

Minutes of the Forest Genetics Council

2:00-3:55 pm, Monday June 25, 2018

Members present:

Patrick Martin, Annette van Niejenhuis, Dan Peterson, Domenico Iannidinardo, Joe LeBlanc, Jeff Mycock, Mark Hay, Rob Guy, Shane Ford, and Scott King.

Regrets:

Kori Vernier, Tony Hopkin, and Gernot Zemanek,

Others present:

Shane Berg, Deputy Chief Forester, FLNR, Margot Spence, Seed Policy Officer, FLNR, Henry Benskin, President, SelectSeed, and Brian Barber, FGC Program Mgr/CEO SelectSeed

Summary of Action Items:

Person	Actions	Date
FGC	Discuss metrics for advancing FGC's objectives at the next meeting.	Sept mtg.
Pat	Forward ministry's LBIS budget allocations to FGC's program and activities	ASAP
Pat	Circulate revised "Process and timelines for next generation Pli replacement orchards for the new Bulkley Valley zone".	ASAP
FGC	Review above updated process and timelines and provide comments to Pat.	July 16
Pat, Jeff, Kori and Brian	Pat, Jeff, Kori and Brian to develop terms of reference (scope, process etc.) for undertaking future seed needs analysis for Pli under CBST, with support from FIRM staff and consultant(s) as appropriate.	Summer
Margot	Provide information re new GW codes to orchard managers, ITAC and CTAC, and seed users.	ASAP
Annette	Complete and circulate OTIP discussion paper	Sept
Joe, Scott, Gernot and Rob	Consult with their respective stakeholder groups to confirm their continued service and/or solicit nominations for new representatives.	Sept
Domenico & Annette	Discuss recommendations for a new coastal seed producer rep.	Sept
Pat & Brian	Prepare suitable acknowledgements for any departing councilors	Sept
Brian	Provide airline options for FGC's Sept meeting in Golden and assist with coordinating travel.	July

Proceedings

The meeting was held via conference call and held in conjunction with AGMs for SelectSeed and the B.C. Forest Genetics Society. Domenico, who was recently appointed Industry co-chair, chaired the meeting.

1. Agenda

There being adequate notice served and a quorum being present, Domenico called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and reviewed the agenda. An in camera session was added as a standing agenda item. Domenico also asked to discuss metrics for tracking progress of FGC's objectives at a future meeting.

Motion: The Agenda for this meeting is hereby approved. Annette/Joe. Carried.

Action: Discuss metrics for advancing FGC's objectives at the next meeting.

2. Action items and Minutes from March 15 and April 10, 2018

The draft minutes of the March 15, and April 10, 2018 meetings were sent as a separate documents. The action items and their status were summarized.

Action Items from March 15:

Person	Actions	Status
FGC	Discuss forest health objective and its performance measure.	Agenda #6
Pat	Consider input received from FGC, staff and others, and determine LBIS-funding eligibility for Pli orchard replacement proposals submitted to OTIP.	Completed
Annette & Kori	Prepare a discussion paper on OTIP eligibility for FGC's consideration.	See Item #7
Brian	Draft letter to Diane Nicholls, CF, conveying FGC's LBIS budget and recommendations for 2018/19	Completed
Shane F	Share 20-year breeding plans with ITAC and CTAC*	In Progress
TAC Chairs & FGC Prog. Mgr	Adjust and improve budget and business planning process for next fiscal year.	Dec. Mtg
FGC Prog. Mgr & TAC Chairs	Recommend process and timelines for updating Species Plans to reflect CBST and changes in future seed demand, with input from FIRM and others	Sept. or Dec Mtg
Brian	Circulate SelectSeed's 2018/19 Business Plan, as approved by its Board, to FGC for review and approval.	Completed
FGC	Review laws and principles governing seed pricing.	TBD
Brian	Issue Doodle Poll for FGC, SelectSeed AGM and BC Forest Genetics Society AGM in June, and provide details regarding Golden Field trip for Sept 26-27	Completed

*Shane F also noted the 20-yr breeding plans are substantially complete but will require additional work to align with the new climate-based seed transfer framework. Plans will be shared in the near future.

Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held March 15, 2018 are hereby approved. Scott/Mark. Carried.

Action Items from April 10, 2018:

Pat	For the next generation lodgepole pine replacement orchards, draft a proposed process and timeline with key steps and decision points.	Completed See Agenda #5
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Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held April 10, 2018 are hereby approved. Dan/Shane. Carried.

The above approved minutes will be posted on the [FGC website](#), which is accessible to the public.

3. LBIS Budget Update

On March 15, 2018, FGC recommended the following budget recommendations for the LBIS Tree Improvement Program for 2018/19. On March 28, 2018, Brian sent a letter to Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester, with the following budget allocation recommendations.

Table 1: FGC’s Recommended LBIS Budget for 2018/19

Program	Budget
Genetic Conservation	\$ 219,845
Tree Breeding (Vol & Pests)	\$ 1,610,338
Resilience (e.g. CBST)	\$ 521,159
OTIP	\$ 348,658
Total	\$ 2,700,000

Pat Martin provided a verbal update to FGC on the allocation of LBIS funding to the provincial forest genetics activities. Only \$2.5M total was available and allocated. The Ministry considered the recommendations of FGC and its TACs in allocating these LBIS funds to FGC’s various programs and activities. Adjustments were also made to some proposed projects in the OTIP (grafting), white bark pine (best management practices), and ministry’s breeding programs.

Action: Pat to forward ministry’s LBIS budget allocations to FGC’s program and activities.

4. Climate-based seed transfer (CBST)

Margot Spence, Seed Policy Officer, provided an update on CBST policy, implementation and analyses. A separate document was provided.

CBST has now been incorporated into SPAR. Persons can identify suitable seed under the old geographic-based system and CBST system for the two-year transition period. Cone collection registration standards also now align with CBST.

The ministry, with Forsite Consulting, continue to assess the impacts of CBST on seed inventories and to identify possible seed supply gaps. The policy working group and tree breeders are also developing CBST plans for orchard populations and breeding zones. These analyses, seed supply gaps, and implementation options, will be reviewed with the stakeholder working group and others.

An updated CBST introduction webinar was posted on the Ministry [CBST website](#). Article was published in the ABCFP’s Forest Professional [May-June Issue](#). CBST presentations at CSC (June 5) and Cone Collections workshops (June). SPAR training sessions will also be offered in August, and additional information bulletins are in development.

5. Pli Breeding Strategy and Next Steps

Further to FGC’s discussions regarding the advancement of second generation Pli orchards, Pat Martin circulated a document “A proposed process and timeline for next generation for the new BV – April 19, 2018.docx”. This document was subsequently revised by Pat based on his discussions with others and comments received.

On May 19, Pat also circulated a Pli orchard expansion plan prepared by Nick Ukranietz. This plan outlines the target composition of new seed orchards for the Bulkley Valley and timelines for the associated activities. Additional FGC comments and further discussion on these proposed plans, process and timelines are welcome.

It is hoped Margot, Jack Woods and ITAC can identify seed needs and #s orchards ramets required for the new Pli zone(s) in advance of FGC’s Sept meeting. Once the target # of ramets have been identified, FGC can advise on orchard ramet allocations based on party interests and available sites etc. FGC may also confirm if SelectSeed should be involved in the replacement orchards. Proponents will be required to develop an orchard plan and enter into an agreement with the ministry prior to the latter releasing scion and parent tree information.

Jack is using RESULTS data to determine planting # by species and BEC variants over the past 5 years. Future seed needs could be quite different from past demand with anticipated shifts in species harvest profiles (post MPB), wildfire restoration, and AAC changes. A comprehensive, 3rd party, spatial seed needs analysis that incorporates future timber supply and harvest forecasts would therefore be beneficial. A working group required to develop terms of reference. It was also suggested orchard managers might be able to contribute financially. It was also noted that completing such an exercise by September would be optimistic.

Henry reminded FGC of SelectSeed's mandate and potential role in filling seed supply gaps. Jeff also asked if FGC knows if there are other interested parties, and should the opportunity be offered to other entities? These questions will be discussed at the Sept. meeting.

Action: Pat to circulate revised "Process and timelines for next generation Pli replacement orchards for the new Bulkley Valley zone" (dated April 24).

Action: FGC to review updated process and timelines and provide comments to Pat by July 16.

Action: Pat, Jeff, Kori and Brian to develop terms of reference (scope, process etc.) for undertaking future seed needs analysis for Pli under CBST, with support from FIRM staff and consultant(s) as appropriate.

6. Forest Health Objective and Performance Measure

FGC's Forest Health objective and performance measure in the [2015-2020 Strategic Plan](#) reads:

OBJECTIVE 5: Use of pest resistance seed for reforestation

Performance Measure: Increase the use of seed with a genetic gain for pest resistance to 50% of select seed sown by 2035.

Brian reviewed how this new objective was determined (see description in meeting agenda).

Margot presented an overview of new genetic worth (GW) codes for growth, pest resistance and other selected traits. A separate handout was provided. The new GW system has been implemented in SPAR. Three-letter GW acronyms are now used to identify improvements for growth (G), animal damage (A), wood properties (W), insects (I), and disease (D). The wild stand bench mark for pest damage or mortality is 50% - so a GW of 80% would represent a 30% improvement in resistance over wild stand seed sources.

The new codes could influence orchard managers decisions re crop collections and ramet selections. FGC's objective and performance measure for forest health could also be reviewed in consideration of these new codes and measures in developing its next strategic plan.

Action: Margot to provide information re new GW codes to orchard managers, ITAC and CTAC, and seed users ASAP.

7. OTIP Review

Annette has prepared and circulated a draft discussion paper on OTIP projects and funding eligibility. This has had limited distribution and feedback so far. Questions remain re OTIP eligibility for orchard replacements. The discussion paper with options will be finalized for FGC's meeting in Sept.

Action: Annette to circulate OTIP discussion paper in advance of Sept meeting.

8. FGC Membership

Council members are appointed for a 3-year term. Mark Tamas's Industry Co-chair term ended on June 1. Mark served on council since June 2013, and as Industry Co-chair from June 2015. Mark was thanked for his contributions and service, and Domenico was appointed Co-chair by Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester.

Domenico's appointment creates a vacancy on council for the Coastal Seed Producer position. The 3-year terms for Joe, Scott, Gernot, and Rob also end in September 2018.

The Chief Forester appoints councilors based on nominations received from the stakeholder group(s) associated with a position on council. See [FGC Bylaws Articles 3 and 4](#).

Action: Joe, Scott, Gernot and Rob to consult with their respective stakeholder groups to confirm their continued service and/or solicit nominations for new representatives.

Action: Domenico and Annette to discuss recommendations for a new coastal seed producer rep.

Action: Pat and Brian to prepare suitable acknowledgements for any departing councilors.

9. News and Events

1. FGC website was updated to reflect the streamlined structure with fewer TACs. See 'Members Areas', which also includes new tab [Governance](#) that contains FGC and Society bylaws, CF seed orchard principles, conflict of interest guidelines as well as archived TAC sites.

2. Finland Tree Improvement Tour. Brian and several others from BC toured tree improvement facilities including research stations, seed orchards and seedling nurseries June 4-8, 2018. Brian provided a brief overview and highlights. A slide show and trip report will be provided in the near future.

3. BC Seed Orchard Association meeting was held June 19-20 in Penticton. Attendees were from across BC and Pacific NW. A 'retirement' dinner was also held for Jack Woods on June 18.

4. [Cone collections workshops](#) – were/will be held at the following dates and locations:

Nanaimo June 12
Vernon June 21
Castlegar June 26
Prince George June 28

These workshops are sponsored by the Ministry, TimberWest, BC Timber Sales, Coastal Silviculture Committee, Selkirk College and FGC.

10. New Business

It was recommended council review the [FGC Bylaws](#) (terms of reference) in consideration of the streamlined governance model. Discussion on this item was deferred.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be a field trip and business meeting in Golden BC on September 25-27, 2018. SelectSeed's Directors will also participate in the field trip and dinner. Field trip agenda was circulated and reviewed by host Scott King.

Members and guests are reminded to reserve rooms at the [Kicking Horse River Lodge](#). Location of field tour departure and dinner on Sept 26. There are a limited # of private rooms (\$128+ tax) and shared lofts (\$198+tax) being held under "Forest Genetics Council". 1-877-547-5266.

Attendees are encouraged to "team-up" with accommodation and travel.

Action: Brian will provide airline options for FGC's Sept meeting in Golden and assist with coordinating travel.

12. In camera session

In consideration of the time, the Chair recommended waiving the in-camera session.

Motion: The in camera session is hereby waived. Scott/Joe. Carried.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm

Motion: The meeting is hereby adjourned. Rob/Mark. Carried.

Approved Sept 27, 2018