

Minutes - Forest Genetics Council – General Meeting

10:50 a.m. – 12:00 pm, Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Participants

Members: Annette van Niejenhuis, Bevin Wigmore, Bob Johnson, Dan Mazerolle, Francesco Cortini, Jeff Mycock, Juergen Ehling, Katherine Spencer, Kona Van Diest, Keith Thomas, and Leith McKenzie, and Shannon Jonasson.

Guests: SelectSeed: Kerry McGourlick (President), Rod Willis (Secretary), Jim Burbee, Sally John, Brian Barber (CEO), Federik Vroom (Manager); and, Albert Nussbaum, Deputy Chief Forester.

Proceedings

This meeting was held in person at Western Forest Products’ Saanich Forestry Centre and via video conference. The meeting was held immediately following the AGMs of the BC Forest Genetics Society and Select Seed Company Ltd. The agendas and materials for these meetings were provided in advance.

Summary of Motions

Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held April 24, 2024 are hereby approved. Annette/Bevin. Carried.

Summary of action items

Person(s)	Actions	When
Keith	Arrange genetics tour for First Nations Forestry Council at an MoF site.	Fall 2024
Brian	Update FGC display panels for conference trade shows	Fall 2024
FGC	Discuss extension needs and priorities	Next meeting
Keith	Discuss the two vacant industry positions (co-chair and interior rep) with non-Ministry members.	ASAP
Brian	Circulate latest version of the seedling needs forecast project terms of reference	ASAP
Brian	Enquire about potential dates, field stops, and recommend an itinerary for a fall FGC meeting and field trip.	ASAP

1. Agenda

There being adequate notice served and a quorum of members present, Keith as chair called the meeting to order, welcomed members and guests, and reviewed the draft agenda.

Motion: The agenda for this meeting is hereby approved. Annette/Bevin. Carried.

The proposed agenda.

11:00	60	<i>C. Forest Genetics Council</i>	
	5	1	Participants and Agenda Keith
	5	2	<i>C1</i> Minutes and Action items from April 24, 2024 Keith & Brian
	10	3	Safety Keith
	5	4	<i>C2</i> FGC Dashboard Brian
	5	5	FGC Membership Keith
	5	6	<i>C3</i> Seedling Needs Forecast Project 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 Keith
12:00		11	Adjournment

2. Minutes from April 24, 2024.

The draft minutes of the FGC meeting held via video conference on April 24, 2024 were included as attachment C1.

Motion: The minutes of the FGC meeting held April 24, 2024 are hereby approved.
Annette/Bevin. Carried.

Motions and Action Items from April 24, 2024

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Keith	Discuss members interest serving an additional term and advance process to fill vacant industry rep positions.	See item 5
Brian	Circulate draft terms of reference for seedling needs forecast project and solicit volunteers for steering committee.	See item 6
Francesco	Follow-up with Alvin regarding the timelines to complete the conservation strategy update.	In progress - edits under review.
Domenico	Discuss First Nations engagement opportunities with Leonard Joe, Executive Director, First Nations Forestry Council.	Completed. Keith to arrange tour at MoF site ¹ .
Brian	Attend First Nations Forestry Conference in Penticton	Leith & Shannon attended ¹ .
Committee	Draft SelectSeed directors' policy for FGC's approval	Completed Discussed at AGM
SelectSeed	Engage FGC on CEO succession planning	Fall 2024
Brian	Circulate Doodle Poll for AGM meetings in June	Completed

On April 24, the Ministry reviewed the proposed changes to its cone and seed fee schedule. Keith indicated the proposed changes were currently before Treasury Board. The new fees will also need to be approved by cabinet via an order-in-council (i.e. regulation) before they can take effect. Estimated completion date is mid-July 2024. SelectSeed and others indicated they will update their seed prices following announcement of the Ministry's new fees.

¹Further engagement and partnerships with First Nations are required as there are a variety of FN's perspectives on reforestation. Field foresters are often unable to convey the scientific foundation of BC's tree improvement program (e.g. genetic selection and diversity of orchard seed; assisted migration vs natural regeneration). The use of consistent messages and language is also required within the forest genetics community. Social media and videos could be more effective than producing more print materials.

Action: Brian to update FGC display panels for conferences and trade shows

Action: Discuss extension needs and priorities at the next FGC meeting.

3. Safety

Kat solicited and compiled a table with seed orchard contacts and services available to assist orchard managers in the event of a wildfire threat or evacuation. The use of other sites and services (e.g. cone storage) may also be required depending on the extent and nature of a wildfire.

No incidents were reported.

4. Dashboard

Brian provided an updated Dashboard as attachment C2. Most of the items on the dashboard were discussed at the SelectSeed AGM and during this meeting.

Keith indicated the Ministry's 2024/25 budget allocation to forest genetics activities is anticipated to be only \$1.7M.

5 FGC Membership

Domenico served on FGC for four terms, the last two as FGC Industry Co-chair. His last term ended in May 2024. Domenico's fine leadership and contributions were acknowledged. A recognition luncheon was planned immediately following this meeting. Unfortunately, he had to cancel at the last minute. Another event will be planned in the near future.

Juergen, Bevin and Bob's terms end in September 2024. All expressed interest in serving another term. Keith thanked them for their continued interest and service.

Action: Keith to discuss the two vacant industry positions (co-chair and interior) with non-Ministry members ASAP.

6. Seedling Needs Forecast Project

On May 8, a draft terms of reference for this project was circulated for FGC review and comment. Comments were received and a subsequent draft was circulated to the steering committee members on May 31 (attachment C2).

The project's steering committee met on Friday, June 8. Brian provided a verbal update on project considerations and next steps, including SelectSeed entering into a contract with Forsite Consulting ASAP.

Action: Brian to circulate latest version of the seedling needs forecast project terms of reference.

7. New Business

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

8. News and Events

The BC Seed Orchard Association will hold its biennial meeting on June 18-19, 2024, in Sidney. Approximately 60 participants from BC, Alberta, Ontario, and Washington will attend. The organizing committee consists of local staff from WFP, Mosaic and MoF. SelectSeed also supported and contributed sponsorship funds on behalf of FGC. Agenda is posted [here](#).

SelectSeed will hold an open house and 25th anniversary celebration at its Quesnel seed orchard on September 24, 2024. Invitations and details to be provided in the weeks ahead.

9. Next Meetings

FGC consider dates and locations for its next meeting and annual fall field trip. Southern Vancouver Island at the end of September or early October were recommended.

Action: Brian to enquire about potential dates, field stops, and recommend an itinerary for a fall FGC meeting and field trip.

10. *In camera* session

There being no business to discuss *in camera*, no motion to move the meeting *in camera* was made.

11. Adjournment

Keith thanked Annette and WFP Saanich for hosting the in-person/video meetings this morning. Special mention was also made of Annette's tasty baked goods.

The FGC meeting is hereby adjourned at 12 pm. Annette/Juergen. Carried.

Draft minutes by B. Barber.