

C. General Meeting of the Forest Genetics Council

Time/Date: 11:00 a.m. - 12:27 pm, Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Participants

Members: Annette van Niejenhuis, Bob Johnson, Dan Mazerolle, Domenico Iannidinardo, Jeff Mycock, Juergen Ehling, Katherine Spencer, Kona Van Diest, Keith Thomas, and Leith McKenzie.

Regrets (proxy): Bevin Wigmore (Annette), Shannon Jonasson.

Guests: Brian Barber, Sally John, and Jack Woods of SelectSeed, and Albert Nussbaum, Deputy Chief Forester.

Proceedings

This quarterly general meeting of FGC was held immediately following the AGMs of the BC Forest Genetics Society and SelectSeed.

1. Agenda

There being adequate notice served and a quorum of members present, Domenico called the meeting to order at 11 am, welcomed members and guests, confirmed regrets and proxies, and acknowledged National Indigenous Peoples Day.

11:00	60	<i>C. Forest Genetics Council</i>		
	5	1	Participants and Agenda	Chair
	5	2	Safety	Chair
	10	3	<i>C1</i> Minutes and Action items from April 24, 2023	Chair & Brian
	5	4	<i>C2</i> FGC Dashboard	Brian
	5	5	FGC Membership	Keith/Domenico
	5	6	FGC Logo Use Policy	Brian
	5	7	New Business	
	5	8	News and Events	All
	5	9	Next meeting – Fall Field Trip	All
	10	10	<i>In camera</i> session	Chair
12:00		11	Adjournment	

Motion: The agenda for this meeting is hereby approved. Keith/Kat. Carried.

2. Safety

Members were invited to report on safety-related initiatives or concerns within the purview of FGC. Brian reported that SelectSeed is currently undergoing a WorkSafeBC classification review. The Company is currently classified as Financial Services – Other. Ornamental Nursery or Orchard are more appropriate classifications, now that it has its own seed orchards and a full-time staff member who works in the field part-time.

Domenico reminded members not to leaving radios etc. charging in the sun as it’s a fire risk. He also reported on the impacts of the Cameron Bluffs fire, which still blocks Highway 4. A reminder that the risks of forest fires extend to the health and safety of detoured travellers and clean-up crews.

3. Minutes from April 24, 2023.

The draft minutes of the FGC meeting held via video conference on April 24, 2023 were included as attachment C1.

Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held April 24, 2023 are hereby approved. Kat/Dan. Carried.

Motions and Action Items from April 24, 2023

Person(s)	Actions	Status
	The Company’s Articles to be amended as proposed for consideration as a Special Resolution at the AGM.	See AGM
FGC	Develop a policy to describe the selection criteria, nomination process, and term limits for SelectSeed Directors in 2023.	In progress
Annette	Follow-up with FPBC to help clarify the use of forest professionals in seed collection and use.	In progress
Domenico and Keith	Nominate one Industry and one Ministry representative to the Chief Forester for appointment to FGC before next meeting in June.	See item 5
FGC	Advocate for an increase in funding for forest genetics activities in advance of Ministry budget allocations for 2024/25 in Fall ‘23	TBC
Brian	Draft policy on FGC logo use for consideration at the next meeting.	See item 6
Brian	Issue Doodle Polls for June AGMs and fall field trip ASAP.	See item 9

4. Dashboard

An updated Dashboard was provided as a separate attachment (see C2).

Keith provided an update on the Ministry’s budget allocation to forest genetics activities for 2023/24. LBIS funding allocation was the same as last year at \$1.85M (vs \$2.5M target). Funding from other internal sources was used to ‘top-up’ several internal program budgets. Additional funds may be made available during the year, but it is not easy to transfer external funding to the government.

Leith indicated federal 2B tree planting funds may be made available for forest genetics activities in the near future. FGC should therefore prepare a business case on how improved seed can sequester more carbon vs. enhance timber supply. Tonnes of carbon stored is the new gold standard. This could be the focus of a strategic planning session in the fall, pending completion of analyses in advance. Keith to discuss with Albert, who joined the meeting during this agenda item.

