

MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council – Meeting September 17, 2008

Vernon Seed Orchard Company Office – 6555 Bench Row Rd, Vernon, BC

Attending: Annette Van Niejenhuis, Brian Barber, John Elmslie, Frank Gundersen, Scott King, Joe Leblanc, Bruce MacNicol, Alvin Yanchuk, and Al McDonald

Regrets: Gary Hogan (Proxy to Brian Barber), Chris Hawkins (Proxy to John Elmslie), Mike Madill, Larry Promnitz, Mike Carlson

Others: Keith Thomas and Jack Woods

Guests: Tim Lee, Dan Gaudet, Leslie McAuley, Matt LeRoy, Lee Charleson, Greg O'Neill, Diane Douglas, David Reid, Roger Painter.

Action Items

Responsibility	Action
Program Manager	<p>Organize a vote to elect a 5th SelectSeed board member after contacting one of the nominees from the June FGC meeting.</p> <p>Send the Discussion Paper on industry participation in seed orchards to FGC, Coast TAC and Interior TAC members for comment. Comments to be presented to the FGC in December 2008.</p> <p>Draft a new strategic plan for the period 2009/10 and send to FGC by November 15th. Councilors will return comments to Jack by December 1st. Jack will incorporate comments, seek input from Jim Snetsinger, and present a draft at the FGC December 2008 meeting.</p>
Council members	<p>Brian to follow-up with Jim Snetsinger and Craig Sutherland on getting an audience for the FGC with Minister Pat Bell.</p> <p>All councilors: submit ideas that will improve forest productivity and value and are incremental to current activities set out in the FGC Business Plan.</p> <p>Councilors to submit to Brian tree improvement ideas that are incremental to current activities, and will improve forest productivity and value.</p> <p>Annette and Michael to put the Discussion Paper on industry participation in seed orchards on the agendas for the fall 2008/winter 2009 CTAC and ITAC meetings.</p> <p>Brian to report back to Council on the outcome of an audit of the seed selection standard.</p> <p>Options for John to continue as industry Co-Chair will be discussed with COFI by Bruce and Scott and with CFPA by Annette and Joe. They will report back to Council on or before the December 2008 Council meeting.</p>
Program Financial Coordinator	Mail-out 2008/09 Business Plan

Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (Van Niejenhuis / MacNicol): Minutes of the meeting held June 11, 2008 are hereby approved. **CARRIED**.
2. **MOVED** (King / Barber): The FGC Annual Report for 2007/08 is hereby approved for publication and distribution. **CARRIED**.

3. **MOVED** (Van Niejenhuis / Barber): The report of the Genecology and Seed transfer review Committee, dated September 12, 2008, is hereby accepted. CARRIED.
4. **MOVED** (Leblanc / King): A Seed Transfer Subprogram as described in the September 12, 2008 report of the Genecology and Seed Transfer Review Committee will be established effective today, and begin business planning to develop performance indicators, priorities, and a call for proposals for funding in the 2009/10 fiscal year. CARRIED.
5. **MOVED** (Barber / McDonald): Council appoints Lee Charleson as Chair of the Seed Transfer TAC, and tasks Lee to establish TAC membership and implement the recommendations of the Genecology and Seed transfer review Committee report (as amended) dated September 12, 2008. CARRIED.
6. **MOVED** (Van Niejenhuis / McNicol): Council approves the transfer of approx \$50,000 to the Breeding Subprogram to fund the final measurement of genetics research installations impacted by the sale of WFP private lands near Jordan River, and \$10,000 for additional lodgepole pine seed-set work to be undertaken by Patrick von Aderkas, Joe Webber, and Mike Carlson. CARRIED.

Meeting called to order at 08:30 A.M. by John Elmslie (Co-Chair)

John Elmslie and Brian Barber extended special thanks to the Vernon Seed Orchard Company for hosting the FGC and inviting FGC members to their 20th anniversary celebrations.

Agenda: Accepted as presented, with no changes.

1. Approval of June 11, 2008 minutes:

1. **MOVED** (van Niejenhuis / MacNicol): Minutes of the meeting held June 11, 2008 are hereby approved. CARRIED.

2. Old Business and Action Items from June 11, 2008

CTAC and ITAC Chairs: Species Committees – Annette Van Niejenhuis\Jack Woods

Emails have been sent to Coastal and Interior members regarding meeting process and dates. CTAC will provide OTIP eligibility lists in October-November, with species committees meeting in January-February. ITAC will modify the existing meeting structure to allow a business meeting that is separate from the technical presentations. Chairs will consider setting fixed dates for committee meetings well in advance (1 year) to help with improving process-efficiency.

Letter from Jim Snetsinger Re: Broadleaves:

Letter was sent to Jim in August. No response at this time.

3. Select Seed Board Membership – Jack Woods

The SelectSeed Board currently has 4 of 5 members; Shane Browne-Clayton's term expired on August 31, 2008. One nominee from the June FGC meeting has not yet been reached as he is out of the country.

Action: Jack will organize a vote to elect a 5th SelectSeed board member after contacting one of the nominees from the June FGC meeting.

4. FGC Annual Report for 2007/08 and 2008/09– Jack Woods

Jack presented an overview of the 2007/08 FGC Annual Report. Select seed use was nearly 55% of provincial sowing, which was down to about 221 million from 270 million the previous year. The average genetic worth of seed dropped to 12.4%, slightly down from the previous year due to the use of lower-gain Pli seed.

Orchard seed produced was a high of 2,483.8 kg; roughly \$10M potential value and about 252 million seedlings.

2. **MOVED** (King / Barber): The FGC Annual Report for 2007/08 is hereby approved for publication and distribution. CARRIED.

FGC Business Plan has been published and will be mailed out shortly.

Action: Keith to mail-out the 2008/09 Business Plan.

5. Growing Healthy and Productive Forests – Brian Barber

Brian provided a brief overview of a summary paper that is being written for the new Minister of Forests and Range, Pat Bell. It will outline Ministry options for growing more productive forests. Areas for consideration in the GRM program are: 1) improving seed-use efficiency, 2) seedling extension services, and 3) producing high-gain seedlots through controlled crossing or somatic embryogenesis. Brian invited Council to submit ideas for Incremental TI activities that will improve forest productivity.

Action: Brian to follow-up with Jim Snetsinger and Craig Sutherland on getting an audience for the FGC with Minister Bell.

Action: Councilors to submit to Brian tree improvement ideas that are incremental to current activities and will improve forest productivity and value.

6. Presentation on Climate –based seed transfer – Greg O'Neill

Greg presented the science behind seed transfer, climatic seed transfer zones, and different seed transfer systems. New seed transfer systems based on climate must be developed and implemented to allow effective matching of seed to climates under climate change. Greg proposes a “progressive seed transfer system” with multiple small zones that can be aggregated for seed deployment and administrative purposes. This topic will receive substantial discussion as policy is further developed. Council thanked Greg for his work and presentation.

7. Report of the Genecology and Seed Transfer Review Committee

On behalf of the Committee, Jack presented the final report. The reasons for this report are: 1) FGC has no ability to set targets or track progress at a provincial level for genecology research and seed transfer policy, 2) Genecology research priorities are not ranked separately from tree breeding priorities, 3) Genecology research funding is not widely accessible, 4) seed transfer policy development is not eligible for support.

Recommendations outlined in the report include:

- a) Establish a new subprogram of the FGC called the Seed Transfer Subprogram
- b) Set up a Seed Transfer TAC at the level of the GCTAC and PMTAC with Chair appointed by FGC
- c) Develop a priority ranking system
- d) Shift breeding program genecology work to Seed Transfer Subprogram
- e) Establish performance indicators at the Provincial and project levels
- f) Begin business planning now
- g) Develop objectives for the new FGC Strategic Plan (2009-2014)

3. **MOVED** (Van Niejenhuis / Barber): The report of the Genecology and Seed transfer review Committee, dated September 12, 2008, is hereby accepted. CARRIED.
4. **MOVED** (Leblanc / King): A Seed Transfer Subprogram as described in the September 12, 2008 report of the Genecology and Seed transfer Review Committee will be established effective today, and begin business planning to develop performance indicators, priorities, and a call for proposals for funding in the 2009/10 fiscal year. CARRIED.
5. **MOVED** (Barber / McDonald): Council appoints Lee Charleson as Chair of the Seed Transfer TAC, and tasks Lee to establish TAC membership and implement the recommendations of the Genecology and Seed transfer review Committee report (as amended) dated September 12, 2008. CARRIED.

8. **Proposed process for changes to seed transfer standards – Lee Charleson**

Lee provided an overview of the proposed process for seed transfer standard changes. November 25, 2008 is the final date to have policy changes submitted. As a result input from FGC, TACs, Species Committees, and the Provincial FRPA implementation team need to be completed by the end of October. Legal drafting of the Standards and Parent Tree registry tables is to be completed by mid-November. If everything goes as planned the policy would then be in effect April 1, 2009.

9. **Proposals for the use of excess Genetic Conservation Subprogram funds – Keith\Alvin**

The Genetic Conservation subprogram will be under-spent by approximately \$63,000 due to the timing and need associated with the salary component. Alvin requested money for the Breeding Subprogram (\$50k) to measure field trials impacted by the Western Forest Products sale of private land. Mike Carlson has requested \$10k for a joint project, to be run by Patrick von Aderkas of U. Victoria, that will further investigate the causes of poor seed set in southern lodgepole pine orchards.

6. **MOVED** (Van Niejenhuis / McNicol): Council approves the transfer of approx \$50,000 to the Breeding Subprogram to fund the final measurement of genetics research installations impacted by the sale of WFP private lands near Jordan River, and \$10,000 for additional lodgepole pine seed-set work to be undertaken by Patrick von Aderkas, Joe Webber, and Mike Carlson. CARRIED.

10. **Ministry and Industry orchard-seed production and use Issues – Jack/Brian/Annette**

Annette addressed the cash flow problems some private sector orchards are having. Current industry conditions, orchard seed prices, and orchard operating costs are not allowing some sites to generate sufficient revenue to cover costs. This could result in the loss of some orchards, impacting FGC objectives for class A seed production. Discussion ensued around the basic principles and purpose of the FGC and associated funding. Jack brought to the attention of Council a Discussion Paper that he had prepared on the topic. It was agreed that FGC members and technical committee members should review and comment on the Discussion Paper.

Action: **Jack** to send the Discussion Paper to FGC, Coast TAC, and Interior TAC members for comment. Comments to be presented to the FGC in December 2008.

Action: **Annette** and **Michael** to put this item on the agendas for the fall 2008/winter 2009 CTAC and ITAC meetings.

Action: **Brian** to report back to Council on the outcome of an audit of the seed selection standard.

11. FGC 5-yr Strategic Plan Update – Jack

The current FGC 5-yr Strategic Plan is for the period 2004 to 2008. Development of a new plan is a natural progression of the Challenge Dialogue process. Jack provided an overview of the framework for the strategic plan and its primary elements.

Action: Jack will draft a new strategic plan for the period 2009/10 and send to FGC by November 15th. Councilors will return comments to Jack by December 1st. Jack will incorporate comments, seek input from Jim Snetsinger, and present a draft at the FGC December 2008 meeting.

12. Business Planning 2009/10 – Jack / Keith

Jack provided an overview of the Business Planning Cycle (see Appendix 1). Council agreed that this process was appropriate for the upcoming fiscal year.

13. Presentation to the Forest Investment Council – Brian / Jack

A Forest Investment Council meeting is planned for October 9, 2008. Jack, Brian and Keith will attend and make a presentation on the FIA Forest Genetics Conservation and Management program. The purpose of the presentation is to provide an update and guidance on future directions and needs.

14. FGC Membership and Industry Co-Chair – all

Discussion ensued around John Elmslie's proposed resignation from Council due to his retirement from Winton Global. Council members agreed that they would like to have John continue as industry Co-Chair, but that a renewed mandate is required from the Council of Forest Industries and the Coast Forest Products Association. Bruce MacNicol and Scott King agreed to approach COFI, and Joe leBlanc and Annette van Niejenhuis agreed to approach CFPA. Final Decision will be made at the December Council meeting.

Action: Options for John to continue as industry Co-Chair will be discussed with COFI by **Bruce** and **Scott** and with CFPA by **Annette** and **Joe**. They will report back to Council on or before the December 2008 Council meeting.

15. New Business

None

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Next meeting: December 17th, 2008

Minutes prepared by,

Keith Thomas and



Appendix 1: Business Planning Process

Council will use the following planning process for development of the 2009/10 Business Plan

- **October / November**

- Prepare OTIP eligibility lists (Species committees and TACs)
- Issues

- **December FGC meeting**

- Issues and process reviewed

- **January / February**

- Species committees and TACs meet
- Breeders present programs and budgets
- OTIP and Genecology/Seed Transfer reviews
- Subprograms develop business plans
- Incremental project reviewed by Steering Committees
- Final FIC allocation

- **March FGC meeting**

- Budget development (all subprograms)
- Recommendation to MoFR and FIC

- **April**

- Implementation