

Minutes - Forest Genetics Council of BC

Time/Date: 10:30 – 11:46 am, Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Participants

Members: Annette van Niejenhuis, Bevin Wigmore, Bill Laing, Bob Johnson, Dan Mazerolle, Domenico Iannidinaro, Gordon Chipman, Jeff Mycock, Juergen Ehling, Kona von Diest, Katherine Spencer, Keith Thomas, Pat Martin and Shannon Jonasson.

Guests: Shane Berg, Chief Forester; Directors and Officers of SelectSeed: Kerry McGourlick (President), Rod Willis (Secretary), Jim Burbee, Dr. Sally John, and Brian Barber (CEO).

Proceedings

This quarterly general meeting of FGC was held following AGMs of the BC Forest Genetics Society and Select Seed Co. Ltd. via video conference.

There being adequate notice served and a quorum of members present, Domenico called the meeting to order at 10:13 am, confirmed members and guests, and reviewed the draft agenda.

Summary of Actions

Person(s)	Actions	When
Annette	Discuss pest resistance performance measure with Nick Ukrainetz.	For next mtg
Brian	Discuss method to determine cubic meters of wood from select seed use with Alvin Yanchuk and Kevin Astridge.	For next mtg
Pat	Nominate an additional Ministry representative to the Chief Forester	Fall
Industry members	Nominate an additional Industry representative to the Chief Forester via Pat as Ministry Co-Chair.	Fall
Brian	Share information re Huallen Seed Orchard Tour in late Sept or October.	ASAP
Brian	Issue Doodle Poll for fall field trip in October 2022	ASAP
Brian	Explore alternative video conference services due to connectivity issues with GoToMeeting.	Fall

1. Agenda

10:30	90	<i>C. Forest Genetics Council</i>	
	5	1	Participants and Agenda Domenico (Co-Chair)
	5	2	Safety Domenico
	5	3	<i>C1</i> Minutes from April 6, 2022 Domenico
	10	4	Action Items from April 6, 2022 Brian
	5	5	<i>C2</i> FGC Dashboard Brian
	10	6	<i>C3</i> FGC Terms of Reference Pat
	10	7	FGC Membership Pat
	10	8	New Business Chairs
	10	9	News and Events All
	10	10	Next meeting – Fall Field Trip All
	10	11	In camera session Domenico
12:00		12	Adjournment

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

2. Safety

Members were invited to report any safety-related initiatives or concerns within the purview of FGC. No major incidents nor Covid-19 outbreaks were reported. Everyone remains diligent.

3. Minutes from April 6, 2022.

The draft minutes of the FGC meeting held via video conference on April 6, 2022 were included as attachment C1.

Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held April 6, 2022 are hereby approved. Bevin/Bob. Carried.

4. Action Items from April 6, 2022

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Pat	Seek Chief Forester sign-off on FGC Terms of Reference	Completed See item 6
Co-chairs	Report to Kerry on FGC priorities and expectations for SelectSeed's services for 2022/23.	Completed
Jeff and Gord	Discuss First Nations representation and report back	Completed See item 7
Pat	Circulate Chief Forester's memo announcing amendments to the <i>Seed Use Standards</i> .	See CF memo of May 17
Brian	Announce release of the Seed Planning Dashboards.	Completed
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	Completed
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5. Dashboard

An updated Dashboard was provided as a separate attachment (C2). Brian reviewed the changes since the April 6, 2022 version. Most of the FGC and SelectSeed tasks are on-track (Green), but further work could be done on several FGC Strategic Plan performance measures.

Action: Annette to discuss pest resistance performance measure with Nick Ukrainetz.

Action: Brian to discuss method to determine cubic meters of wood from select seed use with Alvin Yanchuk and Kevin Astridge.

6. FGC Terms of Reference

The draft terms of reference (ToR) were recently approved by the Chief Forester and circulated on June 7, 2022. See attachments C3. These ToR replace FGC's 2012 Bylaws, and are now posted at <https://forestgeneticsbc.ca/about/governance/>

7 FGC Membership

On June 8, the Chief Forester appointed Shannon Jonasson, RPF, Silviculturist, West Fraser, Quesnel, to bring First Nations perspectives to the Council. Shannon is an indigenous person from the Westbank First Nation who has studied indigenous traditional ecological knowledge and is passionate about indigenous culture and engaging with indigenous communities in her work.

Two vacancies remain on Council: one Ministry and one Industry. Selecting candidates from different programs (e.g. forest carbon) and perspectives was suggested.

Action: Pat to nominate an additional Ministry representative to the Chief Forester

Action: Industry members to nominate an additional Industry representative to the Chief Forester via Pat as Ministry Co-Chair.

8. New Business

No new business was identified at the start of the meeting. However, some new business ideas were identified during the wrap-up comments. See below.

9. News and Events

A memorial event for the late Dr. John Russell was held at Cowichan Lake Research Station on May 30. Jack Woods and Dr Sally Aitken presented a bronze plaque, which was installed on John's bench inside the Cupressaceae arboretum. Brian also presented a memorial plaque to CLRS and JR's family. An FGC recognition award was also presented to Dr. Michael Stoehr, who retired from the Ministry in 2020. The lunch for these events was sponsored by SelectSeed.

An International Tree Seed meeting and tours [Challenges to our Future Tree Seed Supply 2022](#) to be held on Vancouver Island and Greater Vancouver, **June 22-27**. This meeting is being organized by Dave Kolotelo, Don Pigott and Melissa Spearing.

[BC Seed Orchard Association \(BCSOA\)](#) will host a conference a field trip near Vernon, June 28-29. An additional forest genetics field tour will be hosted by the Ministry, CFGA and WFGA on June 30 at Skimikin Seed Orchards. SelectSeed and FGC (with SelectSeed \$) are sponsors of these two meetings.

The joint CFGA/WFGA scientific conference proposed for Fall 2022 has been postponed due to workload and the inaugural meeting of the North American Forest Genetics Society to be held June 14-16 in California. Consideration is being given to CFGA/WFGA hosting a conference in Vernon in July 2023.

10. Next Meeting

Sally John has offered to organize a visit to the Huallen Seed Orchard Company, Grande Prairie, Alberta in late September or early October. Further information and details to be provided. Invitations will be extended to FGC members and BC's seed orchard managers.

A separate fall field and meeting in BC will be organized for FGC members. October in the Vernon area was suggested.

Action: Brian to share information re Huallen Seed Orchard Tour for late Sept or Oct.

Action: Brian to issue Doodle Poll for FGC fall field trip in Oct. 2023.

Wrap-up comments

Shane Berg offered comments on the current government's interest in BC's forest genetics and tree seed programs. Several Ministers and MLAs have visited the Tree Seed Centre and Kalamalka Forestry Centre, and are very impressed with the infrastructure, knowledge and complexity of these operations. Kat was commended for organizing several engagement activities. More politician visits are anticipated in the near future.

Several councillors expressed interest in aligning the genetics program with Federal and Provincial initiatives such as wildfire mitigations (use of broadleaves), "decarbonization", and the National Adaptation Strategy. Program metrics such as additional cubic meter of wood or tonnes of extra carbon sequestered would assist (as per Action under agenda item 5). A strategic program review or workshop, such as the "Lean" exercise conducted in 2012, was also suggested.

Action: Brian to explore alternative video conference services due to connectivity issues with GoToMeeting.

11. *In-camera* session

Motion: to move the meeting *in-camera*. Keith/Bob. Carried

Motion: to move meeting out of *in-camera*. Keith/Shannon. Carried.

12. Adjourn

Motion: the FGC meeting is hereby adjourned at 11:46 am. Juergen/Dan. Carried

Draft Minutes by B. Barber, June 21, 2022

Approved Oct 14, 2022