

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting December 5, 2013

Meeting held by conference call

Attendees: Brian Barber (Co-Chair) Larry Gardner (Co-Chair), Rob Guy, Domenico Iannidinardo, Stephen Joyce, Patti Kagawa, Scott King, Joe LeBlanc, Dan Peterson, Barrie Phillips, Annette van Niejenhuis, Raoul Wiart

Regrets: Mark Tamas, Gernot Zemanek

Others: Terje Vold, Jack Woods

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Brian, Barrie, Raoul, Annette + Jack and Alvin	Follow-up on the genomics lab action item from the October 18, 2013 FGC meeting
Brian, Raoul, Annette, Mark	Follow up on the FGC Strategic Plan development item from the October 18, 2013 meeting
All FGC members	Provide comments to Jack if they want the Strategic Planning Subcommittee to consider any stakeholder engagements or items for the new strategic plan
Annette, Stephen	Put the species selection tool/CBST linkage on the winter 2014 ITAC and CTAC agendas
Brian, Annette, Stephen	Follow-up on linkages between the species selection guidelines and CBST and report to the FGC at the March, 2014 meeting
Brian, Terje Vold	Prepare an executive summary and cover letter for the SelectSeed Review report prior to sending it to Tom Ethier and Dave Peterson.
Barrie	Work with TIB Forest Genetics Section staff to complete a succession plan, and make the plan available to Jack to pass along to the SelectSeed Board (no specific date set, but it is understood that this will be completed soon so as to not lose momentum with the current dialogue between the SelectSeed Board and Minister Thomson).

Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (LeBlanc / King): Minutes of the meeting held October 18, 2013 are hereby approved with amendments to item 11. **CARRIED**.
2. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / King) That the FGC requests the addition of an executive summary and letter of transmittal for the SelectSeed Ltd. review report, and that the FGC approves the transfer of this report and summary to Tom Ethier and Dave Peterson for their consideration and for input on the next steps in this review. (**CARRIED**). Patti Kagawa abstained.
3. **MOVED** (LeBlanc / van Niejenhuis) That the meeting is hereby adjourned. **CARRIED**.

October 18th: FGC meeting called to order at 9:35 A.M. by Larry Gardner

1. **Agenda:** Approved as provided
2. **Approval of October 18, 2013 minutes:**
Annette pointed out that item 11 in the minutes required clarification on the name and membership of the Tree Species Selection Project.

MOVED (LeBlanc / King): Minutes of the meeting held October 18, 2013 are hereby approved with amendments to item 11. **CARRIED.**

2. Old business and action items from October 18, 2013

The following action items were reviewed.

Responsibility	Action	Action taken
Brian, Barrie, Raoul, Annette + Jack and Alvin	Meet to further discuss and set some next steps around the development of a genomics lab. George Bruemmer will be invited to participate.	Meeting scheduled with George Bruemmer Jan 10, 2014
Barrie, Brian	Prepare a GAP analysis on breeding program staff needs and bring it to the FGC and the SelectSeed Board for discussion at the December 2013 FGC meeting.	To be presented. See item 5 below
Brian	Look for a way to align FGC business planning processes with FLNRO processes for university grants and transfer approvals.	Project budget markers were put in place this fall to smooth the contract process next fiscal year
Brian	Discuss with Jim Sutherland the need for coordination between species-choice guidelines and new climate-based seed transfer standards.	See discussion below this table
Annette, Stephen	Send the SelectSeed review Terms of Reference and Agenda documents to CTAC and ITAC members and ask for input on what they think is working or not working with SelectSeed and seek input on future direction (by October 22, 2013).	Completed
Brian, Raoul, Annette, Mark	A subcommittee of Brian, Raoul, Annette, and Mark, with support from Jack, will develop a series of steps to follow in the development of an updated FGC Strategic Plan for the December 5, 2013 FGC meeting.	Underway. Meeting scheduled for December 10 th , 2013
All FGC members	FGC members will review the current Strategic Plan and objectives in preparation for discussion at the December 5 th , 2013 meeting.	New Action: FGC members will provide comments to Jack if they want the Strategic Planning Subcommittee to consider any stakeholder engagements or items for the new strategic plan

Discussion on species-choice / climate-based seed transfer coordination:

- The MFLNRO is seeking one tool for both species and seedlot selection under climate-based seed transfer (CBST).
- Lead responsibilities: Brian Barber for CBST and Lorne Bedford for species selection
- Species selection tool link provided by Annette
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/TSS/TSSstool.htm>
- Larry pointed out that this ties to stocking standards and licensees need tools to bring about changes.

