

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting December 17, 2014

Meeting held by conference call

Attendees: Brian Barber (Co-Chair), Larry Gardner (Co-Chair), Rob Guy, Domenico Iannidinardo, Stephen Joyce, Scott King, Joe LeBlanc, Barrie Phillips, Raoul Wiart

Regrets: Mark Hay, Mark Tamas, Annette van Niejenhuis, Gernot Zemanek

Others: Lee Charleson, Jack Woods

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Stephen	Lead a review by ITAC members of sowing factors currently used in species plans.
Jack	Assist Stephen with an ITAC review of sowing factors, incorporate new sowing factors and seed orchard production profiles in the supply/demand analysis, and update the " <i>Interior seed demand and supply</i> " report for review at the March, 2015 FGC meeting.
Brian, Lee, Jack	Seek input from all TAC chairs on extension needs and develop options for FGC discussion prior to the March 2015 meeting.
Domenico (chair), Scott, Annette, Stephen (Jack to support)	Develop principles for the sale of Class A seed for use outside the timber harvest land base in BC for discussion at the March, 2015 FGC meeting.
Jack	Include both CBST and succession planning on the agendas of all future FGC meetings.
Jack	Initiate the process of finding a new Industry Co-Chair for Council with the intent that a new person will be in place before June, 2015.
Jack	Conduct a Doodle Poll to find a date for the March, 2015 meeting within the range of March 11th to 20th.

Summary of Motions:

1. MOVED (King / LeBlanc): Minutes of the meeting held September 17, 2014 are hereby approved with amendments. CARRIED.
2. MOVED (LeBlanc / Gardner): That the FGC supports in principle SelectSeed Ltd. and the Tree Improvement Branch entering an agreement to fund an interior tree breeder position within the Tree Improvement Branch, with consideration of terms set out by SelectSeed Ltd. that were presented at this meeting. (CARRIED - unanimous).
3. MOVED (LeBlanc / Phillips): That the meeting is hereby adjourned. CARRIED.

Meeting called to order at 1:05 P.M. by Larry Gardner (meeting chair)

Noted by Jack Woods that the proxy vote for Annette is held by Domenico and for Mark Hay is held by Stephen.

1. Agenda:

Approved with the addition of a discussion on the industry Co-Chair.

2. September 17, 2014 minutes:

Joe previously noted two minor errors in the minutes.

MOVED King / LeBlanc): Minutes of the meeting held September 17, 2014 are hereby approved with amendments. CARRIED.

3. Old business and action items from September 17, 2014

The following action items were reviewed.

Responsibility	Action	Action taken
Brian	Prepare thank-you letters to Patti Kagawa and Dan Peterson for their work and contributions to the FGC.	Done
Jack	Prepare a report on expected seed demand for all interior seed planning units with orchards for the December, 2014 FGC meeting.	To be presented Dec. 17th
Jack	Complete the 2013/14 Annual Report publication and circulate it to FGC members with a resolution to approve it for publication. A vote on the resolution will take place by email prior to October 31, 2014.	Done
Strategic Planning Committee	Develop framework objectives for a new Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2019. The following timeline was agreed upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early November 2014 - first draft of framework objectives; solicit feedback from FGC members • Mid January 2015 - prepare a full draft of the 5-year Strategic Plan for 2015-2019 • Late February 2015 - Final draft of Strategic Plan 	Underway

4. Tree breeder succession and SelectSeed support for a breeder – Brian / Barrie / Jack

Brian announced that Barrie will be retiring in January, 2015 and that this will be his last FGC meeting. There will be a temporary assignment to fill his position.

Tree Improvement Branch staff are preparing a White Paper on tree breeding human resource needs. This paper will support of efforts to justify the replacement of retiring staff and obtaining new positions. The paper is expected to be completed in January.

A competition for a new breeder within the Tree Improvement Branch closed December 17th. This position will work with Barry Jaquish with the intent that the incumbent will take over Barry's Sx, Fdi and Lw duties when he retires.

A proposal for SelectSeed Ltd. to provide the Ministry with funding to hire a breeder was outlined by Brian and Jack. The expectation is that about \$100,000 per year will be allocated. The SelectSeed Board is supportive but is concerned that these expenditures must not place excessive financial risk on the company. To this end, the Board directed Jack to prepare a set of terms for negotiating a memorandum of understanding with Tree Improvement Branch. Jack outlined these terms. It also the expectation that both the SelectSeed Board and the FGC will evaluate the financial implications of this decision annually as part of SelectSeed's business planning and approval process. Following discussion to clarify the terms, the following motion was put forward.

MOVED (LeBlanc / Gardner) That the FGC supports in principle SelectSeed Ltd. and the Tree Improvement Branch entering an agreement to fund an interior tree breeder position within the Tree Improvement Branch, with consideration of terms set out by SelectSeed Ltd. that were presented at this meeting. (CARRIED - unanimous).

5. Strategic Plan update – Jack/Brian

Jack outlined progress on the new FGC strategic plan, as follows:

- Full draft update of the plan completed
- New Forest Health objective and description page written
- Contact made with forest health specialists from the FLNRO and input obtained; additional breeder input needed
- Review by Strategic Planning Committee expected in early January
- Seed Transfer TAC and Genetic Conservation TAC reviewing relevant sections

6. Interior seed supply/demand profile report – Jack

The report with the title "*Interior seed demand and supply Dec 2014*" was reviewed. The following information updates are needed to finalize this report:

- **Orchard production profiles** - This information is being developed by a contractor hired by SelectSeed Ltd. and will be completed in January, 2015
- **Sowing factors** - Factors currently used in species plans require review. This will take place early in 2015 and will include ITAC members.

Action: Stephen will lead a review by ITAC members of sowing factors currently used in species plans.

Action: Jack will assist Stephen with an ITAC review of sowing factors, incorporate new sowing factors and seed orchard production profiles in the supply/demand analysis, and update the "*Interior seed demand and supply*" report for review at the March, 2015 FGC meeting.

7. Extension subprogram - Brian

Diane Douglas, ETAC chair, will be retiring in 2015. Brian posed the question whether Council needs to have an Extension TAC, or if extension activities can be led by other TACs for the area of work they advise on. Various options were discussed and the following action items were developed. It was agreed that extension work is important.

Action: Brian, Lee Charleson and Jack will seek input from all TAC chairs on extension needs and develop options for FGC discussion prior to the March 2015 meeting..

8. Class A seed use on non-THLB areas in BC

This issue was previously reported to Council at the March 19, 2014 meeting. Some class A seed is used on non-timber harvest land base areas in BC, on private lands, and for sales outside BC. It was agreed that principles for sale of class A seed for these circumstances need to be developed to guide seed producers and users. A subcommittee with Domenico (chair), Scott, Annette, and Stephen, with Jack to support, was assigned the task of developing these principles.

Action: Develop principles for the sale of Class A seed for use outside the timber harvest land base in BC for discussion at the March, 2015 FGC meeting (Domenico, Scott, Annette, and Stephen, with Jack to support).

9. Business planning for 2015

Jack provided an overview of the process for business planning and TAC progress to date. There are no issues with this process at this point in time.

10. New business

A. LBIS spending to date: Brian announced that LBIS spending will be close to the \$2.5 million planned by year end.

B. Climate-based seed transfer: Brian proposed that CBST should be a standing item on FGC agendas, along with succession planning. This was supported by other FGC members.

Action: Jack will include both CBST and succession planning on the agendas of all future FGC meetings.

C. Economic instruments workshop: Brian provided a brief update on a workshop on Economic Instruments to Support Adaptation to Climate Change that was hosted by Dr. Harry Nelson from UBC. One of the policy instruments they are studying is climate-based seed transfer. An extension of this work is a project being led by Harry Nelson and Jack, which will be funded by GenomeBC and SelectSeed. It will complete a cost/benefit analysis of climate-based seed transfer. This project will proceed in early 2015 and will extend work started by Jack several years ago. It is hoped that the project will provide the analysis rigor of a trained forest economist and the scrutiny of peer review that are needed to raise the profile of CBST.

D. FGC Industry Co-Chair: Larry announced that due to a change of his role with West Fraser Timber, he will be stepping down from Council. He recommended seeking a replacement for after the March, 2015 meeting.

The procedure for replacing the Industry Co-Chair normally involves seeking input from industry forestry staff and industry associations. It is Jack's role to facilitate this process.

Action: Jack will initiate the process of finding a new Industry Co-Chair for Council with the intent that a new person will be in place before June, 2015.

11. Meeting dates for 2015

Action: Jack will conduct a Doodle Poll to find a date for the March, 2015 meeting within the range of March 11th to 20th.

Meetings will be held on the following dates in 2015:

June 18, 2015

September 23, 2015

December 16, 2015

12. Thank you to Barrie and motion to adjourn

Brian noted that this is Barrie Phillips last FGC meeting and sincerely thanked him for his contributions. All members of Council added their best wishes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Next meeting: March, 2014, date to be determined. Location Richmond.

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods

