

GCTAC MEETING – February 13, 2012-02-14

At UBC: Sally Aitken, Tongli Wang, Charlie Cartwright, Michael Murray; Jack Woods, Dave Kolotelo

Guest: Nick Ukrainetz

In Victoria: Alvin Yanchuk, Tory Stevens

Unavailable: Lee Charleson, Andreas Hamann; Jodie Krakowski

1. **GCTAC Position.** We discussed options for filling our vacant membership position. Randy Moody was suggested, but there already seems to be adequate representation from WBEF of Canada and the species. The need for someone with experience working with broadleaf and/or rare species was considered important with several names being put forward. The following were identified in order of preference with indicated contact person.

Allan Vyse	to be contacted by Jack
Jim Pojar	to be contacted by Sally if Allan is not interested

2. **GCTAC Proposal Driven Process** Charlie suggested that GCTAC should consider a portion of its budget being allocated through a call for proposal. Benefits included the expansion of our expertise-base and student training opportunities to other educational institutes. The costs would be time involved in administering the call, assessing proposals and the time involved in preparing proposals. The subject did not receive a great deal of support, but we decided not to totally abandon the idea. Charlie indicated he would put a proposal together for GCTAC to review.

3. **Budget Discussion** – We briefly reviewed budget items for the upcoming year using the strategic plan as a rough guide.

3a **Tree Seed Centre** –TSC efforts have focused on drying back past ex-situ collections to moisture contents below 10% for long-term freezer storage. No germination testing or x-ray analysis performed on whitebark pine samples. *No indication of next years budget needs, although continuation of sample drying and retesting bigleaf maple samples (2 years in storage) are probable projects.*

3b **Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics** – Sally and Tongli provided an overview of 2011/12 activities/accomplishments and a proposed budget for 2012/13. The proposed budget is included on page two. It must be recognized that this TAC supports Tongli's salary, but a significant part of his time is addresseing STTAC issues. Due to funding efficiencies his salary is included in the following GCTAC budget. Sally noted the leverage of funding with other initiatives such as the AdaptTree project and NSERC

**Genetic Conservation subprogram - UBC CFCG component
Proposed draft budget for 2012-13**

Project	BUDGET 2011-				Comments
	2012 From Genetic Conservation Subprogram - Option 2	2011-2012 Other sources of funding	2012-13 GCTAC Request	2012-13 Other sources of funding	
CENTRE FOR FOREST CONS. GENETICS					
Climate change					
Testing climate change predictions for whitebark and lodgepole pine	0	0	500	500	Measurement of Peak 2 Peak whitebark
Modelling seed transfer options	0	42,420	0	n/a	
Genetic response to climate change (larch and cedar growth chamber expts)	0	7,455	0	n/a	STTAC Genecology - final 2 month
AdapTree Project		1,336,824		1,845,802	Genome Canada, Genome BC, Alberta Innovates - Bio Solutions, FGC STTAC
Climate modelling and assistance with all projects	95,928		88,000	0	T Wang, Associate Director - Co-funding for AdapTree
Computing supplies	1,000		2,000	0	
CFCG website update	6,000		4,000	0	
Adaptive diversity in seed orchard lots	16,665		16,500	5,500	0.75 FTE research assistantship for Ian MacLachlan; Cofunding for AdapTree
Non-Commercial species					
Genecology of Garry oak	5,000	0	6,000	0	Maintenance, measurement, manuscript revision
Populations genetics and genecology of Pacific dogwood	1,000	0	0	n/a	
Arbutus genecology			5,000		New Arbutus common garden site; part of US trial
Other projects					
Cataloguing conservation status	0	0			
Genetic structure and conservation of managed interior spruce populations	5,000	10,000	9,000	3,000	Completion of three publications
General CFCG expenses					
Extension	3,000		3,000		Travel, outreach and publications
Office, lab and computing expenses	3,000		3,000		
Total expenses	136,593		136,500		
UBC Overhead 8%	10,927		10,920		
TOTAL UBC CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT	147,520		147,420		

3c – **Tree Improvement Branch** – Charlie discussed budget plans which include the \$13 000 not used this year for the genotyping of trembling aspen. Charlie indicated that he would like to continue with the third catalogue document that was initiated by Jodie to cover species which have inter-situ installations and ex-situ collections, but have not been presented anywhere in an organized fashion. I’ve asked Charlie to provide the complete list of species to be included. The group thought this was a good step forward and would be relatively easy compared to the larger in situ catalogue revitalization that will eventually be conducted. No budget was discussed for this (*i.e. whether we need to have money available for printing*).

The other budget item was included in a proposal authored by Charlie, Michael and Nick Ukrainetz for ‘Whitebark Pine Provenance Screening for Blister Rust Resistance’. The proposal was generally well received as the direction in which we should be going. The committee was asked to provide feedback by February 28th. Some of the issues discussed were:

- Whether rust screening was the appropriate for this group (generally thought that it is)
- Whether the screening should be done in BC or through contract with the US Forest Service, as they have well developed protocols
- Opportunities to partner with the WBPEF with mining company support
- whether the budget was sufficient,
- whether the samples available could meet all the objectives presented, and
- what is the best balance between numbers of provenances vs. families to include.

4. **Catalogue** –It was generally agreed that the next step would be documentation of species with inter-situ installations and ex-situ collections. Charlie will work on this. How we move forward after that is still unclear. It was suggested that we have a workshop to include forest ecologists to help determine what we do with gaps in our knowledge and/or level of protection. As we move to including climate change in the catalogue (or stability of existing protected areas) then this could have a large impact on species and zone priorities. Tongli is the logical person to work in this area. Tory provided statistics from a recent report from Matt Austin indicating approximately 38% of the province is under some form of conservation designation which is much higher than the 15% put in our strategic plan.

We will have another meeting prior to March 10th in order to finalize the recommended budget to supply to FGC.

Minutes prepared by Dave Kolotelo and Jack Woods