The SelectSeed projects and milestones, as described in the Company’s business plan, are on target. The ‘green’ dashboard, indicating favorable progress, was commended. Brian indicated

he'll have more time to work on the 'yellow' items in the FGC dashboard after the Forest Genetics 2023 conference.

5 FGC Membership

Domenico welcomed Leith McKenzie, Director, Forest Investment and Reporting Branch, MoF, who was recently appointed to FGC. Leith is responsible for overseeing the planting of 37 million seedlings under a two-year \$80M funding [agreement](#) between Canada and British Columbia announced on April 18.

Domenico announced FGC's industry reps' nomination to fill the one vacancy created when Gord Chipman's term ended in January 2023. An overview of the candidate's experience and interests was provided followed by discussion.

Action: Domenico to forward FGC industry rep nomination to the chief forester via Keith.

6. FGC logo use

The FGC logo is well recognized and associated with credible and trustworthy information. The logo appears on FGC's website and documents including technical reports. The logo is also used by persons to recognize FGC's support, financial (via SelectSeed) and otherwise. The logo is not trademarked but could be considered proprietary under Copyright laws.

The need of a logo use policy was identified by FGC at its last meeting. Brian reviewed several logo use policies and guidelines. The terms and conditions of some of these policies are quite comprehensive. Drafting a comprehensive logo use policy would likely require more resources relative to the number of anticipated requests and the potential risks of misuse or misappropriation.

Brian recommended the following logo use policy statement, which could be posted on the FGC website and conveyed to interested parties.

"The use, reproduction, advertisement, display, publication or transmission of the FGC logo is only permitted with prior written consent from the FGC program manager or FGC co-chair."

Motion: The proposed FGC logo use policy is hereby adopted. Annette/Kat. Carried

7. New Business

No new business was identified at start or during the meeting.

8. News and Events

The CFGA/WFGA will co-host the [Forest Genetics 2023](#) scientific conference to be held in Vernon, July 10-14, 2023. It will be preceded by a CFGA Tree Seed Meeting. Over 100 persons are currently registered for the conference. Brian thanked Mosaic, VSOC, Natural Resources Canada and UVic for sponsoring this event, along with several others. Additional sponsors are needed to help offset costs. Please contact Brian for details.

Katherine and Bevin attended the NW Seed Orchard Managers in Washington. The USDA is currently revitalizing its orchards. There is also interest in developing BC deployment maps for US orchards under CBST. Mast Reforestation is also hosting a Tree Seed Summit in WA this week.

Juergen announced that UVic offers awards to indigenous persons to encourage them to pursue undergraduate degrees. Two indigenous students are registered in the Department of Forest Biology. He also announced that the Canadian Foundation for Innovation has conditionally approved a grant to upgrade UVic's greenhouses in partnership with the Province of BC, which also uses this research facility. Budget \$2M.

Jeff announced that VSOC had a successful first season at its new cone and seed processing facility in Vernon. Seed yields were better than expected – higher than or comparable to those at the Tree Seed Centre. Dust extraction will be installed to be fully operational.

Brian expressed his thanks to VSOC for processing a portion of their shared 2022 Fdi crops, and a portion of a Fdi lot collected at PRT Armstrong. It is beneficial to have additional cone and seed processing capacity in the province. Katherine and Brian also look forward to taking pictures inside the new facility during the Forest Genetics 2023 banquet, which VSOC will host.

9. Next Meeting

At the last meeting, it was proposed the annual FGC fall field tour be held on northern Vancouver Island in fall 2023. Annette offered to coordinate the field tour based out of Port McNeill with assistance from Ministry staff and others.

The need for a strategic planning session was also recognized. It is however not realistic for FGC members to commit to two meetings requiring travel. An in-person meeting coupled with a dinner for Pat Martin was preferred. Dan confirmed his prior offer to host the meeting at the Pacific Forestry Centre.

Action: Brian to poll members for an in-person meeting and dinner in Victoria on Oct 12 or 19.

Action: Keith, Domenico, Annette, and Brian to identify purpose, objectives, and participants for a fall strategic planning session.

10. *In camera* session

Motion to go in camera: Keith/Kat. Carried. Invited guest were asked to leave at this time.

Motion to come out of camera: Keith/Juergen. Carried.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Annette/Jeff. Carried.