

## MINUTES

### Forest Genetics Council – Tour and meeting October 17 and 18, 2013

#### Tour to SelectSeed Ltd.'s Kettle River Seed Orchard operation held October 17, 2013

#### Business meeting held at Kalamalka Forestry Center, Vernon, BC

Attendees to the meeting in person: Brian Barber (Co-Chair) Larry Gardner (Co-Chair), Rob Guy, Domenico Iannidinardo, Scott King, Joe LeBlanc, Dan Peterson, Mark Tamas, Raoul Wiart, Gernot Zemanek

Attending by phone or video: Annette van Niejenhuis

*Regrets:* Patti Kagawa, Barrie Phillips

*Others:* Stephen Joyce, Jack Woods

#### Action Items

Responsibility	Action
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.
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.
Brian	Look for a way to align FGC business planning processes with FLNRO processes for university grants and transfer approvals.
Brian	Discuss with Jim Sutherland the need for coordination between species-choice guidelines and new climate-based seed transfer standards.
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).
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.
All FGC members	FGC members will review the current Strategic Plan and objectives in preparation for discussion at the December 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2013 meeting.

#### Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (LeBlanc / King): Minutes of the meeting held June 18, 2013 are hereby approved. CARRIED.
2. **MOVED** (LeBlanc / van Neijenhuis) That the FGC Annual Report for 2012/13 is hereby approved for printing. CARRIED.
3. **MOVED** (Iannidinardo / LeBlanc) That the meeting is hereby adjourned. CARRIED.

**October 17<sup>th</sup> tour:**

FGC members toured the lodgepole pine seed orchards located in the Kettle Valley north of Rock Creek and operated by Rick Hansinger under contract with SelectSeed Ltd. These two orchards produce seed for the Central Plateau and Prince George seed planning units.

Rick Hansinger is thanked for his participation and for hosting the FGC at the site.

**October 18<sup>th</sup>: FGC meeting called to order at 8:00 A.M. by Larry Gardner (Industry Co-Chair)**

**1. Welcome**

Larry Gardner opened the meeting at 8:00 AM and welcomed attendees.

**2. In memory of Tim Lee**

With sadness and a moment of silence Council members remembered Tim Lee and acknowledged his contributions to the FGC, to the ITAC, and to the broader tree improvement community in BC. A eulogy to Tim will be published in the FGC Annual Report.

**3. Agenda:** Approved as provided

**4. Approval of June 18, 2013 minutes:**

**MOVED** (LeBlanc / King): Minutes of the meeting held June 18, 2013 are hereby approved. **CARRIED.**

**5. ITAC Chair**

Brian Barber announced that Stephen Joyce from the FLNRO Tree Improvement Branch was nominated as the ITAC representative. Brian also reviewed the process for his nomination (see meeting briefing materials). Stephen's name has gone forward to Provincial Chief Forester Dave Peterson with a recommendation to confirm his membership on Council. Stephen was welcomed to join the FGC meeting and to participate as it is anticipated that the appointment letter from Dave will be forthcoming within the next few weeks.

**6. Old Business and Action Items from June 18, 2013**

The following action items were reviewed and accepted as presented below.

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Action</b>	
Jack	Prepare a transfer letter to Dr. El-Kassaby 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.	Done; \$55,000 payment made by SelectSeed
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.  Brian and Jack provided an overview of developments with FPInnovations, Genome BC, Genome Canada and the Canadian Wood Fiber Center. At this time FPInnovations is in discussions with Genome Canada regarding a national forest genomics lab. We will wait for developments on this initiative before continuing discussions, if any.	Discussion ongoing
Jack	Canvas Council members to find the most suitable dates for the fall FGC meeting and SelectSeed review meetings.	Done

Council members felt that further follow up on the Genomics lab is warranted. Therefore, the committee reviewing this matter was asked to meet to discuss next steps and to involve George Bruemmer from FPInnovations.

**Action item:** Brian, Raoul, Annette, Alvin Yanchuk and Jack will meet to further discuss and set some next steps around the development of a genomics lab. George Bruemmer will be invited to participate.

**7. Report on a meeting with Tom Ethier and Jim Sutherland – Brian / Jack**

Brian provided an overview of the meeting he and Jack held with Tom Ethier (ADM Resource Stewardship) and Jim Sutherland (Deputy Chief Forester) on July 18, 2013 to provide them with an update on Council activities and also on the planned SelectSeed review meeting. They were supportive of the SelectSeed review and appreciative of the annual update on progress and FGC activities. The issue of breeding succession (and the forthcoming letter from SelectSeed to Minister Thomson), and difficulties with supporting university projects approved by the FGC, were also discussed.

