

Agenda - Forest Genetics Council of BC

8:30 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday, April 2, 2019

In-person: Executive Hotel Vancouver Airport
[7311 Westminster Hwy, Richmond](#)
 1-800-663-2878

Contact: Brian Barber 250-888-7081 brian.barber@selectseed.ca

Members:

Annette van Niejenhuis, Bevin Wigmore, Bob Johnson, Dan Peterson, Domenico Iannidinardo (Co-chair), Gernot Zemanek, Jeff Mycock, Juergen Ehling, Kori Vernier, Mark Hay, Pat Martin (Co-chair), Tony Hopkin.

Regrets (proxy):

Shane Ford (Pat Martin), Bill Laing (Jeff Mycock),

Guests:

Brian Barber (FGC/SelectSeed), Henry Benskin (SelectSeed), Keith Thomas (FIRM), Margot Spence (FIRM), Raoul Singh (Genome BC).

Proceedings

This meeting at the Executive Hotel Vancouver Airport. Check meeting location in hotel lobby. Coffee and lunch provided during the meeting. Please confirm attendance and dietary needs in advance. Those arriving early can meet for drinks and dinner in hotel pub 6:30 pm, Mon.

Agenda

#	Time	Min.		Item	Presenter
	8:00			<i>Coffee available</i>	
1	8:30	5		Welcome, Introductions and Agenda	Co-chairs
2	8:35	5		Safety Reports	All
3	8:40	10	✓	Minutes and Action items from Dec 11 Meeting	Co-chairs/Brian
4	9:10	10		2017/18 FGC Annual Report	Brian
5	8:50	10	✓	FGC Dashboard	Brian
6	9:20	10		Climate-based seed transfer update	Margot
7	9:30	20		FGC Interviews and Report	Brian
8	9:50	15		TAC Updates	Kori/Annette/Brian
	10:05	15		<i>Coffee</i>	
9	10:20			LBIS Budgets	
	10:20	5	✓	2018/19 Estimated Expenditures	Pat
	10:25	5		Overview of planning process for 2019/20	Pat/Brian
	10:30	15		Conservation	Brian/Keith
	10:45	20		Tree Breeding and Resilience	Keith/Kori/Annette
	11:05	10		Operational Tree Improvement (OTIP)	Annette
	11:15	30	✓	Summary, Discussion and Recommendations	All
10	11:45	15		Genome BC - Forest Sector Advisory Committee	Raoul Singh
	12:00	60		Lunch	
11	1:00	30		BC Forest Genetics Society	Brian

#	Time	Min.		Item	Presenter
12	1:30	20	✓	Managing Changes to Orchard Location, Size and Composition	Pat
13	1:50	10		Update on new Pli orchard planning	Pat
14	2:00	40		SelectSeed Co. Ltd. Pli Orchard Business Case	Henry/Brian
	2:40	20		<i>Coffee</i>	
15	3:00	30		SelectSeed Co. Ltd 2019/20 Business Plan	Henry/Brian
16	3:30	15		New Business – FGC Priorities	
17	3:45	5		Next Meeting	
18	3:50	10		In camera session	Co-chairs
	4:00			Adjourn	

1. Welcome Introductions and Agenda

There being adequate notice served and a quorum of members present, the co-chairs may call the meeting to order, welcome members and guests, confirm regrets and proxies, and review the agenda.

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

2. Safety

Members to report on any safety-related initiatives or concerns within the purview of FGC.

3. Minutes from Dec. 11, 2018.

The draft minutes of the FGC meeting held via conference call on Dec. 11, 2018 were circulated for review and edits. Revised draft attached.

A motion approving the draft minutes from the Dec. 11, 2018, meeting is required.

Suggested motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held Dec. 11, 2018 are hereby approved.

4. Action Items from Dec. 11, 2018 meeting:

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Brian	Add Safety to future draft agendas items as a standing item.	Completed
Brian & Annette	Follow-up with Shane re FIRM's safety initiatives and AgSafe training	Completed
Margot	Schedule meetings to review CBST seed gap analysis and policy options in Jan-Feb (CTAC and ITAC).	In progress
Pat and Domenico	Draft letter to TAC chairs with budget and business planning instructions for 2019/20 in early Jan..	Completed (attachment)
SelectSeed	Provide FGC with another interim report on its Pli orchard business case end of Jan and a final report in advance of FGC's budget meeting.	See Item #14

Brian	Forward draft Communication Strategy Scoping document with cover note to members to forward to communications staff/contacts for their review and comment, and to solicit participation in a subsequent call to discuss options and next steps.	In progress
Members	Provide further comments on draft Dashboard to Brian.	Completed Item #6
Brian	Include Safety and other projects/tasks underway in Dashboard and include in future draft agendas as a standing item	Completed
Annette, Kori and Shane	TAC chairs to inform FGC and others of their upcoming winter meetings, as scheduled.	Completed
Brian	Issue Doodle Poll for next FGC meeting face to face in Richmond between March 13-22.	Completed
Brian	Arrange 1-1 interviews with FGC members to solicit ideas and feedback on FGC, including priorities for FGC and him. Report to Co-chairs.	Completed See item #7
Pat and Domenico	Subject to advice received from the Society's lawyer, Co-chairs to schedule extraordinary meeting of the BC Forest Genetics. Separate or in conjunction with FGC meeting in March.	See item #11

5. 2017/18 Annual Report

The 2017/18 Annual Report has been completed and in-press. An overview will be provided, and printed copies will subsequently be circulated to members following the meeting.

6. Dashboard

An FGC dashboard was recommended at the Sept 2018 meeting. A draft was presented at the Dec meeting. See updated Dashboard in separate attachment

7. Climate-based seed transfer update

Updates on the CBST project is a standing agenda item. Margot Spence will provide an update.

8. FGC Interviews and Reports

Brian interviewed current and recent-past FGC members in Jan-Mar, 2019. His task was to “identify relevant new and emerging issues and opportunities and assist FGC in developing strategies in response to these, by conducting one-on-one interviews with FGC members to solicit their view and ideas, identify challenges and options, manage conflicts and create alignment on potential solutions”.

Members identified the provision of improved seed (including pest resistant seed), CBST implementation, including assessing impacts on orchards, and estimating future seed needs as the top priorities. Other topics requiring attention and suggestions for improvements were also offered. Brian will provide an overview summary of these and other suggestions and recommendations. A report will be provided following the meeting.

9. TAC Updates

ITAC - Kori

ITAC was held on Feb 5-6 at the Vernon Lodge. The extension meeting (1.5 days) was attended by 67 people. Costs were recovered through a \$50 registration fee generous sponsorships from PRT, VSOC, Tolko and SelectSeed.

CBST break-out sessions on the science, impacts on orchards, wild seed collections, planting and sowing planning, and use of SPAR and CBST tools was popular. A summary and ITAC presentations are posted at: <http://www.fgcouncil.bc.ca/inte-area1506.html>

The ITAC business meeting focused on budgets and SelectSeed's Pli orchard selection criteria. An action item was to seek clarification from FGC re the vetting/approval process for new orchard requests (Recommend discussion under Items 12-14).

CTAC – Annette

CTAC held species meetings for Coastal Douglas-fir and white pine on Feb 27. The CTAC business meeting was held on March 7. Both meetings were hosted by Annette at WFP's Saanich Forestry Centre. Annette will provide further details.

GCTAC – Brian for Shane

A GCTAC meeting was held on Feb 28 in Victoria. Topics of discussion included refining the criteria used to determine the conservation status of minor species, and the need for a coordinated BC recovery strategy for white bark pine. Project and budget proposals for 2019/20 were also discussed.

Several CGTAC members departed during the past year. New members recently appointed are Kendra Bennett, Species at Risk Coordinator, FLNRORD, and Cyndi Smith, former Parks Canada employee and former Director of the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation. A member of the Nature Conservancy of Canada has also been invited to join GCTAC (tbc).

13. LBIS Budgets

Expenditures 2018/19

See attached summary of 2018/19 LBIS budget allocations and estimated expenditures at Program level. Also see [FGC 2018/19 Business Plan](#) for background.

LBIS = Land-based investment strategy, a funding enveloped managed by the Ministry. Also includes funding for Forests for Tomorrow, fertilization, forest health and other programs.

Budget Planning for 2019/20

In Jan 2019, Pat provided the TAC Chairs with a letter and budget targets for FGC's Programs to the TAC Chairs. The letter included the following preliminary budget targets.

FGC Program	Preliminary budget targets for 2019/20
Genetic Conservation	\$ 200,000
Tree Breeding	\$ 1,450,000
Operational Tree Improvement Program (OTIP)	\$ 350,000
Resilience	\$ 500,000
Total	\$ 2,500,000

FGC's three (3) TACs – Interior TAC, Coastal TAC, and Genetic Conservation TAC, and an OTIP review met in Feb-Mar to review project proposals and review budget requests for the following four (4) programs: Conservation, Tree Breeding, Resilience and OTIP.

TAC chairs and FIRM supporters will present the process and highlights for these meetings and the summarize the proposed Program activities and budgets for 2019/20.

Also refer to attached xls worksheet for projects and budget requests by program.

Conservation Program – Brian (for Shane), Keith

See project summaries and budget in attached budget spreadsheet.

