

Draft Minutes – FGC Business Meeting

8:30 am – 12:00 pm, Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Location: Prince George Resource District Office, Prince George.

Members present:

Patrick Martin, Shane Ford, Dan Peterson, Domenico Iannidinardo, Joe LeBlanc, Jeff Mycock, Scott King, Annette van Niejenhuis, Rob Guy (via phone), Tony Hopkin, and Gernot Zemanek.

Regrets (and proxy): Mark Tamas (Mycock), Mark Hay (none), Kori Vernier (King), and Jennifer Davis (n/a).

Others present:

Brian Barber, FGC Program Mgr, Glen Dunsworth (via phone) and Jim Burbee, SelectSeed Board of Directors; Bev Wigmore, TimberWest; and Rahul Singh, Genome BC

Summary of Motions/Resolutions

- The minutes of the FGC meeting held June 14, 2017 are hereby approved (Annette/Joe) CARRIED
- The recommendations of the Streamlining Subcommittee be adopted and implemented (Annette/Dan) CARRIED.

Summary of Action Items:

Who	Actions
Pat	Confirm data source (e.g. RESULTS vs SPAR) and “automated process” Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch will use to incorporate genetic gain in TSR.
Members	Send Skype contact request to “Brian T Barber”
Tony, Pat, Annette and Shane Ford	Discuss Forest Health positions to assist tree breeders and resourcing options (employee, partnership with CFS or university vs consultant)
Shane Berg	Share proposed FLNR research positions with FGC and invite comments.
Pat	Prepare position description(s) for FGC to consider funding salary through another MoU with SelectSeed for discussion at Dec meeting.
FGC	Subject to outcome of above action item, FGC to prepare a response to SelectSeed’s October 8 th letter.
FGC or Company Members	Subject to outcome of above items, to consider drafting letter to Ministry requesting additional base-funded tree improvement position(s).
FIRM	Consider private investments in seed inventories and seed orchards (\$ and seed supply) in CBST transition plan.
FGC	Finalize FGC’s draft 2017 Wildfire Seed Use Principles and Recommendations at Dec meeting.
Actions associated with Streamlining Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-chairs to communicate new model and changes to TAC chairs and members. – Brian to prepare note for Pat to send ASAP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITAC/CTAC chairs to work with Ministry and FGC Program Manager to complete and issue OTIP call for proposals. – In progress Solicit interest from FGC members to chair GCTAC. – Rob Guy to discuss GCTAC chair role with Pia Smets, Shane Ford also willing Review historical and current allocations to programs and activities, set targets for each program at FGC's December conference call. – Prepare options for Dec mtg. Set date for FGC budget planning meeting end of February or early March; align TAC meeting and budget preparation with this date. - TBD Review new model and update FGC Bylaws following 2018/19 budget submission – spring 2018. – as deemed necessary Initiate processes to develop an FGC Communication and Extension plan –2018/19
Brian	Circulate Genome BC slide deck
Brian	Prepare an issue statement regarding the need to update CF Principles for Public and Private Seed Orchard in response to CBST for FGC to review at next meeting
Brian	Brian to prepare thank you gifts for Pia Smets, GCTAC chair, and Raoul Wiart, former NRCan rep. on FGC.
Brian	Initiate FGC Achievement Award nomination for Jack Woods, for FGC's consideration and presentation at March meeting.
Brian	Issue Doodle Poll for full-day face-to-face meeting end Nov/early December in Richmond

Proceedings:

The meeting was held at the Prince George Resource District Office and chaired by Pat Martin. Brian Barber was appointed to record the minutes of the meeting.

An agenda and several attachments were forwarded to members in advance via email. This meeting was preceded by a field trip held the previous day at Vernon Seed Orchard Co, Quesnel, and several sites within TFL 52. A separate agenda and participants list for the tour is available.

1. Welcome and Introductions

There being a quorum of members present, entitled to attend and vote, the meeting was called to order.

Motion that the meeting be called to order (Gernot/Scott) CARRIED.

Shawn Rice, Resource Manager, welcomed FGC to the PG district office and provided safety instructions.

Pat thanked members for attending field trip and meeting, and recognized the strong collaboration between government, industry and others through FGC. Thanks were extended to Jeff Mycock and West Fraser staff for hosting the field trip the day prior.

Pat also welcomed **Tony Hopkin**, Director, Entomology & Phytosanitary Research, as the new representative from Natural Resources Canada. Tony works at the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria.

Annette van Niejenhuis was re-appointed for another 3-year term as CTAC Chair. **Mark Hay** was also re-appointed for another 3-year term as BCTS rep.

2. Agenda

Motion: The Agenda for this meeting as presented is hereby approved (Scott/Joe) CARRIED.

3. Action Items and Minutes from June 14, 2017

Draft minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting was sent as a separate document.

Action items

Who	Actions	Status
Brian	Carried forward from March 14 Scope out a seed planning model that accounts for future seed demand and TSR, and report back to FGC. Action deferred due to CBST.	Deferred
Kori with Nick Ukrainetz and SelectSeed, VSOC and Ministry.	Carried forward from March 14 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.	Deferred
FGC TAC Streamlining subcommittee (Pat lead)	Carried forward from March 14 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.	See item # 8
Members	Forward ideas to Pat on how to improve incorporation of genetic gain in TSR.	Complete (see notes below)
Brian	Post approved minutes from Mar 14 meeting on FGC website.	Complete
TIB HQ	Communicate recent changes to CBST tool following data updates and refresh by Forsite.	Complete See item #5
Mark, Jeff and Domenico	Raise tree improvement program funding with Diane Nicholls at next Chief Forester Leadership team meeting in July.	Complete (see notes below)
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.	See item # 8
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).	In progress
Pat	Provide FGC and Brian with actual LBIS tree improvement expenditures by subprogram for 2016/17. Brian to include in 2016/17 annual report.	In progress
Brian	Solicit additional nominations for CTAC chair from CTAC members, and forward to FGC for consideration	Complete

Brian and Jack	Prepare 2017/18 Business Plan by August and 2016/17 Annual Report by Sept/Oct for FGC review and approval.	In progress
Members	Set up Skype account and send Contact invitation to Brian T Barber.	In progress
Brian	Send FGC Achievement Award nomination criteria and list of prior recipients to FGC. Council members may submit nominations for consideration.	Complete See item # 11
Members	Discuss other awards and recognition at fall meeting	See item # 11
Brian	Prepare options for field tour topics/stops and send Doodle Poll for late Sept/early Oct for meeting based out of Quesnel.	Complete

Pat attended a meeting with timber supply analysts and growth and yield modelers to advocate for consistent use and application of genetic gain in their forecasts. A follow up email from Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch confirmed they have adopted an automated process to update and incorporate genetics gain into future TSR. Questions arose where FIAB was getting genetic gain information from.

Action: Pat to confirm data source (e.g. RESULTS vs SPAR) and “automated process” Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch will use to incorporate genetic gain in TSR.

Action: Members were reminded to send Skype contact requests to Brian T. Barber for future conference calls via Skype or Skype for Business.

Domenico confirmed the Chief Forester Leadership team discussed general funding needs for tree improvement and research. Joe identified the link between forest health and tree improvement. Questions arose regarding the nature of the Forest Health position required by FIRM. Tony suggested there may be other means to resource this work. Shane Berg indicated the Ministry is also reviewing its research positions. Industry members offered to write letters to the Ministry advocating support for needed position(s).

Action: Tony, Pat, Annette and Shane Ford to discuss Forest Health positions to assist tree breeders and resourcing options (employee, partnership with CFS or university vs consultant)

Action: Shane Berg to share proposed FLNR research positions with FGC and invite comments.

Minutes

Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held June 14, 2017 are hereby approved (Annette/Joe).

4. SelectSeed Board of Directors’ Letter to FGC

At the SelectSeed AGM held June 14th, the following action item was recorded.

ACTION: Board to provide recommendations to the Society re investment options for the Company’s projected future revenues.

On October 8, SelectSeed’s Board of Directors submitted a letter to FGC regarding future revenues and investment options of the Company. FGC was asked to provide guidance on the use of the company’s profits.

Pat invited **Glen Dunsworth**, President and Chairman (via phone) and **Jim Burbee**, Director, to summarize the Board’s letter and recommendations to FGC.

Glen provided a history of the company, its objectives and projected net incomes for the next decade. The Board recommended SelectSeed's earnings be reinvested in seed orchards to increase the long-term sustainability of the company, including providing management services to FGC. If FGC wishes SelectSeed to continue supporting a ministry position, the Board recommended funds be used for succession or incremental initiatives that advance FGC's goals (i.e. not be used to replace base-funding).

Shane Berg and Pat acknowledged the success of the existing MoU to fund a succession breeder position and expressed interest in extending this agreement. Others commented that the use of the company's revenues should be consistent with the company's mandate, and not used for the ministry's core business. It was also acknowledged the company will require sufficient funds to adjust its orchards in response to CBST and replace its Pli orchards with 2nd generation selections (and in consideration of CF Principles).

There was general support for SelectSeed to continue funding a Ministry position if term-limited, the position was incremental or transitional (e.g. succession for retiring tree breeder) and served to advance FGC's goals. Options were requested, informed by the Forest Health position discussion, for consideration at FGC's December meeting.

Action: Pat to prepare position description(s) for FGC to consider funding salary through another MoU with SelectSeed.

Action: Subject to outcome of above action item, FGC to prepare a response to SelectSeed's October 8th letter.

Action: Subject to outcome of above items, FGC or company members, to consider drafting letter to Ministry requesting additional base-funded tree improvement position(s).

5. Standing items: Climate-based seed transfer and program succession

Pat summarized an update on the CBST project. A progress report prepared by Margot Spence was also provided as a separate attachment. In September, the Chief Forester introduced the new CBST tool and an alternative process for persons use for 2018 sowing requests and planting. Policy and implementation work continues.

It was noted some coastal areas are no longer covered by Class A seed under CBST (e.g. Cw in the CWH xm1). Concern was also expressed about the potential displacement of existing seed inventories (and investments), such as Class A seed becoming available in areas where only B Class seed was once available.

Action: FIRM to consider private investments in seed inventories and seed orchards (\$) and seed supply) in CBST transition plan.

Pat and Shane Ford provided a brief update on FIRM staffing and succession planning, including the hire of Marie Vance as a new interior tree breeder. Marie will start in January 2018.

6. Seed Supply and FGC Recommendations to Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester

On September 12, 2017, FGC held a conference call to discuss seed supply and demand in response to this year's wildfires. A set of recommendations and principles were drafted, and subsequently provided to Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester, for her consideration and direction. FGC was requested to finalize. A draft was included with the agenda.

The recommendations serve to provide strategic direction to ministry and licensees, not inform block-by-block decisions by forest professionals. It was suggested the proposal for government to undertake Class B cone collections to avoid conflicts with Class A collections be removed. A follow-up call or meeting is required to confirm final version. Pat/Brian to circulate revisions in advance and consider along with CF

Seed Orchard Principles. A final FGC-approved set of principles/recommendations are to be provided to Diane Nicholls for her consideration and distribution, as appropriate.

Action: Finalize FGC's draft 2017 Wildfire Seed Use Principles and Recommendations at December meeting.

7. Genome BC Update

[Rahul Singh](#), Sector Manager, Agrifood and Natural Resources, provided an update on Genome BC's programs, and sponsored projects of relevance to FGC. FGC members were asked to consider proposals for its Sector Innovation Program – GeneSolve. Queries and comments can be directed to rsingh@genomebc.ca

Action: Brian to circulate Genome BC slide deck to FGC.

8. Streamlining Subcommittee report and recommendations

A report from the Streamlining subcommittee dated October 10, 2017 was circulated with the agenda in advance. Brian provided an overview the report, including the subcommittee's terms of reference, review process and its recommendations.

The subcommittee's proposed changes include aligning FGC's subprograms, budgets and TACs with FGC's goals for conservation, resilience, and value. TACs to be reduced to three, including the Genetic Conservation, Interior and Coastal TACs, with the former also being chaired by a member of Council.

