with. The person identified in the action is responsible to communicate back to members on the action item.

**CTAC membership (additions or deletions)**

Discussion of the current mix of members on CTAC identified a weak point with regards to the number of seed users on the TAC. Leslie McAuley was nominated for CTAC membership so that there is a closer tie to policy issues. Currently Leslie has asked to be copied on all correspondence. Diane Medves has been replaced by Stan Wheat (contractor for Weyerhaeuser) for Charlie's species committee. Diane Douglas suggested the inclusion of more field foresters, there are six on the ITAC. Doug Stables was nominated by Charlie. Al MacDonald is representing BC Timber Sales; he may want to sit on this committee. Patti Brown suggested someone from Interfor. Jack Woods suggested writing to Jerry Fraser of Interfor. The process for recommend names for CTAC and ITAC belongs to the chairs.

**Action:** Sally will ask Leslie McAuley to join the CTAC and will talk to Diane Medves about meeting attendance or finding a replacement. Sally will also talk to Al MacDonald of BCTS, and possibly someone from Interfor to join the Committee.

### **OTIP Funding Eligibility**

FGC requested that CTAC and ITAC review categories 325 and 327. Comments on 325 - Efficacy of SMP in mature orchards is in question. What activities should be allowed? The general consensus of committee is that what is currently in place with section 325 (covered by the Protocols) is satisfactory and should not be changed. Comments on 327 included – Foliar analyses should be taken care of by the orchard and not paid for by OTIP. Annette is concerned that funds are slowly diminishing for orchardists in OTIP. The money in this section of OTIP is supposed to pay for ramet replacement and Crown management. OTIP budget - \$32,000 out of \$700K went to crown management last year. Consensus is 327 funding should remain in place as is.

### **Species Plans/OTIP**

A final review of the OTIP Eligibility table showed the following changes.

- 326 should be added to 31 Fdc
- 326 should be removed from 8 Pw (induction)
- change name of 342 to Non- insect Pest Control from Disease Control

**Motion** That the activities as shown in the OTIP Eligibility table be accepted – Patti Brown, seconded – Annette Van Niejenhuis - carried

### **OTIP Urgent Projects Requests**

Three proposals for funding were brought forward for discussion. Funding is available from projects that did not complete all their activities in this fiscal. The three proposals:

- Estimating Levels of Pollen Contamination in Western Red Cedar Seed Orchards.
- Yellow Cypress Optimum Rooting Strategy Study
- Yellow Cypress individual clonal response to root-ability

These projects need to begin now because of biological activity occurring prior to beginning of the new fiscal year. Funding approval for 2005 would not allow them to start until 2006. Small review committees were established to review for CTAC and then on to FGC for approval.

Annette brought forward the proposals from the Yellow Cedar species committee. Rootability success for Yellow Cedar is very low and there is a limited amount of information on family related rootability. Growers and producers of Yc cuttings state that costs for cuttings (8 to 10 cents more than a seedling to produce and plant) are high. Bevin's Wigmore's original trials showed "clone" was a most important factor. It is important to develop more information about clonal rootability and rogue out poor producers. This is considered important to help rationalize Yellow Cedar as an operational breeding program. The second proposal related to the time of root set and is also important. Two nurseries are currently involved in this work and two production facilities.

Joe Webber put forth his proposal "Estimating Levels of Pollen Contamination in Western Red Cedar Seed Orchards" on behalf of Webber, Reid, Lohr and orchardists in the species committee.

Reviews from all three proposals scored very high. All three scored in the 80's with no red flags. The critical issue is timing. Roger stated that he has the ability to risk manage as there are sufficient funds. Annette's project is approx \$9900, study - \$3300 and Joe's \$5985. Comments about the rooting studies included a suggestion of not throwing out clones but optimizing after the timing part has been completed. Another comment suggested that the age of ortet is a big factor and should be incorporated in to the project.

**Motion – that review committee's recommendation to approve funding for Optimal rooting strategy study \$9900. This included a recommendation for Annette to review progress with Yc Committee each subsequent years. Results of this year's study will dictate next year's direction in the study. They should review experimental design and ortet age at that time. What is learned from this will change the direction of this study for the future. Moved: Patti Brown, seconded Tim Crowder. Approved**

It was suggested that these types of proposals not be allowed to come through this way (late in the year) to discourage further proposals to come forth in the future. Sally agrees that we should discourage this from happening again in the future but we will process these 3 projects this time.

**Motion That the CTAC recommend to FGC all three proposals as presented Moved: Don Pigott, seconded Dave Kolotelo. Carried.**

**Action: Roger will bring forward to FGC the recommendations from CTAC to fund 3 urgent project requests**

**Molecular Genetics Techniques and Services Available (Craig Newton)**

Craig reviewed the need for work in applications of DNA markers in Seed Orchards. DNA markers have great potential in Breeding Programs and for verification of clonal material as well in testing for seed quality from SMP. Craig's company will no longer support this research as overhead costs are too high.

**Motion: That a joint CTAC/ITAC committee be struck to review need for molecular monitoring and checking seedlots**

**Moved Annette Van Niejenhuis, seconded Michael Stoehr. Carried**

Committee Members will include: Joe Webber, Michael Stoehr, Chang-yi Xie, Jack Woods, Patti Brown, Annette van Niejenhuis, Sally Aitken plus members for the ITAC, Chair – Michael Stoehr, Roger Painter to be ex-officio.

Once a decision has been made Sally Aitken will bring forward to FGC.

**Pest Management Program – Robb Bennett**

Robb Bennett gave a presentation on problems related to current support for Seed pest management and the lack of research. History of pest mgmt program – CFS research program and BCFS ops/extension program was great and brought great program initiatives – 6 full time and base funding working with Douglas-fir and spruce at that time. Downsizing eliminated CFS program and BCFS program. Research contract \$ 92-1998 Green plan & FRBC and \$0 in 1998, and 2003 FGC started SPM Research Committee. Why is there still no cone/seed pest research program in BC? All major conifer hosts in BC have permanent research programs dedicated to their 'improvement'. Catastrophic losses will continue. In 2004, we had a \$600,000 loss in 2 spruce orchards. This dollar amount is equivalent to a 5yr salary for 2 research scientists.

There is a need for the FGC to provide support for Pest Management Program to establish a research scientist and technical support position to this program. This proposal has the informal support from orchard managers and the Pest Mgmt Committee. Robb is looking for support from CTAC. Wants to get away from the year to year, proposal by proposal method and have dedicated positions to work on this and answer to FGC and the mandate.

**Motion put forward that Robb Bennett make presentation to FGC on the need for increased pest management support – Dave Kolotelo, Tim Crowder seconded. Motion carried.**

**Gene Conservation in a changing climate – Sally Aitken (Sally provided a handout.)** Sally noted that climate change issues are at the forefront of much of their current work. For specifics please see her handout.

### **ETAC – Chris Hawkins (Chair) and Diane Douglas (Coordinator)**

On October 6, there was a forest genetics field tour in the Kitwanga area (North Coast) where forest genetics sites were visited, and compliance and enforcement and lodgepole pine disease issues were discussed. ETAC had their annual meeting in Kamloops on November 9. A client survey has been prepared by FORREX and will be delivered on behalf of ETAC/FGC. The next phase in ETAC planning will be an extension planning workshop to develop a 5 year extension plan. The Tree improvement brochure will be updated and more extension notes will be forthcoming. The final Ministry of Forests' Seed and Seedling Extension Topics newsletter will be published and one issue of TICtalk will be published by fiscal year end.

### **Species Committee Reports**

**Details from the minutes for the various Species Committees were tabled and each Chair reviewed the last Committee reports. This includes: contains**

#### **Coastal Douglas-fir**

Tim Crowder – Fdc committee recommended support for a request for one year blanket variance to cover the need for approximately 1 million seedlings from BC sources for over 800 metres.

**Motion: To accept report from Fdc committee Brown/van Niejenhuis - carried. . Action to be brought forward to FGC**

#### **Western Red Cedar**

Bevin Wigmore – Agreed that Stan Wheat (now a member) could stand in for Diane Medves. Transfer limits – want to move up to 600 m. John Russell will take to TIB to see about changing. Genecology – work needed in the interior with red cedar. Pollen contamination issue – need to start doing some monitoring, made this an OTIP eligible activity.

**Yellow cedar** – Under Vegetative Propagation, 2 proposals were put forward (see above). These need to be included in the eligibility table under 350 in OTIP. Pest mgmt issues in tech transfer will be looked at under pest mgmt program.

**Motion: To accept Cedars Committee report. Moved: Kolotelo Seconded: King – carried**

#### **Western Hemlock – Charlie Cartwright**

OTIP eligibility – Reduce low elevation SPU 3 due to surplus situation and need for seed. Low maritime south – 10 yr old trials they are doing selections on. Grafts are 3 yrs old, trying to induce them. Hemic has been dropped from the program.

**Motion: To accept the Western Hemlock Committee report Moved: King**  
**Seconded: Crowder – carried**

**Abies Committee – Don Pigott**

Testing more southern sources and seed transfer issues. Amabilis crop was poor this year. Charlie will check to see if all the clones are represented at Cowichan Lake. Don Carson says yes.

**Motion: To accept the Abies Committee report Moved: Van Niejenhuis**  
**Seconded: Medves – carried**

**Sitka Spruce – Annette van Niejenhuis**

Al MacDonald and Don Hepner attended and are now part of committee. Kevin Derow will be added to list of members as well. Seed deployment plan has been developed. Northern seed transfer guidelines will be talked about at December mtg. Genecology test will be going in the ground.

