

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting June 18, 2013

Meeting held by conference call

Attending: Brian Barber (Chair), Larry Gardner, Rob Guy, Domenico Iannidinardo, Patti Kagawa, Scott King, Tim Lee, Joe LeBlanc, Barrie Phillips, Annette van Niejenhuis, Raoul Wiart, Gernot Zemanek

Regrets: Dan Peterson

Others: Jack Woods, Glen Dunsworth (SelectSeed President and Board Chair)

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Jack	Prepare a transfer letter with the conditions of funding specified and , if these conditions are acceptable to Dr. El-Kassaby and UBC, make payment to the University of BC for Dr. El-Kassaby's research.
Brian, Barrie, Raoul, Annette + Jack and Alvin	The following committee was set up to monitor this situation and to advise on the discussions with GenomeBC regarding an applied genomics lab: Brian, Barrie, Raoul, and Annette, with support from Jack and from Alvin Yanchuk.
Jack	Canvas Council members to find the most suitable dates for the fall FGC meeting and SelectSeed review meetings.

Summary of Motions:

1. RESOLVED THAT minutes of the meeting held March 20, 2013 are hereby approved. (Phillips / van Niejenhuis). CARRIED.
2. RESOLVED THAT the FGC recommends to SelectSeed Ltd. that funding support of \$55,000 for Dr. El-Kassaby's research at the University of BC will continue for one year, subject to the conditions that, a. funding will be used to finish existing projects only, b. an update of research projects will be presented to the Coastal and Interior TACs in the coming fall or winter, and c. 6- and 9-month reports will be submitted, along with a year-end report. (Phillips / van Niejenhuis): CARRIED.

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by Brian Barber (MFLNRO Co-Chair)

1. **Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. No new-business items were added.**
2. **Minutes from March 20, 2013**
RESOLVED THAT minutes of the meeting held March 20, 2013 are hereby approved. (Phillips / van Niejenhuis). CARRIED
3. **Old business and action items from March 20, 2013**
The following action items were reviewed.

Responsibility	Action	Action taken
Jack	Put the MFLNRO Co-Chair issue on the June 2013 FGC meeting agenda for discussion if it is not resolved by that time	Resolved
Barrie	Check to see if the whitebark pine recovery plan workshop has been scheduled yet and communicate back to Council	Done; meeting held
Jack	Conduct a Doodle poll of FGC members to determine meeting dates for the remainder of 2013	Done for June and December. Sept. pending
Annette	Collate and summarize available terms of reference information for the SelectSeed review and distribute it to FGC members prior to the June, 2013 meeting	Done; material sent with this meetings info.
Jack	Email FGC members a file containing Phil Lepage's slides	Done
Annette, Domenico, Alvin Yanchuk, Jack	Form a subcommittee to review whether further contributions through SelectSeed Ltd. to the NSERC Industrial Chair of Applied Forest Genetics and Biotechnology will advance Forest Genetics Council objectives and report back to the FGC by May 15, 2013. Subcommittee members are Annette, Domenico, Alvin Yanchuk, and Jack	Done; report to be discussed
Jack	Prepare a letter by April 4, 2013, to Chief Forester, Dave Peterson, outlining the LBIS Tree Improvement Program budget allocations recommended by Council	Done
Jack	Send a message to the person who forwarded the request for FGC participation on the CDFCP stating that participation does not fit the FGC mandate, but future possible collaboration with the GCTAC on projects may be considered	Done

4. FGC membership

Brian announced that Kerry McGourlick has retired and resigned his position on Council. Kerry is sincerely thanked for his efforts with Council since 2009.

Through a process of nomination set out in the FGC bylaws and monitored by Archie McDonald from the Council of Forest Industries, licensees nominated Larry Gardner as the new industry Co-chair. Larry has agreed to accept the role as FGC Industry Co-Chair. Brian welcomed Larry and thanked him for his willingness to continue to work with Council. Ratification by the Provincial Chief Forester is still required and is underway.

With Larry moving to FGC Co-Chair, the Interior Seed Producer rep position is now vacant. Brian announced that, through a separate process with interior seed producing companies, also monitored by Archie McDonald, Mark Tamas was nominated to fill this role. Mark is the Manager of Stewardship and Tenures for Tolko Ltd., and has agreed to join Council. Ratification by the Provincial Chief Forester is also required and underway.

Larry and Mark are thanked and welcomed to their new roles on Council.

5. Support from SelectSeed for Dr. Yousry El-Kassaby's research

A report was presented by the committee set up by Council at the last meeting to review continued funding support for Dr. El-Kassaby. Committee members are Annette, Domenico, Alvin Yanchuk, and Jack.

Prevailing viewpoint and recommendation to the FGC is to continue funding support at \$55,000 for this fiscal year and to review this support again as part of FGC business planning for 2014/15. The conditions of funding are recommended to be:

- Wrap-up of projects underway, with no new projects started using this funding.
- Presentation of ongoing projects to the Coastal and Interior TACs this fall and winter.
- Preparation of brief 6 and 9 month progress reports, plus a more comprehensive year-end report.