Process	FGC Strategic Plan 2015-2020				
Goals	Conservation	Resilience	Value		
Objective # and Performance Measure	1. Adequately conserve genetic diversity of all tree species...	2. by 2020 selection and transfer of all tree seed guided by CBST	3. Increase select seed use to 75% of total sown by 2020	4. Increase avg. genetic gain of select seed to 20% by 2020.	5. Increase use of seed with genetic gain for pest resistance to 50% of select seed sown by 2035.
Programs	1. Conservation	2. Resilience	3. Tree Breeding 4. Operational Tree Improvement (OTIP)		
Plans	2017-2022 Conservation Strategy	Genecology 5- year plan including AMAT	1. Species Breeding Priority Ranking and Matrix 2. 5-year Breeding Plans by Species or Spp. groups 3. Species Plans – included in annual business plans (seed supply and demand; orchard production targets)		
Budget lines within Program (examples)	Conserv. Catalogue Ex situ collections Whitebark Pine Extension	Provenance trials by spp. (Coast/Interior) AMAT, CBST , CoAdapTree Ext. & Dec. Support	Progeny trials by spp. - Coast and Interior OTIP Projects – Coast and Interior Extension and Decision support		
Governance	Forest Genetics Council of BC (FGC)				
TACs	Genetic Conservation (GCTAC)	Coastal and Interior TACs (CTAC & ITAC)			
Subcommittees		Species Committees	1. Species committees – coast and interior 2. OTIP review committee – provincial		

The proposed changes were well received and supported by Council. More discussion regarding budget allocations is required, and some minor adjustments may be necessary during the implementation.

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations of the Streamlining Subcommittee be adopted and implemented (Annette/Dan) CARRIED.

The follow-up **Actions** include

- Co-chairs to communicate new model and changes to TAC chairs and members. Brian to prepare note for Pat to send ASAP.
- ITAC/CTAC chairs to work with Ministry and FGC Program Manager to complete and issue OTIP call for proposals. – In progress
- Solicit interest from FGC members to chair GCTAC. – Rob Guy to discuss GCTAC chair role with Pia Smets, Shane Ford also willing
- Review historical and current allocations to programs and activities, set targets for each program at FGC's December conference call. – Prepare options for Dec mtg.
- Set date for FGC budget planning meeting end of February or early March; align TAC meeting and budget preparation with this date. - TBD
- Review new model and update FGC Bylaws following 2018/19 budget submission – spring 2018. – as deemed necessary.
- Initiate processes to develop an FGC Communication and Extension plan –2018/19

9. CF Principles re Public and Private Seed Orchards

In July 2010, Jim Snetsinger, Chief Forester, endorsed a set of Guiding Principles Respecting Public and Private Seed Orchard Management in BC. ([attachment](#))

Brian suggested the principles be updated and reviewed through a CBST-lens, and in consideration of other items identified by FGC. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Action: Brian to prepare an issue statement regarding the need to update CF Principles for Public and Private Seed Orchard in response to CBST for FGC to review at next meeting.

10. Mike Carlson memorial held Oct 11

Brian provided a summary and few pictures of the October 11 memorial service held for Dr. Mike Carlson, former ministry research scientist and lodgepole pine tree breeder. Mike passed away from ALS on September 25, 2017. Mike was recipient of the FGC Achievement Award in 2013. A demonstration plantation established at the Kalamalka Forestry Centre was also named in Mike's honor in August 2017.

11. FGC Awards and Recognition

Members had requested further discussion and consideration be given to FGC awards and recognition. The nomination criteria and list of recipients of the FGC Achievement Award were circulated in advance.

Brian identified a potential recognition gift for FGC and TAC members who have made significant contributions – a stylized turned wood tree by Phil Cottell, PhD, RPF (Ret) of Brentwood Bay. Council deemed the gift appropriate.

Brian also recommended that Jack Woods, former FGC Program Manager and CEO SelectSeed, be considered for an FGC Achievement Award.

Action: Brian to prepare thank you gifts for Pia Smets, GCTAC chair, and Raoul Wiart, former FGC NRCan rep.

Action: Brian to initiate FGC Achievement Award nomination for Jack Woods, for FGC's consideration and presentation at March meeting.

12. New Business and Announcements

There was no new business or announcements.

13. Next meeting

The 3rd quarter (winter) meeting is usually a 2-3 hour conference call. There being sufficient number of topics and interest, a face-to-face in Richmond in late November to early December was deemed necessary.

Action: Brian to issue Doodle Poll to identify available dates/times.

14. Adjourn

Motion that the meeting be adjourned (Jeff/Joe) CARRIED.

Draft minutes prepared by Brian Barber. Approved by FGC on December 8, 2017