Action: This item should be on the winter CTAC and ITAC meeting agendas (Annette, Stephen)

Action: To be followed up at the March 2014 FGC meeting (Brian, Annette, Stephen)

3. SelectSeed review report – Brian / Larry

Brian provided an update on the report that summarizes the outcome of the October 24th meeting in Richmond and on the committee (Brian, Larry, Stephen, Barrie, with support from Terje Vold and Jack) work that followed the October 24th meeting to expand on the options and implementation issues. This report will be delivered to Tom Ethier and Dave Peterson by December 6, 2014 for them to consider forwarding it as part of the Core Review being undertaken by the provincial government. Ministers

Thompson and Bennett will be meeting about the Core Review on December 11th. Further action on this matter will wait for direction from the FLNRO executive.

It was pointed out that the current report needs an executive summary and a cover letter (email) to provide context. Also, as the report is waiting for FLNRO executive direction, it should be presented as a draft.

MOVED (van Niejenhuis / King) That the FGC requests the addition of an executive summary and letter of transmittal for the SelectSeed Ltd. review report, and that the FGC approves the transfer of this report and summary to Tom Ethier and Dave Peterson for their consideration and for input on the next steps in this review. (CARRIED). Patti Kagawa abstained.

Action item: Brian and Terje will prepare an executive summary and cover letter for the SelectSeed Review report prior to sending it to Tom Ethier and Dave Peterson.

4. Business planning for 2014/15 – Annette, Stephen, Jack

The following reports were presented on FGC Technical Advisory Committee activities

- CTAC (Annette): Cwr species committee meeting held December 2nd. CTAC meeting will be held in late January or in February. Fdc and Ss species committees will likely meet in January. OTIP-eligibility-table review was completed.
- ITAC (Stephen): ITAC meeting scheduled for January 21 and 22 in Vernon. OTIP-eligibility-table review is underway and will be complete by about December 10th.
- Genetic Conservation TAC (Jack for Dave Kolotelo): Meeting held in Surrey November 21st. Reports received and business plan development started. Dave has announced that he will be stepping down as chair of the GCTAC as of March 31, 2014.
- Seed Transfer TAC (Jack for Lee Charleson): Conference calls held November 5th and 26th. Reports received and budget development started.
- Pest Management TAC (Stephen): No meeting held yet. Work is underway and there are ongoing discussions on needs. Pli seed set issues remain a high priority.
- Extension TAC (Jack for Diane Douglas): Meeting planned for January 21st in conjunction with the ITAC meeting. Project lists are being developed. Projects Report for 2012/13 nearing completion.
- Decision Support TAC (Jack for Guy Burdikin): Progress report prepared by Susan Zedel and Lee Charleson and distributed to DSTAC. Business development for next fiscal year is beginning.
- Technical support projects (Jack): discussions held with various people who are conducting projects that support FGC objectives. This work will culminate in proposals and a review in late February.

5. Breeding program staff GAP analysis – Barrie

Barrie presented a preliminary analysis of professional and technical positions in the Forest Genetics section of the Tree Improvement Branch (TIB). Of particular note is that 6 of 18 positions will retire in the next 3 years. This analysis requires further review by TIB staff. Larry noted that the staff age has resulted in a succession crisis, as the number of retirees over the next several years threatens to compromise the technical program. Jack passed along the viewpoint of the SelectSeed Board that they want to follow-up on the previous letter exchange with Minister Thomson by providing more specific information on staffing needs. Barrie acknowledged this and will provide more specific information on 3 to 5 year succession needs. Annette commented that a follow-up letter to Minister Thomson should stress that the tree improvement program has a positive and

often nearer-term impact on timber supply and AAC, that the current policy framework allows immediate implementation, and that there is user pull for the products. Larry added that this program also helps with faster green-up and accessibility to mature timber where adjacency issues exist. Brian requested that any letter to Minister Thomson align with the succession report being prepared by Barrie.

Action: Barrie will work with his staff to complete a succession plan, and make the plan available to Jack to pass along to the SelectSeed Board (no specific date set, but it is understood that this will be completed soon so as to not lose momentum with the current dialogue between the SelectSeed Board and Minister Thomson).

6. 2014 FGC meeting dates

The following meeting dates are proposed, but subsequent to the meeting a request was made to adjust 2 of these dates. Jack will follow up with FGC members.

March 19, 2014 – face-to-face budget meeting in Richmond

June 18, 2014 – conference call (date may be changed)

September 17, 2014 – field tour and meeting

December 10, 2014 – conference call (date may be changed)

7. Motion to adjourn

MOVED (LeBlanc / van Niejenhuis) That the meeting is hereby adjourned. **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Next meeting: March 19, 2014 (Richmond)

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods

