

## MINUTES

### Forest Genetics Council – Conference Call April 30, 2009

Attending: Annette van Niejenhuis, Brian Barber, Frank Gundersen, Scott King, Joe Leblanc, Bruce MacNicol, Al McDonald, Mike Carlson, Chris Hawkins, Madeline Maley, Garry Hogan

Regrets: Alvin Yanchuk, Larry Promintz

Others: Jim Snetsinger, Keith Thomas, Jack Woods, Cheri Tayler,

Guests: Rob Guy, Gerry Still, Tim Lee

### Summary of action Items

Responsibility	Action
Program Manager	Respond to the request for information from the Pacific Carbon Trust with a suggestion for the sale of offsets for select seed use through a cooperative approach coordinated by SelectSeed Ltd. and the FGC. The RFI submission will be distributed to Council members.  Forward the FGC letter-of-support for the CIF Scientific Achievement Award to Annette by April 30 <sup>th</sup> .
Council members	<b>Brian Barber</b> will tell Shawn Mansfield that FGC is not able to provide support for the Whistler biotechnology conference.

### Summary of Motions:

1. **MOVED** (Mike Carlson / Bruce MacNicol): Accept Agenda as amended. **CARRIED**.
2. **MOVED** (Brian Barber / Mike Carlson): The recommended 2009/10 FIA FGCM subprogram budget allocations are approved as presented. **CARRIED** (Abstention - Chris Hawkins).

### Meeting called to order at 8:30 A.M. by Brian Barber (Co-Chair)

#### 1. Agenda:

Brian suggested re-ordering the agenda.

1. **MOVED** (Mike Carlson / Bruce MacNicol): Accept Agenda as amended. **CARRIED**.

#### 2. Comments to Council from Jim Snetsinger, Provincial Chief Forester

The following counselors, for whom this meeting will be their last, were thanked for their contributions and support: Mike Carlson, Research Branch, MFR. ITAC chair; Chris Hawkins, UNBC; Frank Gundersen, Northern Interior Seed User representative; Gary Hogan, CFS;

Alvin Yanchuk, Research Branch, MFR, and Mike Madill, MFR.

New members were welcomed to Council, and will begin their tenure following this meeting: Tim Lee, Vernon Seed Orchard Company, Rob Guy (UBC), and Gerry Still (MFR, Research Branch). Madeline Maley (MFR, Southern Interior Region) is currently a new member, and was also welcomed.

CF will seek nominations from the forest industry to fill the vacant FGC Industry Co-Chair; from the Federation of BC Woodlots and Community Forest Agreement Association for the northern-interior industry seed user position; and from the CFS for their seat on Council.

Budget pressures in the provincial government will affect the FGC FIA budget over the next few years. The 2009/10 FGC FIA allocation is \$5.0 million.

As set out in the new FGC Strategic plan, the mandate of Council is as follows. There is no expectation that this will change in the next few years:

- Multi-stakeholder advisory body, whose purpose is to champion GRM in British Columbia
- Oversee provincial GRM strategic and operational planning
- Develop recommendations regarding GRM priorities and resource allocations
- Coordinate stakeholder activities for efficiency, and
- Advise the Provincial Chief Forester on GRM policies and practices.

Future budgets will be tighter than in the past. As a result, Council should consider the following questions:

- Is the tree improvement priority list for species and seed planning units still relevant in light of declining planting #s, MPB, and climate change?
- How much genetic gain is enough? Are there missing gaps and opportunities?
- Can we stop investments in breeding for some seed planning units and just let existing orchards continue to produce seed with acceptable levels of gain?
- Do we have the right balance in funding being directed to conservation vs. seed transfer vs. breeding, and the supporting subprograms?

Also, I encourage you to consider the issues and options associated with managing and funding a dual system of both public and private seed orchards in BC. I'm awaiting Jack and Brian's report which is nearing completion and which, I hope, will serve to guide how we might maintain key orchards and seed production capacity in the province.

Government is interested in increasing investments in silviculture, including tree improvement, and recently released a discussion paper entitled Growing Opportunities, that is accessible on the MFR website. Council is encouraged to submit ideas and comments.

MFR staff will develop interim measures for assisting the migration of Lw and Fdi this year, in

addition to advancing climate-based seed transfer. Implementing these changes will have significant implications for the FGC, tree breeding programs, seed orchards, seed management, and information systems.

Opportunities for carbon credits through the Pacific Carbon Trust may also be worth exploring through a recently released request for information.

In closing I would like to applaud you for your accomplishments and success to-date. In particular, I would like to thank Jack Woods and Keith Thomas for their exceptional management, facilitation and administration of this program. Congratulations to Keith Thomas for being the successful candidate for the position of Director Operations, replacing Brian Storey, who retires at the end of May. Cheri Tayler will fill in for Keith for an interim period.

#### 4. 2009/10 budget

The FIA Forest Conservation and Management Program budget allocation for 2009/10 is \$5.0 million. A recommended breakdown by subprogram was presented by Jack Woods (see below)

#### **Forest Investment Account Forest Genetic Conservation and Management Program 2009/10 recommended budget by subprogram**

**FIA FGCM interim allocation = \$5,000,000**

Subprogram	2008/09	Option 1 Requested	Option 2	Option 3	March 11 concept bdgt.	Approved Apr. 30
Genetic Conservation	\$411,000	\$471,500	\$434,000	\$430,000	\$430,000	\$396,000
Tree Breeding*	\$2,421,200	\$2,400,000	\$2,230,000	\$2,150,000	\$2,150,000	\$2,032,000
Operational Tree Imp. Prog.	\$760,000	\$740,000	\$760,000	\$720,000	\$740,000	\$747,000
SelectSeed Ltd.	\$770,000	\$689,000	\$710,000 a	\$710,000 b	\$710,000	\$710,000
Extension and Communication	\$117,000	\$120,000	\$110,250	\$110,250	\$112,250	\$101,000
Cone and Seed Pest Mgt.	\$420,000	\$409,600	\$394,600	\$380,600	\$380,600	\$360,000
Genecology and Seed Transfer	\$0	\$475,000	\$425,000	\$375,000	\$362,000	\$300,000
Genetic Resource Decision Sup.	\$115,000	\$100,000	\$75,000	\$60,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Administration*	\$55,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$15,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$5,069,200</b>	<b>\$5,455,100</b>	<b>\$5,188,850</b>	<b>\$4,985,850</b>	<b>\$4,974,850</b>	<b>\$4,701,000</b>
<b>Incremental projects</b>						
<b>Research and information in support of MPB mitigation</b>						
Cone induction/crop enhance. (von Aderkas - UVic)	\$148,800	\$163,000	\$163,000	\$139,000	\$139,000	\$139,000
Applied Tree Impr. and biotechnology (YE-K UBC)	\$245,000	\$242,080	\$201,640	\$169,240	\$165,240	\$160,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$543,800</b>	<b>\$405,080</b>	<b>\$364,640</b>	<b>\$308,240</b>	<b>\$304,240</b>	<b>\$299,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,613,000</b>	<b>\$5,860,180</b>	<b>\$5,553,490</b>	<b>\$5,294,090</b>	<b>\$5,279,090</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

Specific subprogram budgets were also discussed.

- 2. MOVED** (Brian Barber / Mike Carlson): The recommended 2009/10 FIA FGCM subprogram budget allocations are approved as presented. **CARRIED** (Abstention - Chris Hawkins).

**5. IUFRO Biotechnology Conference support**

Council received a request from Shawn Mansfield, UBC ,to support the IUFRO Biotechnology Conference in Whistler in 2009. It was decided that, due to overall budget reductions, Council will not support this request..

**ACTION:** Brian Barber will tell Shawn Mansfield that FGC is not able to provide support for the Whistler biotechnology conference.

**6. Pacific Carbon Trust**

Jack Woods gave an overview of Pacific Carbon Trust, a provincial government initiative to purchase greenhouse gas offsets to neutralize carbon produced by provincial and municipal government operations in BC. The PCT has put out a request for information regarding the purchase of offsets in several forestry areas, including the use of select seed.

**ACTION:** Jack will respond to the request for information from the Pacific Carbon Trust with a suggestion for the sale of offsets for select seed use through a cooperative approach coordinated by SelectSeed Ltd. and the FGC. The RFI submission will be distributed to Council members.

**7. Seed Orchard Option Paper**

Brian Barber provided an overview of the status of the paper on issues and options regarding private sector participation in seed orchards. Process and discussions have been completed, a paper was prepared by Jack, and is currently being reviewed by Brian. This paper will be presented to Jim Snetsinger and distributed to Council members for comment and input.

**8. Canadian Institute of Forestry Scientific Achievement Award nomination**

Annette gave an overview of the CIF Scientific Achievement Award, for which she is nominating Sally Aitken. Jack had prepared a letter of support on behalf of Council. The letter was approved as written (with minor typo corrections) and will be forwarded to Annette.

**ACTION:** Jack to forward the FGC letter of support for the CIF Scientific Achievement Award to Annette by April 10th.

Brian also welcomed others to submit a letter of support for the nomination to Annette.

**9. Next Meeting – June 17, 2009 - Conference Call and/or Video Conference**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.**

Minutes prepared by Jack Woods and Cheri Tayler