Council members discussed the preparation of a GAP analysis for breeding staff to be done in conjunction with FGC Strategic Plan preparation. This analysis should be communicated back to FGC members and the SelectSeed Board.

**Action item:** 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 5, 2013 FGC meeting.

**8. Update on LBIS activities and transfers to universities – Brian**

Brian provided an overview of how provincial government financial process did not align with FGC business planning for university projects. This was finally resolved and the university projects have now received their funds. Better alignment and understanding of how the provincial government process of transfers is structured would help avoid this problem in future years.

**Action item:** Brian will look for a way to align FGC business planning processes with FLNRO processes for university grants and transfer approvals.

**9. FGC Annual Report for 2012/13 – Jack**

Jack presented the FGC Annual Report for 2012/13, including performance indicators. A digital copy of the report was distributed prior to the meeting and will be printed following FGC approval. The report will be available on the FGC website. In addition, Jack announced the FGC business plan and species plan document is currently at the printer.

**MOVED** (LeBlanc / van Neijenhuis) That the FGC Annual Report for 2012/13 is hereby approved for printing. **CARRIED.**

**10. 2013 orchard cone production – Stephen / Jack**

The following summary of cone crops was presented. 2013 was a moderate to poor crop year for most species. Pli cone harvest increased, but early seed yields suggest poor seed set. Fdi and Fdc harvest increased somewhat over 2012, Lw and Sx were low.

**Summary of 2013 orchard cone crops**

HL cones

Estimated

As of October 14, 2013

Crops from SelectSeed orchard are prorated by owner

Species	PRT non- VSOC non- Tolko non					WFP	Twest	Inde- pendent	2013 total HL	2012 hl	2013 est. kg seed
	all MFLNRO	Select- Seed	Select- Seed	Select- Seed	Select- Seed						
Redcedar	3.5					6	4		14	15	
D-fir coast	6					22	251		279	254	
Hemlock	2								2	9	
W. larch	27							1.6	27	226	
D-fir interior	65	39	17	56					176	111	
White pine - cst	1.3						9		10	5	
White pine - int.	85								85	66	
Lodgepole pine	189	400	93	243	33				957	893	
Int. spruce	82	0							82	127	
Ponderosa pine	13								13	1.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>260</b>		<b>1,645</b>	<b>1707</b>	

Total production from all SelectSeed orchards is 593.8 hl

**11. Update on the development of climate-based seed transfer standards – Dr. Greg O’Neill**

Greg provided an overview of the work being undertaken by the FLNRO working group developing the technical and scientific basis for climate-based seed transfer (CBST) standards. This is the first of four phases that will also include policy development, implementation, and monitoring / revision. Implementation is anticipated in March of 2017.

Larry pointed out that this work has large implications for seed orchards and planting operations, and communication with these groups is important.

Annette raised the expectation by most foresters that seed transfer will fall under professional standards. Greg agreed and said it is, therefore, important that clear information is developed to provide guidance to forest professionals.

There was a request made to have the Ministry CBST working group provide an update to the CTAC and ITAC meetings this winter and to consider working more closely with the Seed Transfer TAC.

The point was also raised that it is important to have coordination between the CBST working group and the Tree Species Selection Project, a group with members from coast and interior industry and from the FLNRO that is developing new standards for species choice when planting.

**Action:** Brian will discuss with Jim Sutherland the need for coordination between species-choice guidelines and new climate-based seed transfer standards.

**12. Planning for the October 24, 2013 SelectSeed review meeting – Brian**

Brian provided an overview of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Agenda documents for the October 24, 2013 SelectSeed-review meeting that were circulated previously. He made the following points:

- The review will need to consider, in addition to SelectSeed functions, other areas such as FLNRO orchards and breeding programs.
- The plan for the meeting will be to narrow to one or more preferred options and then focus on developing these.

- The review is well aligned with the provincial government Core Review that is now underway.

Annette suggested sending the TOR and Agenda documents to CTAC and ITAC members for input prior to the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mark suggested asking for comments on what is currently working and what isn't working.

**Action:** Annette and Stephen will send the 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).

### **13. FGC 5-year Strategic Plan renewal – Brian, Jack**

Brian outlined the Challenge Dialogue process used to involve stakeholders in a discussion on objectives for genetic resource management in BC. This culminated in the current 2009 to 2014 FGC Strategic Plan. An update of this plan is required, and should be completed by December 2014. A new process with stakeholders is not needed at this time, but Council will need to engage with its technical committees in the process.

**Action:** 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.

**Action:** FGC members will review the current Strategic Plan and objectives in preparation for discussion at the December 5, 2013 meeting.

### **14. Motion to adjourn**

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

## **Next meeting: December 5, 2012**

(likely a conference call – to be determined)

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods

