

Minutes - General Meeting

Time/Date: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Participants:

Forest Genetics Council of BC:

Annette van Niejenhuis, Bevin Wigmore, Bob Johnson, Dan Gaudet, Dan Mazerolle, Juergen Ehling, Lise van der Merwe, Leith McKenzie, Katherine Spencer, Keith Thomas, Kona Van Diest, Shannon Jonasson.

Guests: Brian Barber and Kerry McGourlick, SelectSeed.

Proceedings

This meeting was held via video conference. Meeting materials were posted on the [FGC Secure Access webpage](#) in advance. Password: FGC2024

Summary of Motions

Motion: SelectSeed's 2025/26 business plan, as amended, is hereby approved.
Annette/Juergen. Carried.

Summary of Action items

Person(s)	Actions	When
Annette	Follow-up with FGC nominees to confirm interest	ASAP
Keith	Prepare FGC reappointment letter for Shannon	June
Brian	Add a table to FGC Dropbox folder for people to add outreach and extension activities, including engagement with FNs.	ASAP
Extension subcommittee	Share draft forest genetics diagram	June
FGC	Revisit extension plan with recommendations	June
Keith, Dan, Kerry, and Brian	Discuss FGC support options	June

1. Agenda

There being adequate notice served to members, and a quorum being present, Keith called the meeting to order, confirm attendees and reviewed the draft agenda.

#	Time	Min		Topic	Lead
1	13:00	5		Welcome & agenda	Keith
2	13:05	5	A	Minutes and action items from Jan 24 meeting	Brian
3	13:10	5		FGC membership updates	Keith/Annette
4	13:15	5		Safety updates	All
5	13:20	15	B	FGC and SelectSeed dashboards	Brian
6	13:35	15		Seedling needs forecast project	Brian
7	13:50	15		FGC Extension	Brian, Kat, Annette, Juergen
8	14:05	10		TAC Reports	Annette and Juergen
9.	14:15	15		Ministry projects and budget proposals 2025/26	Lise
10	14:30	15		FGC Strategic Plan 2021-25 Review	Keith
	14:45	15		<i>Coffee break</i>	
11	15:00	5		SelectSeed directors' nomination committee	Keith
12	15:05	25	C	SelectSeed 2025/26 business plan	Kerry/Brian
13	15:30	5		News and announcements	All
14	15:35	5		Next meetings	Brian
15	15:40	5		<i>In camera</i> session	Keith
16	15:45			Adjournment	

Motion: The agenda for this meeting as amended is hereby approved. Kat/Dan M

2. Minutes and Actions from January 24, 2025, meeting.

Draft minutes from the meeting January 24, 2025, are included as attachment A.

Motion: The minutes of the January 24, 2025, meeting are hereby approved. Dan M/Kat. Carried

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Keith and Annette	Discuss the vacant industry and CTAC chair positions.	See agenda item #3
Brian	Brief Dan and Lise on FGC & SelectSeed governance.	Completed
Keith	Discuss TAC reviews of Ministry genetics section budget and plans with Annette and Juergen.	Completed

Brian, Kat, Annette and Kevin	Discuss process and timelines to review seed supply gaps and opportunities prior to completion of seedling needs forecast project.	In progress See item #6
Lise	Provide updated breeding program Gantt charts by April 9	See item #9
Kat, Lise and Bevin	Review ITAC request for an economic benefits of tree improvement report and recommend next steps.	See item #7
Keith, Annette, Kat, Lise and Brian	Develop plan for reviewing FGC's current strategic plan and preparing the next one.	See item #10
Keith, Annette and Dan M	Convene a directors' nomination committee and invite a representative from SelectSeed.	Completed See item #11
Brian	Seed orchard crop projection reports for seed users issued early summer	tbc

3. FGC Membership

Lise van der Merwe was appointed to council on Feb. 5 as a Ministry (research) representative.

Annette provided a report on nominations for the two vacant industry positions.

The following members term ends in 2025: Shannon (May 25) and Kat (Oct 20). Shannon expressed interest in serving another term.

Action: Annette to follow-up with FGC nominees to confirm interest.

Action: Keith to prepare FGC reappointment letter for Shannon before June meetings.

4. Safety

Members were invited to report on any other safety-related incidents or initiatives within the purview of FGC. No incidents or news were reported.

5. Dashboards

The FGC and SelectSeed dashboards were provided as attachment B. Brian reviewed the changes since January 2025. Discussion focused on extension activities.

Action: Brian to add a table to FGC Dropbox folder for people to add outreach and extension activities, including engagement with FNs.

6. Seedling needs forecast project update

The seedling forecast project is near completion. Preliminary estimates were shared at the meeting. Brian provided an overview of the forecasts and outreach, including a webinar and updates to the seed planning dashboards to tackle the next 2023 challenge dialogue action item: “develop a seed supply strategy that assesses current orchard capacity, identifies gaps, quick wins, and longer-term needs.” Details on the latter projects still to be discussed with TAC chairs and Forsite.

7. FGC extension projects

Kat, Annette, Juergen, Kathy Swift and Brian met several times to draft a new forest genetics diagram. Lise was subsequently asked to contribute.

Two additional panels describing cone collections (orchard and wild) and the seed handling system were prepared for the BC Forest Discovery Centre. These panels will be posted in the large cone opposite other tree seed panels.

Members to discuss extension priorities and budget for 2025/26. Also, see upcoming meetings in item #14.

Action: Subcommittee to share draft forest genetics diagram at June FGC meeting.

Action: Revisit extension plan with recommendations at June FGC meeting

8. TAC Reports

Kat reported a subcommittee is completing a literature review of the economic benefits of tree improvement. The ministry is also reviewing models to validate the additional timber and carbon offsets associated with the use of select seed. A white paper will be produced.