The Conservation Budget target did not consider 50% of Dr. Tongli Wang's salary and his work on the conservation catalogue. This represents a significant pressure on other on-going conservation projects and restricts new research conducted at UBC's Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics.

Tree Breeding and Resilience Programs – Keith, Kori and Annette

The Tree Breeding and Resilience Program are presented together as the budgets for activities associated with these programs are often integrated and managed together at the species level (e.g. progeny and provenance testing). These programs are also reviewed by ITAC and CTAC.

Species level breeding budgets are further divided between Value (growth and wood density) and Pest resistance to align with FGC's objectives to increase genetic gain of select seed used and to increase the production and use of pest resistance seed, respectively. The division of funding between these objectives is also an approximation.

Operational Tree Improvement Program - Annette

The OTIP review committee, consisting of several CTAC and ITAC members also met on March 12 to review proposal submitted through the Ministry's Call for Proposals.

A summary of recommended OTIP projects and funding levels was recently provided and will be presented at the meeting.

LBIS 2019/20 Budget Summary

The attached spreadsheet outlines the targets and TAC recommended budget allocations, minus the OTIP recommendations.

Members will discuss business and budget planning for 2019/20.

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.

10. Genome BC's Forest Sector Advisory and Stakeholder Committees

Rahul Singh, Sector Manager, Agrifood and Natural Resources, will provide an update on Genome BC's revamped Forest Sector Advisory and Stakeholder Committees.

11. BC Forest Genetics Society

As reported at the Dec meeting, the Society's updated Constitution and Bylaws, and transition plan were filed by the Society's lawyer on Nov. 21, 2018. These updated documents are posted on the FGC website at: <http://www.fgcouncil.bc.ca/governance-area1506.html>

An extraordinary meeting of the society was proposed to review these changes and to elect new directors following the departures of Rob Guy and Scott King from FGC, who were elected as Directors of the Society along with Shane Ford at the last AGM. Subsequently, in accordance with the Bylaws, Rob and Scott tendered their resignations as Directors and Shane Ford appointed Pat and Domenico as interim directors until elections are held at the next AGM in June 2019. An extraordinary meeting of the Society is therefore not required at this time.

Brian will provide an overview of the Society, its revised Constitution and Bylaws, member duties and accountabilities, and the Society's association with FGC and Select Seed Co, which is owned by the Society. Members are encouraged to review the Society's Constitution and Bylaws posted on the above website in advance.

12. Managing Changes to Orchard Location, Size and Composition

See attached policy proposal respecting orchard changes.

This proposal was shared and discussed with and CTAC (Mar 7 business meeting) and ITAC (Mar 8 conference call). Feedback from TAC members was provided and additional written comments were invited.

Pat will provide an overview and solicit comments from members.

13. Pli Seed Orchard Planning

Pat will provide an update of the Ministry's proposed plan for selecting and grafting 15,000 ramets for new CBST-based Pli ramets. Also, a recap the process and decisions leading up to the next agenda item, and discussion re ITAC's question re its role in reviewing and approving new applications.

14. SelectSeed Pli Seed Orchards Business Case

On Sept 27, 2018, FGC directed SelectSeed to propose a business case for a next generation Pli seed orchard for the new BV zone in the range of 5,000-10,000 ramets. Brian provided a report to FGC on Dec. 11 that included the proposed site selection criteria, a climate analysis and summary of a site reconnaissance mission.

A financial analysis model was subsequently developed and reviewed by SelectSeed's Board on Feb 2. This model and cost estimates were subsequently refined.

Brian also made a presentation to ITAC on the SelectSeed's mandate, site selection criteria, climate analysis and solicited comment. A follow-up email was provided (attached separately). Comment received are reflected in the final reports.

A comprehensive business case, which includes confidential financial information, was reviewed by the Board on March 28.

Henry Benskin and Brian will provide a summary of the business case, including conclusions and recommended next steps, FGC for their consideration and approval. A confidential written report will be provided to members in advance of the meeting.

15. Select Seed Business Plan 2019/20

Henry and Brian will provide an overview of the SelectSeed's Business Plan will be provided at the meeting. The report, subject to any further direction and directions by FGC (e.g. new Pli orchard).

16. New Business

It is recommended FGC identify its priorities for Council, TACs and the Program Manager for the coming fiscal year.

17. Next meeting

A Doodle Poll will be used to identify a mutually suitable date for the next FGC meeting to be held in conjunction with AGMs for the BC Forest Genetics Society and Select Seed Co. Ltd. Early June is recommended.

18. In camera session

For FGC members only. Guests will be asked to leave for this portion of the agenda.

Adjourn

A resolution to adjourn the FGC meeting is needed.