

Draft Minutes - Forest Genetics Council of BC

8:30 am – 12:10 pm, Thursday, April 6, 2022

Participants

Forest Genetics Council of BC: Pat Martin, Domenico Iannidinaro, Annette van Niejenhuis, Bevin Wigmore, Bob Johnson, Dan Mazerolle, Gord Chipman, Jeff Mycock, Juergen Ehling, Katherine Spencer, Keith Thomas, Kona Van Diest

Regrets: Shane Berg.

Guests: Brian Barber, CEO, and Kerry McGourlick, President, SelectSeed, Kevin Astridge, FIRM

Proceedings

This meeting was held via GoTo video conference. Attachments were provided in advance and posted on [FGC's Secure Access](#). Meeting was Co-chaired by Pat and Domenico.

Summary of Motions

Motion: Council endorses the draft FGC Terms of Reference as presented and amended. Annette/Kat. Carried.

Motion: SelectSeed's Business Plan for the period 2022/23 is hereby approved. Annette/Bevin. Carried.

Summary of Actions

Person(s)	Actions	When
Pat	Seek Chief Forester sign-off on FGC Terms of Reference	ASAP
Co-chairs	Report to Kerry on FGC priorities and expectations for SelectSeed's services for 2022/23.	ASAP
Jeff and Gord	Discuss First Nations representation and report back	Next Mtg
Pat	Circulate Chief Forester's memo announcing amendments to the <i>Seed Use Standards</i> .	Following memo's release
Brian	Announce release of the Seed Planning Dashboards.	Upon completion
Brian	Add UBC's Landscape Genetic Diversity Project to future meeting.	Fall '22
Brian	Issue Doodle Poll for next meeting, including AGM's of the Society and SelectSeed, to be held in Nanaimo on either June 14 or 15	ASAP

1. Welcome, Intro & Agenda

There being adequate notice served and a quorum of members present, Domenico called the meeting to order. He welcomed guests and members - including Kona's attending her first FGC meeting - and reviewed the agenda.

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

2. Minutes and Action items from December 9, 2021.

Draft minutes were circulated in advance, and included as Attachment A.

Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held December 9, 2021 are hereby approved. Kat/Bob. Carried.

Action Items from December 9, 2021:

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Councillors	Comments and edits to the draft FGC Terms of Reference (ToR) to Brian with cc's to Pat and Domenico by January 5.	Completed
Pat	Discuss draft ToR, and proposed membership changes, including First Nations and Ministry representatives, with Diane Nicholls.	Completed
Councillors	Review next version of draft FGC ToR at next meeting.	See item 5
Brian	Follow-up with BC SOA 2022 organizing committee regarding sponsorship.	Completed \$3500 awarded.
Pat, Domenico and Brian	Prepare FGC letter to Ministry re its funding allocations to forest genetics programs ASAP.	Completed See item 8
Brian	Brian to discuss next steps in provincial orchard seed supply and demand analysis with Kat and Annette.	Completed See item 10
SelectSeed	Prepare a summary of the Company's orchard contract extension and management options, including financial scenarios for next meeting.	Completed See item 10
Keith, Annette Bevin	Subcommittee to review dashboard and provided recommendations on prioritizing items.	See item 4

3. Safety Updates

Members did not report any safety-related issues of note.

4. FGC and SelectSeed Dashboard

Brian updated the Dashboard (Attachment B) to include new items related to FGC's new strategic goals and SelectSeed's priorities for the upcoming year.

The subcommittee reviewing the Dashboard and FGC's priorities deferred a summary of their deliberations to the in camera session.

Action: Co-chairs to report to Kerry on FGC priorities and expectations for SelectSeed's services for 2022/23 ASAP.

5. FGC Terms of Reference

Pat presented the updated draft FGC Terms of Reference (Attachment C). Proposed changes to membership included addition of a First Nations' representative and non-specific roles for Ministry and Industry representatives to provide greater flexibility. Other changes reflect current organization and practices. Solicitation for new appointments to fill vacancies to follow CF's approval of the ToR.

Motion: Council endorses the draft FGC Terms of Reference, as presented and amended. Annette/Kat. Carried.

Action: Pat to seek Chief Forester's sign-off on the new FGC Terms of Reference.

Action: Jeff and Gord to discuss First Nations representation and report back next meeting.

6. CBST Update: Amendments to CF Standards

Kevin provided an update on amendments to the *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use* to implement 100% CBST-based seedling requests for the 2023 sowing season. Announcement of the changes were posted in the BC Gazette prior to April 1 so they can come into effect on August 1, 2022.

Action: Pat to circulate Chief Forester's memo announcing amendments to the Seed Use Standards following its release.

7. Seed Planning Dashboards

Brian demonstrated the features of these dashboards, which will soon be completed. The dashboards and data presented have been reviewed and vetted by ITAC, CTAC, and orchard managers over the past several months.

These new dashboards were developed by Kat Gunion, Forsite, under contract with SelectSeed. They replace the FGC's species plans which guided breeding, seed orchard and seed use plans and investments the previous two decades under geographic seed transfer standards.

Some new spreadsheets developed by Jack Woods (dubbed Seedoku) compare orchard seed supply with forecast seedling demand for Pli, Sx and Fdi. This information can be used to identify potential orchard supply gaps and surpluses. Next steps include documentation and a maintenance plan.

Action: Brian to announce release of the Seed Planning Dashboard upon their completion.

8. LBIS Budget Recommendations for 2022/23

Pat presented the following table summarizing estimated expenditures for the Ministry’s Land-based Investment Strategy program (LBIS) funds allocated to forest genetics activities in 2021/22.

Program	Activities planned for 2021/22	Planned Amount (\$)	Estimated Expenditure (\$)
Breeding - coastal	Western redcedar (Cw)	337,000	280,508
	Douglas-fir (Fdc)	243,000	228,000
	Other species (coastal)	255,000	234,000
Breeding - interior	Douglas-fir (Fdi)	208,000	209,460
	Interior spruce (Sx)	171,000	158,500
	Lodgepole pine (Pl)	258,000	254,790
	Western larch (Lw)	19,000	20,500
	Other species (interior)	161,000	186,750
Resilience	Genecology	148,000	148,000
	CBST support	65,000	65,000
OTIP	Technical	60,000	40,000
	Operational	0	
Conservation	GCTAC/CFCG	310,000	320,000
Reserve		15,000	
Other			104,492
Grand Total		2,250,000	2,250,000

The Other amount includes funds expended in support of the Ministry programs identified above (e.g. research station materials and supplies). Keith also added that contractors are becoming more difficult to find and the costs of services and supplies are increasing.

Pat indicated the collaborative planning process for compiling the 2022/23 budget continues to be informative and useful. The fiscal planning environment within the Ministry remains challenging (e.g. budgets are tight), but FIRM is working to access other funding sources (e.g. forest carbon).

Keith provided an overview of the FIRM’s Forest Genetics Section, and the recommended budget for LBIS allocations for 2022/23. These budgets were presented to and supported by the respective TACs.

The following table includes a summary of FIRM’s recommended LBIS allocations by category for 2022/23. Category acronyms include: CCAR = Climate Change and Adaptation Research; GCTAC = Genetic Conservation TAC; CFCG = Center for Forest Conservation Genetics (Tongli Wang), CBST = Climate-based seed transfer; OTIP = Operational Tree Improvement Program.

Category	Conserv. \$	FH/Value \$	Resil. \$	Request \$
Breeding	-	1,535,500	68,000	1,603,500
CCAR	-	-	77,000	77,000
GCTAC/CFCG	200,000	-	125,000	325,000
CBST	-	-	70,000	70,000
OTIP	-	60,000	-	60,000
Reserve	-	114,500	-	114,500
Total	200,000	1,710,000	340,000	2,250,000

Keith also shared a preview of the tree breeding program timelines for coastal species. These have not been broadly shared as they are used for internal planning only.

Limited attention and funds for broad leaves (aspen, birch etc.) was noted. The very limited numbers of broad leaf seedlings planted in the Province do not warrant investments in tree breeding and seed orchards for most of these species. Persons interested in planting broad leaves for fire breaks etc. best use seed collected from wild stands.

TAC Chair Updates

Annette summarized the Coastal TAC (CTAC) meetings held over the past few months. This included a review of the Coastal breeding and genecology programs and a review of seed supply under CBST. Annette indicated smaller licensees may have more challenges in acquiring improved seed compared to major licensees. Annette was recognized for her pro-active efforts to assess CBST impacts on the coast.

Kat summarized Interior TAC (ITAC) meetings held to review orchard allocations, seed supply and demand (dashboards) and breeding program proposals. Over 147 persons participated in the ITAC extension meeting held Jan 19, which included presentations from seed producers and users. Feedback from ITAC meetings does influence on priorities and budgets, as evidenced by the start-up of Interior redcedar (Cwi) and Ponderosa pine (Py) breeding programs.

Juergen provided an update on the Genetic Conservation TAC, which met on March 22. This included summaries of members and projects reviewed. Of note and potential public interest, is a new project being undertaken at UBC Forestry to assess the genetic diversity within plantations and across the landscape.

Action: Brian to add UBC's Landscape Genetic Diversity Project to a future meeting.

9. SelectSeed Annual Business Plan 2022/23

Kerry McGourlick, President, SelectSeed presented the company's draft Business Plan for 2022/23 (Attachment D). Key activities in this confidential report include completing the establishment of the 5000-ramet Bulkley-Nechako Pli seed orchard and preparing site for an additional 3000-ramet Pli comandra-resistant orchard at Quesnel. A full-time seed orchard

manager will also be hired to replace the Company's two part-time positions and assume some of the CEO's duties. The plan was approved by the Company's directors the previous week.

Motion: SelectSeed's Business Plan for the period 2022/23 is hereby approved. Annette/Bevin. Carried.

10. SelectSeed Orchard Renewal Strategy Update

A confidential report with an update on SelectSeed's orchard renewal strategy was shared with FGC in advance. The seed planning dashboards and Seedoku tables can now be used to forecast future seed demand from the dozen orchards managed by the Company's partners under contracts which expire between 2023 and 2026. Breeding program timelines can also be used to estimate when new orchard materials may become available. Based on the available information and several assumptions, a few orchard renewal scenarios, including their respective financial projections, were presented. The methodology and data sources used in this analysis were reviewed in advance with Kat, Annette and Pat on March 16.

FGC was pleased with the recent progress made and encouraged further analysis. Next steps include Brian discussing orchard contract renewal options with the Company's partners and preparing a plan and recommendations for FGC's consideration by end of fiscal 2022/23.

11. SelectSeed Director Terms and Appointments

SelectSeed's directors are elected or appointed by the shareholder (BC Forest Genetics Society) for two-year terms at the Company's AGM held in June. See the Company's Articles and [*Governance of FGC, BC Forest Genetics Society and Select Seed Co. Ltd*](#) for details.

The Society's members (same as FGC members) are discussing a governance process for identifying and selecting candidates for appointment or reappointment. Pat invited Kerry to share his perspectives on Director appointments. Kerry outlined the history, current context and the benefits for reappointing the two experienced Directors whose two-years terms end at the next AGM. FGC thanked Kerry for his perspectives.

18. News and Announcements

The BC Seed Orchard Association will hold an in-person meeting in Vernon on June 28-29, 2022. At FGFC's request, SelectSeed offered the BCSOA a \$3500 sponsorship to cover the costs of the field trip.

The BCSOA meeting will be preceded by an international tree seed conference and proceeded by a forest genetics field trip.

Links to these meetings' websites for agendas and registration can be found on FGC's news and events webpage: <https://forestgeneticsbc.ca/home/news-and-events/>

19. Next meetings

Next meeting will be held in conjunction with the AGMs for the BC Forest Genetics Society and SelectSeed. Brian recommended the meetings be held in Nanaimo and include a deferred recognition luncheon for Henry Benskin.

Sally John has also offered to organize a field trip to the Hualien Seed Orchards near Grand Prairie, Alberta for Sept 2023. Further details to follow.

Action: Brian to issue Doodle Poll for next meeting, including AGM's of the Society and SelectSeed, to be held in Nanaimo on either June 14 or 15.

20. In camera session

In camera session was held for FGC members only.

Motion: Move to meeting in camera for FGC members only. Dom/Pat. Carried.

Adjournment

Motion: The meeting is hereby adjourned at 12:10 pm. Annette/Dan. Carried.

Draft minutes by B. Barber. May 3 and June 7, 2022.

Approved Jun 15, 2022