



## MINUTES

### Forest Genetics Council – Meeting March 12, 2008

#### Location: Best Western Richmond Inn - Richmond BC

*Attending:* Brian Barber, Joe Leblanc, Bruce MacNicol, Larry Promnitz, Annette van Niejenhuis, Mike Madill, Alvin Yanchuk

*Regrets:* Mike Carlson, John Elmslie, Frank Gundersen, Chris Hawkins, Gary Hogan, Scott King, Al McDonald

*Proxy votes:* Alvin for Michael Carlson; Bruce for John Elmslie and Chris Hawkins; Mike Madill for Scott King; Brian for Al MacDonald and Gary Hogan

*Support:* Keith Thomas, Jack Woods

*Guests:* Dave Kolotelo, Brian Saunders

### Action Items

| Responsibility                          | Action  |
|---|---|
| Program Manager<br>(Jack and others)    | <p>Draft a letter to Jim Snetsinger summarizing the key points and perspective of FGC with respect to the coast and interior broadleaf reports (Jack and Alvin).</p> <p>Post the coast and interior broadleaf reports on the FGC website after checking the status of intellectual property rights (Jack).</p> <p>Write a letter of recommendation to the MFR on behalf of the FGC regarding the scion distribution policy statement approved by Council.</p> <p>Inform the Extension TAC of the need for seed and forest genetics extension activities in the Southern Interior (and other Regions).</p> <p>Present the Tree Breeding Subprogram Review report to Council at the June FGC meeting.</p> <p>Discuss the possibility of sharing the cost of a Douglas-fir reproductive biology manual with other jurisdictions, including the Northwest Tree Improvement Cooperative, the Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative, and Weyerhaeuser Co. in the Pacific Northwest.</p> <p>Discuss training on seed supply and planning with the Extension TAC and with MFR staff leading SPAR training.</p> |
| Brian Barber                            | <p>a. Discuss the whitebark pine information note with Craig Sutherland and the Forest Practices Branch and report back to the FGC. b. Ask Craig if this information note should be sent out by the Chief Forester or by Council.</p> <p>Discuss first nations membership on the FGC with Jim Snetsinger.</p> <p>Deliver a statement at Charlie Johnson's memorial on behalf of the FGC and forward details on the memorial to FGC members.</p>   |
| Program Financial Administrator (Keith) | Determine if the \$1,000 membership to the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation can be paid from the 2007/08 FIA Tree Improvement Program budget.  |
| All FGC members                         | Consult within their jurisdictions regarding the merits of applying the rule allowing 5% planting outside seed zone boundaries to Forest Practice Code blocks.  |

### Summary of Motions Carried:

1. **MOVED:** (Leblanc / van Niejenhuis): Minutes of the meeting held December 12, 2007 are hereby approved as amended – CARRIED.
2. **MOVED:** (van Niejenhuis; Promnitz): Council supports the policy statement guiding the distribution of scion and grafted material from parent trees, and will recommend to the Ministry of Forests and Range that this policy be followed when appropriate – CARRIED.
3. **MOVED:** Council gives the GCTAC the mandate to allocate funds that were to have been directed to an FTE in the MFR to projects that are in accordance with the GCTAC budget plan: (Yanchuk / van Niejenhuis) - CARRIED.
4. **MOVED** that Council approves the SelectSeed Business Plan as presented for 2008/09 (van Niejenhuis, Promnitz) - CARRIED.
5. **MOVED** that Council endorses budget Option 2 (in the table shown above) if the allocation to the FIA Forest Genetic Conservation and Management Program is \$5.67 million or Option 3 if the allocation is about \$5.58 million. Should the final budget allocation differ substantially from the range of \$5.67 to \$5.58 million, Jack and Keith will bring further options before Council for a decision on subprogram allocations. (Madill / Promnitz) - CARRIED.
6. **MOVED** that Dale Draper is to receive an FGC Achievement Award in addition to the acrylic cone award, in recognition of his significant contributions to Council and forest genetics. (MacNicol / Madill) - CARRIED.
7. **MOVED** that the FGC endorses the concept of allowing a company to group their 5% allowance for planting outside defined seed zones for all of their licenses within a Timber Supply Area (Madill / van Niejenhuis) – CARRIED.

### Meeting called to order at 09:15 A.M. by Brian Barber (Co-Chair)

**Agenda:** Accepted with additions

#### 1. Approval of Minutes, December 12, 2007

Item 9, Pope and Talbot: typo - change from 2009 to 2008.

1. **MOVED:** (Leblanc / van Niejenhuis): Minutes of the meeting held December 12, 2007 are hereby approved as amended – CARRIED.

#### 2. Old Business and Action Items from December 12, 2007

**A) ITAC and CTAC review of Broadleaf Reports** – Annette van Niejenhuis and Jack Woods  
Coastal Report - some discussion and questions around the inventory numbers used. Pest threats were missing and this is an important consideration.

Interior Report – Does not recommend TI work for Broadleaves but does recommend genecology\conservation work. Use of broadleaves for Biofuels is not mentioned.

The reports are acknowledged by the FGC. Genecology work is needed and will be a focus of the Genecology and Climate Change review to be undertaken by Council.

**Action:** Jack and Alvin to draft a letter to Jim Snetsinger summarizing the key points and perspective of FGC.

**Action:** Post reports on the FGC website after checking the status of intellectual property rights (Jack).

**B) Whitebark pine information note – Jack Woods**

**Action:** Brian to discuss the information note with Craig Sutherland and the Forest Practices Branch and report back to FGC. Also, Brian will ask Craig if the information note should be sent out by the Chief Forester or by Council.

**C) FIA Tree Improvement Program Name Change to Forest Genetics Conservation and Management Program– Brian Barber**

Brian, Alvin and Jack met with Doug Konkin in February and Doug supported the name change. It will be recommended to the Forest Investment Council and implemented by FIA staff.

**D) Policy Regarding Limited Scion – Annette van Niejenhuis and Jack Woods**

**Recommended Scion Allocation Policy**

Where the demand for scion or grafted material from a forward-selected parent tree exceeds supply, scion or grafts will be allocated equally among parties with approved orchards who express a timely interest in receiving scion or grafts from the parent tree.

2. **MOVED** Council supports the policy statement guiding the distribution of scion and grafted material from parent trees, and will recommend to the Ministry of Forests and Range that this policy be followed when appropriate. (van Niejenhuis; Promnitz) - CARRIED.

**E) Posting documents on the FGC website – Jack Woods**

The FGC website has been modified and a password access section has been established. It will be fully implemented in the next few weeks.

**F) Climate Change and Seed Transfer committee – Jack Woods**

This was put on hold until the Breeding Program Review was completed, but will now be activated, as the tree breeding review committee has completed its meetings.

**3. Genetic Conservation position in the MFR; letter from Deputy Chief Forester – Brian Barber/Jack Woods**

The MFR is reluctant to add a new position to the organization at this time. Council now has to decide how to increase activities in this area and increase collaboration among agencies.

This item will be discussed during budget discussions, as it has budget implications for the Conservation subprogram.

**4. Subprogram budgets and business planning for 2008/09**

**FIC expectations; budget allocation – Jack Woods**

The total allocation to the FIA Genetic Conservation and Management Program is expected to be in the range of \$5.6 million, but the final figure is not yet known. As a result, budgets discussed in this

meeting can only be approximate and will have to be finalized when the final allocation is announced by the Forest Investment Council.

#### **Genetic Conservation - Dave Kolotelo**

The Genetic Conservation subprogram budget approved by the GCTAC was presented. Three funding levels were described ( \$423K , \$415K, and \$411K ). As the Conservation FTE in the MFR was not approved, a request is made for an allocation of \$112,500 (50%) of the Conservation Plan amount recommended for the FTE) to allow the GCTAC to attempt to find a way to get the work done that was to have been part of the FTE's responsibility. The GCTAC is asking Council for the authority to allocate the amount of \$112,500 during the fiscal year provided activities are in accordance with the previously approved Genetic Conservation plan.

3. **MOVED:** Council gives the GCTAC the mandate to allocate funds that were to have been directed to an FTE in the MFR to projects that are in accordance with GCTAC budget plan: (Yanchuk / van Niejenhuis) - CARRIED.

#### **Tree Breeding – Alvin Yanchuk**

The compiled budgets presented to species committees and approved by the Coast and Interior TAC's was presented. The total request is \$2.53 million. Reduced options go to a minimum of \$2.4 million.

#### **OTIP – Keith Thomas**

The Operational Tree Improvement Program call for proposals and review process proceeded on schedule for both the Coast and Interior. Review committees recommend a total budget of \$791,000. Risk-managed options from \$25,000 to \$35,000 were presented. The maximum budget request, with \$25,000 risk managed is \$766,000.

#### **Extension – Keith Thomas**

The Extension subprogram projects were reviewed and recommended by the Extension TAC. Projects and salary sum to a total request of \$120,000. A reduced budget option of \$117,000 was also presented.

Discussion ensued on a recommendation in the budget to support the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation with a \$1000 membership for the FGC. There is a possibility that this could be paid from unallocated 2007/08 FIA funds.

**Action:** Keith to determine if the \$1,000 Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation membership can be paid from the 2007/08 FIA Tree Improvement Program budget.

Mike Madill raised the point that there is a need for extension on seed and forest genetics topics in the southern interior as there have been many staff changes recently and new staff are often poorly informed about tree seed and tree improvement programs.

**Action:** Jack will inform the Extension TAC of the need for seed and forest genetics extension activities in Southern Interior (and other Regions) .

#### **Genetic Resource Decision Support – Brian Barber**

A recommended name change from the Genetic Resource Information Management to the Genetic Resource Decision Support subprogram is recommended by the advisory committee. This is accepted by Council.

A project budget totaling \$130,000 was presented.

#### **Seed Orchard and Pest Management – Jack for Robb Bennett**

The Pest Management TAC met several times during the fall and winter. A budget package totaling \$429,000 was presented. This includes research, operational extension support, and salary. A budget reduction to \$420,000 could be considered if necessary.

**SelectSeed Ltd. – Jack Woods**

Jack presented the SelectSeed Co. Ltd. Business Plan for 2008/09. The Business Plan was approved by the SelectSeed Board on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The total budget presented for 2008/09 is \$778,000.

4. **MOVED** that Council approves the SelectSeed Business Plan as presented for 2008/09 (van Niejenhuis / Promnitz). **CARRIED.**

**Incremental Projects – Jack Woods**

A) Applied Biotechnology Project (Yousry El-Kassaby):

The project Steering Committee reviewed and approved the project plan for 2008/09. The budget request is for a total of \$254,000. Budget reduction scenarios to \$242,000 were discussed. Cuts would reduce lab and chemical allotments.

B) Cone Induction Project (Patrick von Aderkas).

The project Steering Committee reviewed and approved the project plan for 2008/09 with a total budget request of \$148,000. No budget reduction scenarios are advised, as the project has little room for cuts without compromising the desired outcomes.

C) UNBC Post Doc. This is the final year of the three-year commitment of \$150,000 per year.

**2008/09 FIA Forest Genetic Conservation and Management Program concept budget**

**2008/09 budget**

| Subprogram or project                              | Requested<br>Option 1 | Option 2           | Option 3           |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Genetic Conservation                               | \$423,000             | \$415,000          | \$411,000          |
| Tree Breeding**                                    | \$2,530,000           | \$2,460,200        | \$2,400,200        |
| Operational Tree Improvement Program (OTIP)        | \$766,000             | \$761,000          | \$756,000          |
| Extension and Communication                        | \$120,000             | \$117,000          | \$117,000          |
| Genetic Resource Decision Support                  | \$130,000             | \$120,000          | \$110,000          |
| Seed and Cone Pest Management                      | \$429,000             | \$420,000          | \$420,000          |
| Administration*                                    | \$55,000              | \$55,000           | \$55,000           |
| Expansion of Class A Seed Supply (SELECTSEED Ltd.) | \$778,000             | \$778,000          | \$770,000          |
| <b>Incremental projects</b>                        |                       |                    |                    |
| Cone induction (UVic)                              | \$148,800             | \$148,800          | \$148,800          |
| Applied Biotech (UBC)                              | \$254,000             | \$245,000          | \$242,000          |
| Post docs (UNBC)                                   | \$150,000             | \$150,000          | \$150,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>\$5,783,000</b>    | <b>\$5,670,000</b> | <b>\$5,580,000</b> |

### Budget allocations and Resolution:

5. **MOVED** that Council endorses budget Option 2 (in the table shown above) if the allocation to the FIA Forest Genetic Conservation and Management Program is \$5.67 million or Option 3 if the allocation is about \$5.58 million. Should the final budget allocation differ substantially from the range of \$5.67 to \$5.58 million, Jack and Keith will bring further options before Council for a decision on subprogram allocations. (Madill / Promnitz): CARRIED.

### 5. **Dr. Yousry El-Kassaby: presentation on work supported through Applied Biotechnology project**

Yousry provided Council with an excellent overview of his projects.

### 6. **Tree breeding subprogram review**

The review of the Tree Breeding subprogram is currently underway. The review committee met twice and a draft report is currently being reviewed prior to being submitted to Council at the June 2008 FGC meeting.

Action: Jack to present the Tree Breeding Subprogram Review report to Council at the June FGC meeting.

### 7. **Provincial Government regulatory review update – Brian Barber**

Brian provided a brief update of the regulatory review that is currently underway. Council members are encouraged to provide input to the MFR.

### 8. **Recognition Award**

6. **MOVED** that Dale Draper is to receive an FGC Achievement Award, in addition to the acrylic cone award, in recognition of his significant contributions to Council and forest genetics. (MacNicol / Madill) - CARRIED.

Note: Preparation of and receipt of the award at this time will depend on whether Dale successfully moves to a new position in the MFR. Should he remain with the Tree Improvement Branch and as Co-chair of the FGC, presentation will be delayed indefinitely.

### 9. **New Business**

#### A) **GRM Challenge Dialogue Update – Brian Barber**

The Dialogue is now complete and was presented to Doug Konkin. Doug was pleased with the work and has suggested it be presented to the Forest Investment Council.

#### B) **Access and ownership of Material – Brian Barber**

Brian has initiated discussions with industry on the issue of ownership and access to selected parent tree material. The objective will be to find a way to meet everyone's needs on this issue.

#### C) **Membership on Council - First nations; ABCFP – Brian Barber**

The First Nations Forestry Council has a new CEO and it is suggested that the issue of first nations membership on the FGC be revisited.

Action: Brian will discuss first nations membership on the FGC with Jim Snetsinger.

Brian raised the question of whether it was desirable to seek representation of the Association of BC Forest Professionals on the FGC. Council felt it was not required as a number of Council members are ABCFP members.

**D) Douglas-fir Reproductive Biology Manual - Alvin Yanchuk**

Dr. John Owens approached Alvin regarding the possibility of preparing an updated manual on the reproductive biology of Douglas-fir. This project was discussed by the Extension TAC but rejected as too expensive and not a priority. Alvin raised the point that Dr. Owens is an expert in this area, and is currently retired. The opportunity to have his expertise summarized in a manual prepared may not be available for too many more years. Estimated cost \$25,000. It was agreed that this project could be considered for risk management or if funds free up during the year. Sharing with other jurisdictions would be desirable. Other experts, like Patrick von Aderkas, should also be consulted.

**Actions:** Jack will discuss the possibility of sharing the cost of a Douglas-fir reproductive biology manual with other jurisdictions, including the Northwest Tree Improvement Cooperative, the Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative, and Weyerhaeuser Co. in the Pacific Northwest.

**E) Alternatives to Chief Forester's Standards - Brian Barber**

A request has come from Tolko regarding an alternative to the CF Standards for Seed Use that would allow grouping the 5% allowance for planting outside defined seed zones across all licenses in a TSA that are owned by a single operator. The proposal appears to have merit.

7. **MOVED** that the FGC endorses the concept of allowing a company to group their 5% allowance for planting outside defined seed zones for all of their licenses within a Timber Supply Area (Madill / van Niejehhuis) – CARRIED.

**Action:** FGC members will consult within their jurisdictions regarding the merits of applying the rule allowing 5% planting outside seed zone boundaries to Forest Practice Code blocks.

**F) Communicating information on seed supply and production with field staff - Mike Madill**

Many silviculture field-staff changes in recent years have resulted in a high percentage of staff being unfamiliar with seed supply planning and programs. Mike suggested that the FGC and its Extension subprogram should have a role in providing information to field staff. The possibility of combining SPAR training with seed planning information is a possibility.

**Action:** Jack will discuss training on seed supply and planning with the Extension TAC and with MFR staff leading SPAR training.

**G) Memorial for Charlie Johnson - Brian**

Brian acknowledged the recent sad passing of Charlie Johnson and spoke of the support Charlie provided tree improvement and forest genetics activities during his tenure as Director of the Silviculture Branch of the MFR. It was agreed that some words of remembrance should be contributed at an upcoming memorial on behalf of the FGC.

**Action:** Brian will deliver a statement at Charlie Johnson's memorial on behalf of the FGC and will forward details on the memorial to FGC members.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

**Next meeting: June 11, 2008**

Minutes prepared by:

*Keith Thomas* and

