

## Agenda – FGC Business Meeting

**8:30 am – 3:30 pm, March 15, 2018**

**Location:** Dilbert Hall, Pacific Forestry Centre (PFC), Natural Resource Canada  
506 Burnside Rd W, Victoria, BC V8Z 1M5 [map](#)

**Conference call:** 1-877-353-9184 Access Code: 2396379# (if required)

**Contacts:**

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PFC front desk (250) 363-0600

#	Time	Min.	Item	Presenter
	8:00		<b>Check-in at PFC security - coffee available in cafeteria</b>	
1	8:30	5	Welcome and Introductions	Co-Chairs
2	8:35	5	Agenda	Co-Chairs
3	8:40	5	Action Items and Approval of minutes from Dec 8, 2017	Brian
4	8:45	20	Office of Chief Forester Update	Shane Berg
5	9:05	15	Standing item: Climate-based seed transfer project update	Margot
6	9:20	20	FGC Annual Report 2016/17 Progress on Goals and Performance Measures	Brian
7	9:35	20	Government funding of orchard replacements (e.g. OTIP)	Brian/Darrell
	10:00	20	<b>Break – coffee and snacks provided</b>	
8	10:20	80	LBIS Budget Recommendations for 2018/19 and TAC updates	Pat/Brian
			Operational Tree Improvement Program (OTIP)	Annette/Darrell
			Interior and Coastal TACs - Tree Breeding (for volume and pest resistance) & Resilience (CBST)	Kori/Annette/Shane F
			Genetic Conservation TAC	Shane Ford
	12:00	60	<b>Lunch – provided in cafeteria</b>	
8	13:00	45	2018/19 Budget (Continued) Summary and FGC Recommendations	
9	13:45	30	Streamlining Review Follow-up	
			New Budget Planning Process and TACs - debrief	Kori, Annette, Shane Ford, and Darrell
			Communication and Extension Plan FGC Terms of Reference Parked items	Brian
10	14:15	20	SelectSeed Business Plan 2018/19	Brian
11	14:35	15	Discussion: FGC Strategic Priorities for 2018/19	Co-chairs
12	15:05	10	New Business and Announcements	
13	15:15	15	Next meetings: AGM in June & Fall field trip in Sept in Golden	Brian/Scott
14	15:30		Adjourn	Chair

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Call meeting to order. Confirm members and guests attending, regrets and proxies, and minute-taker. Housekeeping and safety announcements.

**2. Agenda**

Review draft agenda, including attachments and presentations.

**Suggested motion:** The Agenda for this meeting is hereby approved.

**3. Action Items and Minutes from December 8, 2017**

Review action items and draft minutes of FGC’s meeting held on December 8, 2017 in Richmond. Minutes provided as a separate attachment.

Who	Actions	Status
FGC	Review new model and update FGC Bylaws following 2018/19 budget submission – as deemed necessary - in Spring 2018. (Carry forward from approved Streamlining actions)	Agenda # 9
FGC	Initiate processes to develop an FGC Communication and Extension plan in 2018/19. (Carry forward from approved Streamlining actions)	Agenda # 9
Brian	Request <a href="#">CoAdapTree</a> team share the results of its <a href="#">GE<sup>3</sup>LS</a> (Genomics Ethical, Environmental, Economic, Legal and Social) research with FGC.	In Press
Margot	CBST experts to present scientific-foundation of CBST to FGC and forest professionals at various forums and meetings.	Completed Agenda #5
Co-chairs	Reply to the VSOC and FIRM letters re 2 <sup>nd</sup> generation Pli orchard interests.	Completed
Co-chairs	Reply to the October 8 <sup>th</sup> letter from SelectSeed.	Completed
Co-chairs (& Brian)	Provide budget targets and direction to TAC chairs in preparing budget proposals for 2018/19.	Completed
Brian	Forward FGC’s seed use recommendations to Diane Nicholls.	Completed Agenda #4
Brian	Issue Doodle Polls for face-to-face budget meeting in Victoria in early March, and fall field trip in Golden for September.	Completed

A motion approving the draft minutes from the December 8, 2017, meeting is required. The Approved minutes will be posted on the FGC website.

**Suggested motion:** The minutes of the FGC meeting held December 8, 2017 are hereby approved.

**4. Office of Chief Forester Update**

Shane Berg will provide an update on provincial initiatives of relevance and interest to FGC. These topics may include Forest Carbon Initiative, Ministry responses to the 2017 Wildfires. Questions and discussion welcome. This update, and the following agenda items, will help inform discussion on FGC priorities for 2018/19 – Agenda Item #11.

**5. Climate-based seed transfer project update**

To be presented at the meeting.

**6. FGC Annual Report 2016/17**

This annual report was published on-line on March 3. Limited # hardcopies available.

<http://www.fgcouncil.bc.ca/doc-02-annualreports.html>

Brian will provide an PowerPoint overview of this report's contents, highlighting progress towards FGC strategic goals and performance measures for select seed use. Comments and suggestions for improving FGC's annual report for 2017/18 welcome.

**7. Government funding of orchard replacements (e.g. OTIP)**

On December 8, FGC passed the following motion in camera:

FGC supports the VSOC request to develop a 2nd generation Pli orchard to serve its partners' seed needs; FGC supports the FIRM request to establish replacement Pli orchards with 2nd generation material consistent with ITAC's Strategy for Northern Pli Class A.

VSOC and Ministry intend to collect and graft scion in the winter of 2018/19, based on forthcoming parent tree recommendations by Pli breeder, Nick Ukrainetz. The grafts will be used to establish new 2nd gen. orchards in Quesnel and Prince George, respectively. The 1st generation orchards will remain in production in Vernon until the new 2nd generation orchards produce sufficient seed to meet annual needs.

