

Genetic Conservation TAC MEETING – March 8, 2013

Conference Call

Attendees: Sally Aitken, Tongli Wang, Jodie Krakowski, Charlie Cartwright, Jack Woods, Dave Kolotelo, Jun-Jun Liu, Alan Vyse,

Regrets: Lee Charleson, Michael Murray, Tory Stevens, Alvin Yanchuk

Guests : John Russell

1. Action items from the November, 2012 meeting :

- **Whitebark pine rust screening proposal:** Charlie stated that there are no new changes to the proposal that was distributed at the start of the meeting. The proposed budget for 2013/14 is \$13,300.
- **Whitebark pine logging:** Jack provided an overview of the discussion that took place at the December 12, 2012 FGC meeting. Council supports GTCAC reviewing this issue and previous documents prior to re-sending them to foresters province-wide for information. Alan Vyse suggested sending the documents to the ABCFP for distribution. The FORUM publication was suggested as a venue for disseminating information.

New action items:

Alan – to look into putting an article in FORUM on Pa logging

Charlie – to send links to the Pa documents currently available on the FGC website

2. Budgets and projects proposed for 2013/14:

UBC Center for Forest Conservation Genetics

- Sally reviewed the budget she distributed prior to the meeting
- **Action item:** Sally will forward the 8-page interim report on the AdapTree genomics proposal.
- Funding originally to have been used for an Arbutus genecology project was diverted to setting up a website for the Big Tree registry project, as there was no Arbutus seed available. This was discussed with Dave and others previously.
- Items that would be a priority to drop if budget levels are tight include the literature review and Garry oak molecular work.

MFLNRO Tree Improvement Branch Genetic Conservation budget

- Charlie reviewed the budget provided
- Seed collection for conservation purposes will be done by Don Pigott; Don has a list of priorities and will collect depending upon what species and areas have seed crops.
- Projects were identified that could be reduced or dropped if funding levels are insufficient (A and B budgets). It was suggested, however, that fencing for the Garry oak trial at the North Arm site should not be under the B budget as it is a high priority.
- The Pa proposal for 2013/14 includes a budget of \$13,300
- Genotyping work has been done for grand fir and aspen and is being written up. Additional genotyping work will be delayed a year to allow review of the Bg and aspen projects and for GCTAC to solidify it's priorities.
- Sally suggested that any decision on species should go through a re-prioritization process by documenting available information and what the needs are before doing any more genotyping.
- **Decision:** Genotyping was removed from the budget pending species prioritization and completion of a review of the current reports. Total recommended FLNRO TIB conservation budget is \$64,800

Tree Seed Center Conservation Budget

- Dave presented the TSC budget for moisture content determination of ex situ seed samples and for big leaf male testing. An “A” budget of \$7,000 and a “B” budget of \$3,500 was proposed

Larix lyallii genetic diversity proposal – von Aderkas

- The proposal submitted by Patrick von Aderkas was discussed
- Sally expressed concern that the Khasa et al. work was being duplicated to some extent, and the proponents should contact Khasa to see if his data are available to use.
- The number of populations they propose to collect from is unrealistically high. In addition, 50 populations are more than is needed for this project.
- Charlie stated that he would like more information on the areas from which they propose to make collections.

Action items:

- Dave will ask the proponents the following:
 - to better define how sites for collection will be chosen and prioritized,
 - to look into collaboration with people in the US with respect to collections
 - whether the *L. lyallii* clonebanks maintained by Barry Jaquish can be utilized
 - to try to obtain data from Damase Khasa and to try to align their procedure to allow comparisons.
 - to put together a more detailed proposal that addresses these points and provides some literature review prior to beginning field work.

Decision: The project was approved in principle at a \$30,000 funding level with the following caveats:

- the proponents need to address the above issues,
- the revised proposal should include about 25 populations
- the proponents will attempt to work with Mahavolich and Cushman in the US to see if they are interested in collaboration on collections
- Remove the seed collection for the *ex situ* conservation component, but ask the proponents to advise Dave Kolotelo if they observe any cone crops developing.

4. Budgets:

The following budgets were reviewed. “A” budgets will be the first recommendation to the FGC. “B” budgets are a reduced recommendation should the FGC be unable to support the A budget

| Project | A budget | B budget |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| FLNRO TIB projects (Charlie) | \$ 64,800 | \$ 57,300 |
| Tree Seed Center (Dave) | \$ 7,000 | \$ 3,500 |
| UBC Center for Forest Conservation Genetics | \$147,100 | \$132,581 |
| <i>L. Lyallii</i> proposal (von Aderkas) | \$ 32,439 | \$ 32,439 |
| Total | \$251,940 | \$225,820 |

Action: Dave will distribute this budget to GCTAC members for an email vote on approval for recommendation to the FGC

The meeting was adjourned at about 3:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods and Dave Kolotelo