

Genetic Conservation TAC Meeting Minutes

Conference call

March 7, 2014

Attendees: Dave Kolotelo (chair), Pia Smets , Sally Aitken, Lee Charleson, Tongli Wang, Charlie Cartwright, Jun-Jun Lui, Michael Murray, Alan Vyse, Jack Woods, Andreas Hamann

Regrets: Jodie Krakowski, Tory Stevens , Alvin Yanchuk

Dave welcomed people to the meeting.

2014/15 budgets:

Tree Improvement Branch Forest Genetics Section - Charlie

- Whitebark pine (Pa) field testing - explanation of how Michael Murray's rust screening and the field tests complement each other,
- Marking Pa parent tree selections in the field will support future seed collection from selected parents,
- Genotyping: more work needed on the aspen project, including additional analysis as suggested by Sally. Plan to put this work out to contract. Concern was expressed that this type of work will not easily work through a bid contract; particularly when we don't yet have protocols for the type of analysis needed.
- Grand fir (Bg) genotyping: about 50% of the extractions worked for the micro-satellite analysis. Data will be available soon. Most of the \$14,000 budgeted is for completion of the Bg analysis and write-up. The \$14,000 will cover both Bg and aspen. Sally suggested that a supervised under-grad could complete this work.
- clone bank brushing at CLRS supported.
- Cataloguing: \$1000 is a budget marker for some GIS work. The point was made that if Charlie cannot do this work we need to find another way, as the catalogue is central to this subprogram.
- **Action:** Charlie will prepare a proposal to advance the cataloguing work for report 3: inventory of genetic tests of non-timber species on the landscape.

UBC Center for Forest Conservation Genetics - Sally

- Sally presented the CFCG budget; total amount is the same as for the previous year
- Assessment of the McLane Pa field trials will result in a report on maternal effects. The Whistler Peak-to-Peak elevation trial will also be assessed.
- Juniper work will include coastal and Rocky Mountain juniper. Seed collections from John Russell will be used for this joint project.
- Some seed from the conservation collection can be made available where collections have sufficient seed
- A "B" level budget is needed. Sally will prepare this. Dave suggested placing a priority on the literature review.
- **Action:** Sally will prepare options for a reduced "B" level budget.

Pa rust screening - Michael

- This work fits the broad Pa strategy approved in 2013.
- Controls from the USFS in Dorena will be included.
- Expect to collect seed from putatively resistant parent trees in the field after the trial. Verbanone will be applied to some of the parent trees to increase the probability of them surviving.
- The question was raised as to why this work is being paid through the GCTAC when others like mining companies and parks want the product. Response; the others are providing some work as well (parent selection and will be doing the field planting of resistant seedlings; this work is reasonably supported through the Crown and is consistent with FGC objectives).

Tree Seed Center - Dave

- TSC budget presented by Dave; no concerns were expressed. A "B" option was presented.

Budget process

The "A" budget proposed is the sum of the original requests for each project area. The "B" budget is a reduced option, as follows. A "C" option may need to be developed as well.

Genetic Conservation subprogram recommended budget 2014/2015 **Budget recommendations**

Project	Option A	Option B
UBC Center for Forest Conservation Genetics	\$147,701	\$130,421
Tree Improvement Branch - Forest Genetics Section projects	\$49,000	\$44,000
Tree Improvement Branch - Tree Seed Center project	\$37,000	\$28,000
Whitebark pine screening (Michael Murray)	\$19,970	\$19,970
Total	\$253,671	\$222,391

MOTION: Alan/Charlie. Moved that the "A" budget option presented will be proposed to the Forest Genetics Council, with the "B" option proposed as a second choice if budget reductions are necessary. Carried.

GCTAC Chair

Dave announced that he will no longer serve as GCTAC chair. Dave has done an exemplary job since March of 2005, and he was thanked by members of the GCTAC.

Three people volunteered to fill this GCTAC chair role (Pia Smets, Sally Aitken, Alan Vyse)

Following discussion, Pia was nominated to fill this position.

MOTION: Alan/Lee. Moved that Pia Smets is hereby nominated to fill the position of GCTAC Chair and a recommendation will be made to the FGC on March 19th. Carried.

Jack will present the nomination of Pia as Chair and the CGTAC budget recommendation to Council at their March 19, 2014 meeting.

Cataloguing and Strategic Plan development

- Sally made the comment that cataloguing needs to focus on problem "cells" (species / areas) and effort put to figuring out what should be done for these areas. Therefore, the catalogue is central to the genetic conservation work. A one-day workshop at UBC is proposed for June, 2014 to discuss the catalogue and what direction should be taken. GCTAC members, provincial ecologists, and forest geneticists, among others, will be invited.
- **Action:** Pia will begin to organize the June meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods, Pia Smets, Dave Kolotelo.