In response to the ministry's OTIP call for proposals for 2018/19, VSOC included fund applications for grafting 2500 ramets for establishing new 2nd generation Pli orchards for northern BC. The Ministry did not include any funding requests for 2nd gen Pli grafting.

The OTIP review committee was undecided whether grafting costs associated with establishing these proposed 2nd gen orchards is eligible for OTIP funding or not, and deferred clarification and a decision to FGC.

Since OTIP was established in 1997, its goals have remained the same: to increase the quantity and quality of seed used for reforestation. Initially, orchard development and establishment costs, including propagation, were considered capital investments and therefore not eligible for FRBC/government funding. As a result, SelectSeed records propagation costs as capital assets in its book of accounts.

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The principle that orchard costs should be primarily covered through seed sales was also established by FGC (FGC Strategic Plan June 4, 1998), and reaffirmed in the Chief Forester's Principles Respecting Public and Private Seed Orchard Management in BC (July 2010).

OTIP funds pay for some orchard costs to assist FGC in achieving its goals for select seed use and genetic gain. Eligible costs include cone induction, pollen collection and application, and pest management. OTIP funds have also been provided for propagation (grafting and holding) where lower-gain parents are removed and replaced with higher-gain parents. Increased budget allocation to OTIP may require decreased funding to other FGC program areas.

VSOC has also received OTIP funds in 2009/10 to propagate ramets used to establish its Quesnel Pli orchards, which were also intended to 'replace' its Pli orchards in the Okanagan.

Propagation has therefore been considered both a capital investment (an asset that does not generate revenue for several years and expected to be paid for and amortized by proponents), and an operating/maintenance expense paid for by proponents and/or the ministry through OTIP.

In addition to questions regarding funding eligibility for replacing orchards, some in the tree improvement community are advocating for a comprehensive review of OTIP.

In consideration of the above

- Does FGC want to comment on funding eligibility for orchard grafting in the current year's OTIP proposals or leave this to the ministry to handle?
- Does FGC want to comment/advise on the principles and criteria for public funding used to establish, replace and expand seed orchards?
- Does FGC want to initiate a broader reconsideration of OTIP purpose, focus, and eligibility?

FGC members are encouraged to discuss these questions with their associates in advance to help inform this discussion.

## **8. LBIS Budget Recommendations for 2018/19 and TAC updates**

On January 12, Pat Martin, Co-chair, sent a letter to TAC chairs with instructions and targets for preparing budget recommendations under FGC new streamlined governance model and business planning process. See attachment.

FGC's three (3) TACs – Interior TAC, Coastal TAC, and Genetic Conservation TAC, and an OTIP review committee (consisting of representatives from ITAC, CTAC, and the former Pest Management TAC) subsequently met to review project proposals and prepare their budget recommendations for the following four (4) programs.

TAC chairs and FIRM supporters will present their respective TAC highlights for 2017/18, business planning processes, and recommended activities and budgets for 2018/19.

See attached xls worksheet for proposed budget summaries by FGC program.

A motion identifying the recommended LBIS budget allocations to FGC's programs is recommended. The approved recommendation(s) will be forwarded to Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester, by the FGC Program Manager.

## 9. Streamlining Review - Follow-up

On October 18, 2017, FGC accepted the report and recommendations of its Streamlining Subcommittee. These recommendations included combining several TACs and aligning them and budgets with FGC's strategic goals for conservation, resilience and value.

TAC Chairs and others will provide feedback on how the streamlining initiatives worked and offer their recommendations for improvement next year.

Other recommended follow-up actions from the streamlining report were

1. Update FGC Bylaws to reflect new governance model, and roles and responsibilities.
2. Develop a 5-year Communication and Extension Plan.

Several "parked" items included

1. FLNR to create 5-year breeding plans, review species priorities matrix (ranking) in consideration of CBST (*Note: 20-yr plans are being prepared by FIRM staff*).
2. Update seed planning forecasts and species plans in consideration of CBST.
3. Consider including B seed in scope of FGC mandate and business plans.
4. Use Forest Genetics Society and/or SelectSeed for additional administrative support.

The recommended follow actions and priorities for 2018/19 will be discussed.

## 10. SelectSeed Business Plan 2018/19

Usually the Board of Directors for SelectSeed meet and review a draft business plan a week or two prior to FGC's meeting. This year, the Board will meet the day prior to FGC, so SelectSeed's proposed business plan for 2018/19 is not available for distribution with the FGC agenda.

An overview of the draft plan, informed by the Board's review and comments, will therefore be presented at the FGC meeting. The plan approved by the Board will subsequently be circulated for FGC's review and approval via email.

## 11. FGC Priorities for 2018/19

Co-chairs will identify new and emerging issues, and lead discussion on priorities for FGC for next fiscal year.

## 12. New Business and Announcements

## 13. Future meetings

FGC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter meetings in June are usually 2-3 hr conference calls. Agenda includes AGMs for SelectSeed Co. Ltd. and the Forest Genetics Society of BC (Society), including review and approved audited financial statements.

All registered BC societies are required to update their Constitutions and Bylaws to be in compliance with the [new BC Societies Act \(2016\)](#) by Nov 28, 2018. Recommended amendments will be provided in advance of the Forest Genetics Society's AGM in June.

SelectSeed Board members serve two-year terms, and are (re)elected by Society members. Glen Dunsworth, President and Chair, previously indicated this would be his last term. FGC will need to elect at least one new Board member in June.

FGC membership is also reviewed at June meetings. Several members 3-year terms end in June (Tamas) and Sept (Guy, King, LeBlanc and Zemanek), respectively.

FGC's annual fall field trip is scheduled for Sept 26-27 in Golden. Scott and Brian will provide a preview and some logistical information.

**14. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the FGC meeting is needed.