

Draft Minutes: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Monday, April 24, 2023

Participants

Forest Genetics Council of BC: Pat Martin, Domenico Iannidinaro, Annette van Niejenhuis, Bevin Wigmore, Bob Johnson, Dan Mazerolle, Katherine Spencer, Keith Thomas, Kona Van Diest, Shannon Jonasson.

Regrets (Proxy): Jeff Mycock (Shannon), Juergen Ehltng,

Guests: Albert Nussbaum, Deputy Chief Forester; Brian Barber, CEO and Jack Woods, Director, Select Seed Co. Ltd.

Proceedings

This meeting was held via video conference. Agenda and attachments were circulated in advance and posted on [FGC's Secure Access webpage](#).

Summary of Motions

Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held Jan 17., 2023, are hereby approved. Bob/Dan. Carried.

Motion: FIRM's recommended LBIS budget for forest genetics activities in 2023/24 is hereby endorsed. Annette/Bevin. Carried

Motion: SelectSeed's Business Plan for 2023/24 is hereby approved contingent on final text editing revisions to reflect collaboration between shareholder and company. Kat/Keith. Carried.

Motion: The Company's Articles to be amended as proposed for consideration as a Special Resolution at the Company's next AGM. Annette/Kona. Carried.

Motion. FGC to develop a policy to describe the selection criteria, nomination process, and term limits for SelectSeed Directors in 2023. Keith/Shannon. Carried.

Summary of Actions

Action: Annette to follow-up with FPBC to help clarify the use of forest professionals in seed collection and use.

Action: Domenico and Keith to nominate one Industry and one Ministry representative to the Chief Forester for appointment to FGC before the next meeting in June.

Action: FGC to advocate for increase to funding for forest genetics activities in advance of Ministry budget allocations for 2024/25.

Action: Brian to draft policy on FGC logo use for consideration at the next meeting.

Action: Brian to issue Doodle Polls for June AGMs and fall field trip ASAP.

1. Welcome & Agenda

Pat welcomed members and guests, and introduced Albert Nussbaum, Deputy Chief Forester (DCF), to provide welcome and opening remarks.

Albert was appointed DCF in October 2022. He has been busy filling vacant positions within the Office of the Chief since. This includes the competition for Director, Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch (FIRM), as Pat Martin will retire on April 28. He thanked Pat for his leadership and wished him well in retirement. Albert indicated a staffing announcement identifying the new director will soon be forthcoming.

There being adequate notice served and a quorum of members present, Pat called the meeting to order at 9:10 am and confirmed the agenda.

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

#	Time	Min		Topic	Presenters
1	1:00	5		Welcome and Agenda	Pat/Domenico
2	1:05	5	A	Minutes and Actions from Jan 17 Meeting	Brian
3	1:10	5		FGC Membership	Domenico/Pat
4	1:15	5		Safety Updates	All
5	1:20	10	B	FGC and SelectSeed Dashboards	Brian
6	1:30	35		LBIS Budget Recommendations 2023/24	Pat/Keith
				TAC Chair Reports	Kat, Annette, Juergen
				2022/23 Budget Summary	Pat/Keith
7	2:05	45	C	Select Seed Business Plan	Jack/Brian
	2:50	10		<i>Break</i>	
8	3:00	15	D	SelectSeed Director Terms and Appointments	Brian/Keith/Pat
9	3:15	10		New Business – FGC logo use	Pat
10	3:25	5		News and Announcements	Brian
11	3:30	10		Next Meetings & Dates	Brian
12	3:40	20		In camera session	FGC Members only

2. Minutes and Action items from January 17, 2023 meeting.

Minutes of the FGC meeting held on Jan. 17, 2023, were circulated in advance as Attachment A.

Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held Jan 17., 2023, are hereby approved. Bob/Dan. Carried.

Action Items from FGC meeting Jan 17, 2023:

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Brian	Enquire about applicable WorkSafeBC rule changes at upcoming Western Forestry Contractors Association Meeting in Victoria	Completed Email sent Feb 6
Annette	Discuss topic of forest professionals and seed collections/registration/allocations with Kevin Astridge, FIRM.	In progress See notes below
Brian	Post Industry Representative guidelines on FGC's Governance webpage.	Completed See item 3
Brian	Request the Company's lawyer draft amendments to the Company's Articles to reflect the subcommittee's recommendations.	Completed See item 8
Pat	Report SelectSeed Director Appointments Subcommittee's recommendation to FGC at the next <i>in camera</i> meeting.	Completed See item 8
FGC Co-Chairs	Provide SelectSeed with FGC's expectations for input to SelectSeed's 2023/24 Business Plan	Completed See item 7
Brian	to confirm date and location of next in-person business meeting.	Completed

Action Items carried forward from FGC meeting Oct 14, 2022

Brian	Share the draft terms of reference for the tree improvement priority matrix project with Keith, Kat and Annette.	Deferred to April 30 See item 7
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Brian and Annette reported they separately discussed concerns raised at ITAC, CTAC and FGC regarding seed collection and use with staff of Forest Professionals BC (FPBC). These concerns include information and advice provided by non-forest professionals respecting seedlot collections, genetic gain, deployment areas and selection for reforestation (i.e. cone collectors, tree breeders and consultants who are not registered with FPBC).

Keith acknowledged not all Ministry scientists are registered with the FPBC, and it is challenging to recruit persons with a higher degree (e.g. PhD in forest genetics) who are also eligible for a professional designation. Some scientists not eligible for registration with the FPBC may, however, be eligible for registration with the BC Institute of Agrologists (PAg) or College of Applied Biology (RPBio).

Under the new *Professional Governance Act*, the FPBC is responsible for defining and regulating the practice of professional forestry. Annette was informed the President, FPBC, will discuss the regulated and reserved practice of professional forestry with the Deputy Ministry soon.

Action: Annette to follow-up with FPBC to help clarify the use of forest professionals in seed collection and use.

3. FGC Membership

Gord Chipman's 3-year term expired in January. Gord expressed his thanks for the opportunity to participate on FGC but was unable to continue in his new role as Executive Director, BC Federation of Woodlot Associations.

Domenico said FGC's private sector reps are gathering nominations for this vacancy in accordance with the [FGC Industry Representative Guidelines](#) endorsed in January. It was also noted one Ministry rep position remains vacant.

Action: Domenico and Keith to nominate one Industry and one Ministry representative to the Chief Forester for appointment to FGC before the next meeting in June.

4. Safety Reports

There were no safety-related incidents or initiatives reported.

5. FGC and SelectSeed Dashboard

Brian provided updates on the status of several FGC and SelectSeed initiatives. See Attachment B. An FGC progress report will be produced in fall 2023 subject to confirmation of the new performance measure for timber volume gains and use of pest resistant seed. Annual select seed use metrics can be posted on the FGC website in the interim, and between the publication of periodic progress reports. Members also expressed interested in a proposed separate seed orchard directory.

6. LBIS Budget Recommendations 2023/24

The Ministry's proposed LBIS 2023/24 budgets for breeding, research and conservation projects were vetted with FGC's TACs over the past few months.

Kat reported the interior tree breeding and climate research budgets were reviewed and supported at by ITAC members at its business meeting held on Jan 11. Topics of interest discussed at the ITAC extension meeting included CBST orchard overlap areas, the new seed planning dashboard, and hardwoods. Alberta's experience with propagating and regenerating aspen can be extended to BC.


Annette reported Charlie Cartwright and Juergen Ehling organized a CTAC extension meeting held at UVic on Feb 21. A CTAC business meeting was held on March 7, at which updates were provided on the coastal breeding programs and Tree Seed Centre, whitebark pine, UBC and CBST projects.

Annette pointed out CBST is currently based on climate projections to 2032, but any orchard established now will produce seed well beyond that year. Furthermore, some BEC variants are only serviced by one seed orchard. Species committees will meet to discuss future orchard planning and genetic diversity. The need for dedicated resources to support extension activities,

including breeders meeting attendance, was also identified. Brian indicated SelectSeed’s business plan includes a budget for FGC meetings and extension.


Brian summarized the conservation project proposals, budget requests and deliberations from GCTACs business meeting held on March 13. These included several whitebark pine (Pa) restoration projects, including a new request to support the recently established Pa seed orchards. Funding for this project and Dr. Tongli Wang’s position at UBC are also funded from other sources.

Pat thanked the TAC chairs for their leadership and ‘extra’ work. Keith also acknowledged FIRM’s forest genetics section staff on the coast and interior. He then summarized the Ministry’s LBIS expenditures for 2022/23 and FIRMs recommended budget allocations for 2023/24 by species and program.


 **Ministry of Forests** **ITAC Budget**

Proposed Budget

Species	For. Hlth \$	Value \$	Resil. \$	2023 \$	2022 \$	2022 \$ ask
Pli	48,000	194,000	-	242,000	206,000	257,000
Py	22,000	136,000	-	158,000	77,000	100,500
Pwi	35,000	-	-	35,000	63,000	70,000
Sx	1,000	74,000	-	75,000	78,000	83,000
Lw	0	80,000	-	80,000	73,000	80,000
Fdi	47,000	188,000	-	235,000	197,000	197,000
Cwi		115,000	-	115,000	59,000	61,500
Total	153,000	787,000	0	940,000	753,000	849,000

 **Ministry of Forests** **CTAC/CCAR Budget**

Activity	For. Hlth \$	Value \$	Resil. \$	2023 \$	2022 \$	2022 \$ ask
Pwc	5,000	-	-	5,000	10,000	10,000
Cw	111,000	185,000	-	296,000	223,000	284,500
Fdc	50,000	233,000	-	283,000	198,000	264,000
Ss	-	28,000	-	28,000	42,000	42,000
Yc	-	18,000	-	18,000	35,000	35,000
Broad lvs	-	50,000	-	50,000	36,000	36,000
Hw		39,000	15,000	54,000	27,000	30,000
Abies sp.	-	-	25,000	25,000	47,000	53,000
CCAR	-	-	233,000	233,000	77,000	77,000
Total	166,000	553,000	273,000	992,000	695,000	831,500



Ministry of Forests **DRAFT FGC Budget**

Category	Conserv. \$	FH/Value \$	Resil. \$	Request \$
Breeding	-	1,659,000	40,000	1,699,000
CCAR	-	-	233,000	233,000
GCTAC/CFCG	210,000	-	125,000	335,000
CBST	-	-	70,000	70,000
OTIP	-	-	-	-
Reserve	-	-	-	-
Total	210,000	1,659,000	468,000	2,337,000

CCAR = Climate change and adaptation research.

CFCG = Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics, UBC

CBST = Climate-based seed transfer

The Ministry’s LBIS allocation to provincial forest genetics activities has been reduced over the past several years. Consequently, funding for FGC’s Operational Tree Improvement Program (OTIP) will be deferred for another year. Funding from other sources will also be sought to supplement the other programs.

Motion: FIRM’s recommended LBIS budget for forest genetics activities in 2023/24 is hereby endorsed. Annette/Bevin. Carried

Action: FGC to advocate for increase to funding for forest genetics activities in advance of Ministry budget allocations for 2024/25.

7. **SelectSeed Business Plan 2023/24**

SelectSeed’s recommended Business Plan for 2023/24 was provided as Attachment C. This plan was reviewed and approved by SelectSeed’s Board of Directors on April 6.

Jack Woods, Director, provided an overview of the Company’s proposed activities and budget with emphasis on SelectSeed’s orchard operations and the services it provides to FGC. Jack also provided some historical context including the Company’s original mandate and how its orchard capacity is predominantly Pli.

The challenges associated with the pending expiry of 13 orchard agreements, renewing agreements and establishing new orchards were re-iterated. Jack confirmed the Company was not expected to fold after the existing contracts expired, but continue to ensure smaller licensees and others would have access to improved seed.

Brian reviewed the proposed budget, which included a breakdown of funds allocated to management and administration, meetings and extension, and special projects. The latter includes funding to update the tree improvement investment model, and produce a seed orchard directory and FGC progress report. The plan also recommends FGC and SelectSeed

develop an agreement that confirms the services and resources the Company provides to its shareholder.

Save some minor amendments to the text, FGC did not object to the proposed activities and budget as outlined in the budget plan.

Motion: SelectSeed’s Business Plan for 2023/24 is hereby approved contingent on final text editing revisions to reflect collaboration between shareholder and company. Kat/Keith. Carried.

8. SelectSeed Director Terms and Nominations

On Jan 14, FGC’s sub-committee on SelectSeed directors’ terms provided several recommendations regarding the terms and conditions. See Attachment D1.

Brian forwarded the recommendations to the Company’s lawyer, who provided amendments to the Company’s Articles to accommodate changes to increase term length to 3 years (Article 14.1) and to address potential conflicts of interest (Article 17.6). See Attachment D2.

No changes to the Articles are needed to ensure staggered terms, as this will occur by electing or reappointing directors for a two- or three-year term at the next AGM in June, as per the following scheduling example.

AGM	Directors to be elected	Term length
2023	1, 2, 3	Directors 1 & 2 = 2 years Director 3 = 3 years
2024	4, 5	3 years
2025	1, 2	3 years
2026	3	“
2027	4, 5	“

The maximum number of terms limits (three) with exemptions, were recommended to be included in a policy as fixed Articles may not anticipate all the potential exemptions. The policy can also include the process and selection criteria developed by FGC’s directors’ nomination committee. The Forest Practices Board’s selection policy was provided as an example.

Amendments to the Articles can be approved by the BC Forest Genetics Society as a Special Resolution at the Company’s AGM to be held in June 2023. The election or reappointment of three Directors (for two- or three-year terms) can subsequently occur immediately following the Special Resolution.

Motion: The Company’s Articles to be amended as proposed for consideration as a Special Resolution at the AGM. Annette/Kona. Carried.

Motion. FGC to develop a policy to describe the selection criteria, nomination process, and term limits for SelectSeed Directors in 2023. Keith/Shannon. Carried.

9. New Business

Pat asked if there were policies or procedures associated with persons using and publishing FGC's logo. Brian indicated there was no written policy, but publications arising out of projects endorsed by FGC or its TACs and subsequently funded through LBIS have included the FGC logo. It is also common for people to include the FGC logo in their presentations as an acknowledgement for the same. The FGC logo is a known brand whose use benefits the program, but it should not be misappropriated or misused.

Action: Brian to draft policy on FGC logo use for consideration at the next meeting.

10. News and Announcements

On April 5, PRT Growing Services announced its acquisition of International Forest Company (IFCO). IFCO produces 290 million forest seedlings annually and operates seed orchards in seven SE states. Combined, PRT will operate 14 seed orchards and 28 nurseries, producing 630 million forest seedlings annually. See news release [here](#).

UVic Forest Biology hosts the [UVic FORB Symposium](#) on May 1 and 2, 2023.

The Northwest Seed Orchard Association (NWSOMA) will hold its "biannual" meeting in Grand Mound, Washington (S of Olympia) June 13-14. Agenda [here](#). A "Tree Seed Summit" will also be held the following week in Eatonville, WA, June 21-23. Agenda [here](#).

CFGAs and WFGAs will hold an international conference in Vernon the week of July 10. Over 100 participants are expected. Registration is now open. See <https://forestgenetics2023.ca>

11. Next meetings

SelectSeed will hold its next Directors' meeting on **June 12** to review the auditor's report, financial statements and draft annual report for 2022/23.

FGC's next meeting will correspond with the AGMs for the BC Forest Genetics Society and SelectSeed. The Company's annual report and audited financial statements will be presented for approval along with the proposed amendments to the Company's articles and the election of directors. The proposed dates for these meetings are **June 21-23**. A Doodle Poll will be issued to confirm FGC availability for these dates.

FGC members were also asked for their preferred dates and locations for FGC's annual fall field trip. Annette suggested North Vancouver Island. A Doodle Poll will be issued for October.

As mentioned previously, this is Pat's last FGC meeting as FGC Co-chair and Director, FIRM. Councillors and Brian thanked Pat for his leadership and contributions over the past 6.5 years, and wished him well in retirement. An acknowledgment event will take place in the near future.

Action: Brian to issue Doodle Polls for the June AGMs and fall field trip ASAP.

12. In camera session

In camera session for FGC members only. Guests will be asked to leave at this time.

Motion: Move to meeting go *in camera* for FGC members only. Kat Bob. Carried.

Motion: Move to meeting leave *in camera* for FGC members only. Kat/Shannon. Carried.

Motion: The meeting is hereby adjourned. Annette/Dan. Carried.

Draft minutes by B. Barber, May 5, 2023