RESOLVED THAT the FGC recommends to SelectSeed Ltd. that funding support of \$55,000 for Dr. El-Kassaby's research at the University of BC will continue for one year, subject to the conditions that, a. funding will be used to finish existing projects only, b. an update of research projects will be presented to the Coastal and Interior TACs in the coming fall or winter, and c. 6- and 9-month reports will be submitted, along with a year-end report. (Phillips / van Niejenhuis): CARRIED.

Abstentions, Rob Guy and Raoul Wiart.

ACTION: Jack will prepare a transfer letter with the conditions of funding specified and , if these conditions are acceptable to Dr. El-Kassaby and UBC, make payment to the University of BC for Dr. El-Kassaby's research.

6. LBIS budget update (Brian)

Brian announced that the LBIS budget allocation of \$2.86 million to projects recommended by the FGC has been accepted by the MFLNRO and contracts and budgets are set up accordingly. Some university grants remain in progress.

Brian also discussed the need to communicate with the MFLNRO Assistant Deputy Ministers in charge of regions so they understand the merits and needs of the LBIS Tree Improvement Program. Recent work Jack and Lee Charleson have done with LBIS administrators will help establish priorities among LBIS programs. Annette pointed out that licensees are sometimes asked for their views on LBIS spending priorities and industry members of Council can assist by providing a positive recommendation for the LBIS Tree Improvement Program.

7. Applied genomics lab proposal

Jack and Brian outlined discussions that have been taking place with GenomeBC and other stakeholders, including the MFLNRO, CFS, and FPIInnovations, to develop an applied forest genomics lab. There is currently an opportunity to work with GenomeBC and Genome Canada to apply under the Genomics Applied Partnerships Program.

The concept is to collaborate on a 3 or 5-year pilot project. Funding could come from GenomeBC/Canada, FGC-led LBIS, and SelectSeed. The lab could be located at the FPIInnovations facility at UBC or elsewhere. FPI would contract to provide space and there may be leverage opportunities with a similar products-based genomics lab they wish to set up. There may also be opportunities to provide some contract services to genomics research projects.

Council members made the following comments:

- Annette expressed concern about the level of commitment for available SelectSeed funds.
- Larry would like to see more information on the benefits.
- Rob would like more detail on the specific projects to be done.
- Barrie expressed concerns about MFLNRO breeder capacity to participate in work associated with the lab.

Jack stated that there is an opportunity now to pursue this new technology and that, if done right, we may be able to help address part of the succession issue with breeding staff in the MFLNRO.

Raoul pointed out that there is substantial momentum with genomics work and we should try to take the opportunity. More detail on benefits and specific projects will be developed.

ACTION: The following committee was set up to monitor this situation and to advise on the discussions with GenomeBC regarding an applied genomics lab: Brian, Barrie, Raoul, and Annette, with support from Jack and Alvin Yanchuk.

No financial commitments were made to this project at this time.

8. July 17th meeting with MFLNRO executive

Brian announced that he and Jack are scheduled to meet with Tom Ethier (ADM Resource Stewardship Division), Jim Sutherland (Deputy Chief Forester), and Diane Nicholls (Executive Director, Resource Stewardship Division) on July 17th to provide an update on the following:

- LBIS funding recommendations
- FGC reporting to the MFLNRO and the linkage of FGC Bylaws, Society Bylaws, and SelectSeed Ltd.
- Planned SelectSeed Ltd. review in the fall of 2013.
- Update on program progress to objectives.
- Planned SelectSeed Ltd. letter to the Minister of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations regarding breeding succession.
- Planned FGC Strategic Plan update.

9. Fall 2013 FGC meeting and SelectSeed TOR review meeting

Meetings will be planned as follows:

- FGC meeting and field tour to be held in Kelowna, with a trip to the Kettle River Seed Orchards during the week of October 7, 2013
- SelectSeed Terms of Reference review to be held in Richmond sometime during the period October 17 to 25, 2013

ACTION: Jack will canvas Council members to find the most suitable dates for the fall FGC meeting and SelectSeed review meetings.

10. Update on the Forest Genetics 2013 conference

Jack provided a brief update on the Forest Genetics 2013 conference to be held at Whistler from July 22nd to 25th, with a Vancouver Island field trip to be held on July 26th and 27th.

Registration to date is about 140 people from 21 countries. Target registration of 150 will be exceeded. A loan to the conference from SelectSeed Ltd. to assist with upfront expenses is now mostly repaid and will be fully repaid. The organizing committee includes Sally Aitken and Lee Charleson (co-chairs), Diane Douglas, and Jack Woods (finance). Many others from BC are assisting with organizing.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Next meeting: October 2013 – Date to be determined – Field trip to Kettle River Seed Orchards

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods