

Meeting Minutes June 14, 2017

Members present:

Pat Martin, Mark Tamas, Shane Ford, Dan Peterson, Domenico Iannidinardo, Joe LeBlanc, Jeff Mycock, Scott King, Annette van Niejenhuis, Kori Vernier, and Rob Guy.

Regrets (and proxy): Mark Hay (Ford) Gernot Zemanek (King), Raoul Wiart (n/a), Jennifer Davis (n/a).

Others present:

Brian Barber, CEO, Select Seed Co. Ltd. and Program Manager, Forest Genetics Council of BC.

Summary of Motions:

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the FGC meeting held March 14, 2017 are hereby approved (King/Iannidinardo) **CARRIED**.

Summary of Action Items:

Responsibility	Actions
Brian	<i>Carried forward from March 14</i> Scope out a seed planning model that accounts for future seed demand and TSR, and report back to FGC. Action deferred due to CBST.
Kori with Nick Ukrainetz and SelectSeed, VSOC and Ministry.	<i>Carried forward from March 14</i> Present a plan for identifying the materials and timelines for advancing towards establishment of the new second generation Pli orchards. Action deferred due to CBST.
FGC TAC Streamlining subcommittee (Pat lead)	<i>Carried forward from March 14</i> 1. Develop some terms of reference for the review, including principles and scope, for FGC approval; 2. Undertake review and report progress to Council June and Sept 2017; and 3. Deliver a final report and recommendations to FGC by October 31, 2017.
Members	Forward ideas to Pat on how to improve incorporation of genetic gain in TSR.
Brian	Post approved minutes from Mar 14 meeting on FGC website.
TIB HQ	Communicate recent changes to CBST tool following data updates and refresh by Foresite.
Mark, Jeff and Domenico	Raise tree improvement program funding with Diane Nicholls at next Chief Forester Leadership team meeting in July.
Members	Discuss how to best prepare for next year's budget request – subject to above, new government, changes to LBIS, FES etc. - at Sept/Oct meeting.
Dan, Pat, Brian	Discuss potential funding opportunities with Forest Enhancement Society for their next intake in Sept (e.g. projects recommended but not funded by LBIS).
Pat	Provide FGC and Brian with actual LBIS tree improvement expenditures by subprogram for 2016/17. Brian to include in 2016/17 annual report.
Brian	Solicit additional nominations for CTAC chair from CTAC members, and forward to FGC for consideration

Brian and Jack	Prepare 2017/18 Business Plan by August and 2016/17 Annual Report by Sept/Oct for FGC review and approval.
Members	Set up Skype account and send Contact invitation to Brian T Barber.
Brian	Send FGC Achievement Award nomination criteria and list of prior recipients to FGC. Council members may submit nominations for consideration.
Members	Discuss other awards and recognition at fall meeting
Brian	Prepare options for field tour topics/stops and send Doodle Poll for late Sept/early Oct for meeting based out of Quesnel.

Proceedings:

The Meeting was held by conference call and chaired by Pat Martin. Brian Barber was appointed to record the minutes of the meeting.

There being a quorum of members present, entitled to attend and vote, and proper notice having been given, the Chair declared the meeting properly constituted.

An agenda and several attachments were forwarded to members in advance via email. Meeting was held in conjunction with AGMs for Select Seed Co. Ltd and the BC Forest Genetics Society (separate minutes).

1. Agenda

RESOLVED THAT the Meeting be called to order (LeBlanc/Guy) CARRIED.

RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for this meeting as presented is hereby approved (Ford/van Niejenhuis) CARRIED.

2. Action items and Minutes from March 14, 2017

Action items and draft minutes of the March 14, 2017 meeting were provided in advance. Status and updates were provided.

Action Items:

Responsibility	Actions	Status
Margot Spence	Produce regular updates from the CBST Stakeholders' Group that can be sent to all orchard distribution lists.	In progress – See item #3
Annette van Niejenhuis, Kori Vernier	Share CBST Stakeholders' Group communications and discussions with orchard managers (as CTAC and ITAC chairs).	In progress - See item #3
Pat Martin, Brian Barber, Jeff Mycock	Scope out a seed planning model that accounts for future seed demand and TSR, and report back to FGC at the June meeting.	In progress - Development deferred due to CBST. Carry fwd
Kori Vernier (Chair of ITAC), the tree breeders, and the three parties (SelectSeed, VSOC and Ministry)	Present a plan for identifying the materials and timelines for advancing towards establishment of the new second generation orchards.	In progress - Subject to CBST and discussions

		with breeder. Carry fwd
Pat Martin, Brian Barber	Include justification and context with FGC funding request to the Office of the Chief Forester, as outlined in these Minutes.	Completed
FGC TAC Streamlining subcommittee (Pat Martin, Annette van Niejenhuis, Dan Peterson, Brian Barber, Margot Spence, Alana Phillips/Darrell Wood)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop some terms of reference for the review, including principles and scope, for FGC approval; 2. Undertake review and report progress to Council in June and Sept 2017; and 3. Deliver a final report and recommendations to FGC by October 31, 2017. 	In progress TOR delayed, subcomm. conference call to be scheduled - Carry fwd
Pat Martin, Mark Tamas	Draft a letter to the Chief Forester regarding representation of genetic gain in timber supply reviews.	In progress - See below
Pat Martin	Set up conference call with Brian Barber, Mark Tamas and Dan Peterson to discuss a potential Forest Enhancement Society proposal to be submitted by Friday March 17, 2017.	Completed (also Item #4)
Brian Barber	Issue a Doodle Poll to identify available dates/times for the June meeting.	Completed

Action re Genetic Gain and Timber Supply

No letter was sent to the Chief Forester. However, Pat discussed FGC’s concerns and need for consistently capturing genetics gain in timber supply reviews (TSR) with TSR analysts at their annual meeting at Cowichan Lake Conference Centre. Incorporation of gains will be monitored in subsequent TSRs.

Council discussed need for follow-up and communications as a number of TSR analysts will soon retire, and new staff will require training. A systems approach and “institutionalization” of incorporating genetic gain in TSR is required. Preparing a 1-2 page summary and/or emailing FGC [Extension Note #1](#) to all analysts were suggested.

ACTION: Members to forward ideas to Pat on how to improve incorporation of genetic gain in TSR.

March 14, 2017 Minutes:

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the FGC meeting held March 14, 2017 are hereby approved (King/Iannidinardo) CARRIED.

ACTION: Brian to post approved minutes from Mar 14 meeting on FGC website.

3. Program succession and CBST – standing items

Shane provided an update on staff succession planning within TIB’s forest genetics section, including the competitions and imminent hires for a data manager and interior tree breeder. TIB has also entered into a secondment agreement with UBC for a post-doctoral candidate to work on pest resilience and interior spruce.

Pat presented an update on the climate-based seed transfer (CBST) project prepared by Margot Spence, Seed Policy Officer. Of note, is pursuit of an interim policy to enable early adoption of CBST by September 2017. This would be facilitated by licensees submitting an alternative to the seed transfer standards to the Chief Forester or her delegate. The CBST tool is also being updated with new data sets and adjustments to SPAR are also underway to enable implementation of the alternative policy. UBC’s

contributions were acknowledged. Extension and training will follow later in the summer. Consultations with First Nations and others will also follow.

ACTION: TIB to communicate recent changes to CBST tool following data updates (including coastal, UBC contributions) and refresh by Foresite (e.g. next version).

4. Budget Update

FGC submitted a letter and recommendation to the Chief Forester to allocate \$2.88M to the provincial tree improvement program from the Land-based investment strategy (LBIS) account. The Ministry approved an allocation of \$2.5M – same amount as the previous two years.

TIB, with support from Mark Tamas and others, was subsequently successful in securing a 3-yr grant from the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) for UBC’s Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics totaling \$450,000. This grant increases LBIS funding available to TIB’s tree breeding and genecology research activities.

Pat Martin shared the following summary of LBIS and FESBC funds allocated to FGC’s various subprogram and projects.

FGC - Tree Improvement Program - Budget Allocation, June 13, 2017

Subprogram	Recommended	Current Funding Level		
	FGC Option A	LBIS	FESBC	Total
Genetic Conservation	266,658	187,939	74,000	261,939
Tree Breeding	1,415,500	1,218,815		1,218,815
Operational Tree Improvement (OTIP)	396,085	384,411		384,411
Cone and Seed Pest Management	91,521	85,029		85,029
Seed Transfer, Genecology and Decision Support	718,500	621,035	76,000	697,035
Reserve		2,771		2,771
Total	2,888,264	2,500,000	150,000	2,650,000

Council noted the funding levels are not sustainable in the long-term, as forest genetics is competing for limited funds with other programs. Funding levels need to improve or FGC needs to revise its goals/targets. Tree improvement can be promoted as improving timber sustainability.

ACTION: Mark, Jeff and Domenico to raise tree improvement program funding with Diane Nicholls at next CF Leadership team meeting in July.

ACTION: FGC to discuss how to best prepare for next year’s budget request – subject to above, new government, changes to LBIS, FES etc. at Sept/Oct meeting.

ACTION: Dan, Pat, Brian to discuss potential funding opportunities with FES for their next intake in Sept (e.g. projects recommended but not funded by LBIS).

ACTION: Pat to provide FGC and Brian with actual LBIS tree improvement expenditures by subprogram for 2016/17. Brian to include in 2016/17 annual report.

5. Membership

Council members are appointed for a 3-year term. The terms for Annette van Niejenhuis, Coastal TAC Chair, and Mark Hay, BC Timber Sales (Ministry) Representative end in September 2017. Annette and Mark have expressed interest in serving an additional term.

In accordance with FGC Bylaws, FGC may name Coastal and Interior TAC Chairs for a 3-year term. Traditionally, CTAC and ITAC Chairs are also appointed to Council by the Provincial Chief Forester. The

Chief Forester also appointments other persons to council based on nominations received from the stakeholder group(s) associated with a position on council. See [FGC Bylaws Articles 3 and 4](#)

ACTION: Brian to solicit additional nominations for CTAC chair from CTAC members, and forward to FGC for consideration.

6. Other News

FGC Annual Plan for 2016/17 and FGC Business Plan and Species Plans for 2017/18 are in progress. The latter will be completed in August to help guide 2018 sowing requests and fall/winter business planning.

ACTION: Brian and Jack Woods to prepare 2017/18 Business Plan by August and 2016/17 Annual Report by Sept/Oct for FGC review and approval.

Brian and Ward Strong are invited speakers at the forthcoming joint meeting of the Canadian Forest Genetics and Western Forests Genetics Associations, held in Edmonton, June 26-30.

<http://forestgenetics2017.ca/> Brian will share his presentation with FGC.

IUFRO Seed Orchard Working Group meeting will be held in Balsta, Sweden, Sept 4-6, 2017.

<http://seedorchard2017.upsc.se/>

Mike Carlson, former lodgepole pine breeder and scientist emeritus was recently diagnosed with ALS. He welcomes visitors and messages from colleagues.

7. New Business

FGC members were asked if they would prefer to use Skype for future conference calls. Several members use Skype for company business meetings; works well, especially for sharing and reviewing documents.

ACTION: Members to set up Skype account and send Contact invitation to Brian T Barber.

Annette enquired about the FGC Achievement Award and its nomination process. This award is for exceptional contributions to forest genetics in BC. This award has been presented to recipients at face-to-face FGC or extraordinary meetings. Council acknowledged the importance of this award and need for other forms of recognition.

ACTION: Brian to send FGC Achievement Award nomination criteria and list of prior recipients to FGC. Council members may submit nominations for consideration.

ACTION: FGC to discuss other awards and recognition at its fall meeting.

8. Next meeting

The north-central interior (e.g. Quesnel) was suggested as location for FGC's fall field trip and ½ day business meeting. Suggested topics: forest health, growing opportunities (AACs & TSR), seed supply/demand, Pli realized gain trials, and Sx plantations.

ACTION: Brian to prepare options for field tour topics/stops and send Doodle Poll for late Sept/early Oct for meeting based out of Quesnel.

Adjournment

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 11:20 am (Ford/Vernier) CARRIED.

(Minutes prepared by B. Barber and reviewed and approved at FGC meeting October 18, 2017)