Annette reported on the CTAC meeting she hosted at Western Forest Products Saanich Forestry Centre on March 26. The meeting focused on the ministry’s proposed coastal breeding programs and budgets for 2025/26. A Cw species meeting is being considered.

Juergen reviewed the GCTAC meeting scheduled for April 11 at UVic. Proposals for 2025/26 will be reviewed and prioritized.

9. Ministry projects and budget requests for 2025/26

Lise provided a summary of the Ministry’s proposed projects and budget requests for tree breeding, climate change research (CARR) and conservation projects for 2025/26. The conservation budget request will be confirmed following the GCTAC budget

ITAC

Species/Program	Growth	Forest Health	Total

Pli	100,000	140,000	240,000
Py	230,000		230,000
Fdi	70,000	50,000	120,000
Sx	80,000		80,000
Pw		70,000	70,000
Cwi	65,000		65,000
Lw	20,000		20,000

CTAC

Species/Program	Growth	Forest Health	Total
Cw	108,000	20,000	128,000
Fdc	180,000	15,000	195,000
Hardwoods	40,000	5,000	45,000
HemBal	106,000		106,000
Pwc	8,000		8,000
Ss	20,000		20,000
Yc	15,000		15,000
CCAR			224,800

Budget – Comparisons for fiscal years 2023/24 to 2025/26

Species/Program	2025/26 Proposal	2024/25 Allocation	2023/24 Allocation
Breeding	1,342,000	1,260,000	1,329,000
Climate Adaptation	224,800	112,500*	111,000
GCTAC/CFGC		292,500	386,850
Total	1,566,800	1,665,000	1,826,850

*Note this was the portion funded from base/formally 'LBIS'; additional \$90,000 not reported here from FIP

Draft FGC Budget 2025/26

Program	Conservation	Adaptation	Health & Productivity	Request
Breeding – Coast			517,000	517,000
Breeding – Interior			825,000	825,000
CCAR		224,800		224,800
GCTAC/CFGC	TBD			
Total	TBD	224,800	1,342,000	TBD

As the ministry presentations were not recorded, nor will be shared or posted on the FGC website, Lise suggested including annual reports for each species and program in an annual progress report.

Keith reported that the ministry's budget will be further constrained this fiscal due to US tariffs and their economic impacts. Travel restrictions have already been imposed.

10. FGC Strategic Plan 2026-2030

The strategic plan committee met on April 2nd. Keith provided verbal report on considerations and next steps, including solicitation from FGC and TAC members on the current objectives and metrics in the 2021-2025 plan. Goals is to complete a new plan by January 2026.

11. SelectSeed director nomination committee

The SelectSeed directors' nomination committee met on March 12. Keith reported on the committee's discussions. Kerry also confirmed that Jack and Sally are interested in serving another term as director. The subcommittee subsequently recommended Jack Woods and Sally John be reappointed directors at SelectSeed's AGM scheduled for June 19.

12. SelectSeed 2025/26 business plan

SelectSeed's business plan for 2025/26 was included as attachment C. The report was approved by SelectSeed's directors on April 1, 2025.

Kerry and Brian provided an overview of the proposed activities and budget in the plan, including financial support for FGC and the ministry. Uncertainty re future crops, seed sales, and contract renewal and extensions, were identified as concerns.

This will be Brian's last year as CEO. Next fiscal, Frederik Vroom will manage the company and its seed orchard operations. A replacement for Brian's FGC program manager role will be identified.

Motion: SelectSeed's 2025/26 business plan, as amended, is hereby approved.
Annette/Juergen. Carried.

Action: Keith, Dan, Kerry, and Brian to discuss FGC support options for June AGM.

13. News and announcements

Members were encouraged to share announcements of news and events.

Dan M announced Thomas White moved a position with Geological Survey of Canada. Bryan Bogdanski is the new acting director at CFS.

Dan G invited Minister Parmar to visit VSOC's Vernon site and facilities on April 24 to promote tree improvement and industry's support and participation in the program. MoF staff will also be invited to participate/support.

Bevin announced Jimmie Hodgeson was appointed Chief Forester, Mosaic.

Keith announced Makenzie Leine was appointed deputy minister of forests.

Lise reported Penny May, technician, retired in January. Hayley Tumas was hired full-time. Leslie. Charlie Cartwright will also retire.

Brian will include ministry staffing announcements in next FGC newsletter.

14. Meetings in 2025

- April 10 Cariboo silviculture working group tour of Quesnel orchards.
- April 22 AGM for Canadian Forest Genetics Association, on-line
- April 23-25 [First Nations Forestry Conference, Penticton,](#)
- May 26-28 [BC Community Forest Association, Nanaimo](#)
- June tbc Coastal Silviculture Committee, Nanaimo
- June 2-6 IUFRO Resistance Mechanisms and Breeding in Forest Trees, Vernon
- June 10 SelectSeed Quesnel Open House, Quesnel
- June 19 AGMs for SelectSeed and BC Forest Genetics Society
- June 23-27 [Western Forest Genetics Association, Penn State](#)
- Aug 11-15 [Canadian Forest Genetics Association, Ottawa](#)

- Aug International Seed Federation – India (Dan G.)

Brian encouraged sponsorships of the CFGA meeting in Ottawa so on-line registration and participation may be possible for persons in BC unable to attend in person.

14. In camera session

No motion to move the meeting in camera was made.

15. Adjournment

Motion: the meeting is hereby adjourned. Kat/Lise. Carried

Draft minutes by B. Barber. Approved by FGC on June 19, 2025