**Motion: To accept Sitka Spruce Committee report. Moved: Pigott**  
**Seconded: Cartwright – carried**

**White Pine – Patti Brown**

The Committee discussed Stefan Zeglen's proposed briefing note on the use of resistant western white pine seed for reforestation in the Coast Forest Region. This briefing note is a more formal version of the original motion put forward at the 2003 species committee meeting to address the concerns of the Region regarding the long term use of MGR seed on the landscape. The next step is to submit it to CRIT, (Coastal Regional Implementation team). CRIT is not likely to tackle this for a couple of months so there is still time for our input into this document.

The identification of MGR seed serves 2 purposes, tracking plantation performance, and making sowing requests. Susan Zedel, the MoF representative for SPAR, informed the committee of SPAR's technical limitations. As a result 3 alternatives were put forward for identifying MGR seedlots: 'R' plus 50% in the GW column; a separate series of numbers (eg the 9000 series); and using an 'M' instead of 'R' in the GW column. After much discussion it was agreed that the use of 'M' would be the most effective.

The CFS would appear to be not replacing Rich Hunt or providing support for the white pine program as it was no longer considered "research". The best scenario from both the species committee and MoF's perspective would be to have the CFS allow Rich to continue to work 1/3 time and be provided office space and access to the facilities. The ultimate goal would still be to replace Rich to ensure there is continued support from the CFS to the program. There is a general need to lobby through FGC for the continuation of the support from CFS for White Pine.

**Motion: To accept White Pine Committee report. Moved: Crowder  
Seconded Douglas – carried**

### **Coastal Hardwoods – Chang-yi Xie**

They have finalized membership, reviewed current activities, identified needs for specific species including red alder, It should be noted that Weyerhaeuser has created a forestry position and 5 person team to work on this species.

Committee requests that the FGC re-evaluate this species. Cottonwood is species that has considerable work done on it world-wide. Scott Paper is a grower of poplar, they use 16 hybrids. Overall, hardwoods are valuable trees that require re-evaluation and need stable funding. There was some discussion how to access funding but this appeared to be a Ministry of Forests, Research Branch Priority issue.

**Motion: To accept Hardwoods Committee report. Moved: Pigott  
Seconded: Crowder – carried**

### **Genecology**

The TAC's have been asked by council to discuss genecology issues by species. "Do we have enough of it?" and this question was posed to the species committees and TAC's. Don Pigott indicated he would summarize known locations of species trials on the coast. With the possible exception of Interior Red Cedar the answer appears to be yes. This is part of the general Climate Change area and could provide valuable information (with enough sites) for further information regarding species selection. Sally will present to council when ready. There may be a need to put a series of species/provenances trials on many sites to address issues related to climate change.

### **CF Standards – Jack Woods**

The Chief Foresters Standards have now been signed off by Chief Forester and have been published in the Provincial gazette today. Generally Accepted Scientific Methodology document has gone out for review and ties back to CF Standards and acts as a reference. It provides info for Compliance and Enforcement to refer too. Council will likely take ownership of this document. Jack Woods is currently collecting the comments on the document but would like to form a joint ITAC/CTAC committee to help review and make decisions. Timelines would include having the document reviewed by January ready for sign-off by FGC in March.

Will the committee have authority to tell orchardists your method is not considered adequate and we don't support it for CF Stds? Are we recommending this authority is in this committee? Do we have this information right now without Craig's report?



It's acceptable if the committee collectively agrees.

**Motion: That a committee be struck to assist Jack Woods with the GASP report on Gamete contributions – Moved Van Niejenhuis/Stoehr, Carried**

Those interested in working on this committee: Jack Woods, Michael Stoehr, Tim Crowder, Dan Rudolph.

In the FIA proposal done by Joe Webber and Michael Stoehr on the Saanich peninsula and Bowser seed orchards, male gamete contribution based on current protocol and paternity analysis discusses estimates of contamination. Contamination levels value for Saanichton Forestry Centre were 100% and while values at Bowser were 50%. DNA results suggested that it is not even getting close to 10% contamination. Joe Webber would like to discuss with species committees and maybe consider another way of approaching estimates of contamination and how to reduce workload. He will send out emails to Fdc committee members.

**Orchard Information System (OIS) – Jack Woods**

VSOC, Riverside and MoF orchards use OIS, and new orchards put in by SelectSeed are using excel system. The meeting discussed upgrading the current OIS system. The meeting was asked to consider using OIS. Indications from coastal industry orchards were that they have their own systems. Jack Woods will discuss further with those in the interior who supported this upgrade and will get back to Coastal Orchard managers.

**OTIP Call for proposals**

The OTIP Call for Proposals will be issued on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. The deadline will be January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Annette suggests that the Pest Management call for proposals also go out to everyone. Roger will talk to Robb to make sure that everyone gets notification. Roger would like volunteers for reviewers for OTIP.

Indications from Gov't are that the FIA allocation for next year will be the same as last year. The Forest Investment Council is responsible for making decisions on funding levels. Roger also suggested that Council needs to start to address new sources for OTIP funding as well.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.