

## Minutes - General Meeting, November 17, 2023

**Time/Date:** 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Friday, November 17, 2023

### Participants:

#### Forest Genetics Council of BC:

Annette van Niejenhuis, Bevin Wigmore, Dan Mazerolle, Domenico Iannidinardo, Cortini, Francesco, Juergen Ehling, Katherine Spencer, Kona Van Diest, Keith Thomas, Leith McKenzie, and Shannon Jonasson.

#### Guests:

Albert Nussbaum, Deputy Chief Forester; Kevin Astridge, FIRM; Laura Klade, Tree Seed Centre; Dan Gaudet, VSOC; Kerry McGourlick and Brian Barber, SelectSeed

### Regrets.

Bob Johnson, Jeff Mycock,

### Proceedings

This meeting was held via video conference. Meeting materials were posted on the FGC Secure Access webpage in advance at: <https://forestgeneticsbc.ca/meetings/secure-access/>

### Summary of Action Items:

Person(s)	Actions	When
Keith	Reconvene SelectSeed directors' subcommittee	January 2024
Kat	Add fire communications and contingency planning to the seed orchard pest management meetings.	Spring 2024
Kat and Shannon	Discuss adding aspen propagation to ITAC or interior broadleaves committee meeting.	ASAP
Keith and Kevin	Update the action plan, circulate to FGC for review next week, then subject to comments received, present to the chief forester for approval/direction.	ASAP
Brian	Circulate Doodle Poll for FGC meeting in April 2024	ASAP

## 1. Agenda

There being adequate notice served to members, and a quorum being present, the co-chairs called the meeting to order, confirmed attendees and agenda.

Time	Min.	#	Topic	Lead
13:00	5	1	Welcome and Agenda	Keith/Domenico
13:05	5	2	FGC Membership	Keith/Domenico
13:10	10	3	A Minutes and Action items from June 21, 2023	Brian
13:20	5	4	Safety	All
13:25	15	5	B FGC and SelectSeed Dashboards	Brian
13:40	20	6	C 2023 Cone Crop & TSC Updates	Laura
14:00	5	7	CF Memo regarding Seed Planning Update	Kevin
14:05	45	8	D Action Items and next steps from Oct 12	Keith/Kevin
14:50	10		<b>Break</b>	
15:00	15	9	TAC Chair Updates	Kat/Annette/ Juergen
15:15	5	10	News and announcements	All
15:20	5	11	Next FGC meeting	Brian
15:25	5	12	<i>In camera</i> session	Chair
15:30			Adjournment	

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

## 2. FGC Membership

Keith reported reappoint letters for Dan and Annette to serve another 3-year term have been forward to the chief forester. Keith extended his thanks for their continued involvement and contributions to FGC.

Domenico provided a verbal report on progress for soliciting nominations for an interior forest industry representative.

## 3. Minutes from June 21, 2023 meetings.

The draft minutes of the Society AGM, SelectSeed AGM and FGC general meeting held via video conference on June 21, 2023 were circulated in advance. See Attachment A. The AGM minutes will be approved at the next AGMs.

**Motion:** The minutes of the FGC meeting held June 21, 2023 are hereby approved. Kat/Kona. Carried

## Motions and Action Items from the June 21, 2023 meetings

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Brian	Prepare the draft Society and SelectSeed AGM minutes for the president's signatures and submit along with notice of any changes to the directors to the Society/Company's lawyer to file with the BC Registrar.	Completed Attachment A

Brian	Share Company's internal financial controls policy with shareholder	Completed
Keith	Provide minor edits to SelectSeed's 2022/23 Annual Report	Completed Final sent to FGC on Oct 5
FGC's director term subcommittee	Discuss and clarify amendments to articles 17.6 and 17.7 and engage the board and CEO, before providing new drafting instructions to the lawyer.	See action below
Domenico	Forward FGC industry rep nomination to the chief forester via Keith	See item #2
Brian	Poll members for an in-person meeting and dinner in Victoria on Oct 12 or 19	Completed
Keith, Domenico, Annette, and Brian	Identify purpose, objectives, and participants for a fall strategic planning session.	Completed See item #8

**Action:** Keith to reconvene SelectSeed directors' subcommittee in January 2024

#### 4. Safety

Brian reported in June 2023, SelectSeed requested WorkSafeBC review the company's classification in consideration of its purchase of a property in 2020 and hiring a full-time seed orchard manager in October 2022.

A response was received from WorkSafeBC on October 25 confirming the company's classification was changed from Financial Services (Other) to Ornamental Nursery or Floral Field Production (unit #701018) effective January 1, 2023. This classification unit is the same as VSOC's. The company's net premium rate has subsequently increased from 0.12% to 1.86% of assessable payroll.

Brian also reported there were no injuries reported by SelectSeed's partners. Frederik Vroom, Seed Orchard Manager, also held regular safety meetings with the company's partners.

Keith recommended orchard managers consider establishing more formal fire emergency communication and contingency plans. Informal communications occurred during the 2023 fire season, which impacted seed orchards in Sorrento and Skimikin.

**Action:** Kat to add fire communications and contingency planning to the seed orchard pest management meetings that will occur in the Spring.

## **5. FGC and SelectSeed Dashboards**

The FGC and SelectSeed dashboards were provided as Attachment B. Brian reviewed the projects' status and changes made since June 21. See Attachment B.

## **6. 2023 Cone Crop and Tree Seed Update**

Laura Klade, Manager, Provincial Tree Seed Centre (TSC), provided updates on the 2023 cone crop, 2024 seedling requests and construction of new storage freezers. See Attachment C.

The 2023 crop processed at the TSC included 23 seedlots totalling 1065 hl, compared to 8400 hl the previous year. Seed yields for Pli (grams/hl) are lower than historic averages.

Sowing requests for 2024 are also lower than last year for the same time period. There are currently 146M seedlings are currently approved, compared to 168M last year.

The new freezers under construction will double the TSC's current storage capacity of 13,680 spaces and 70,000 kg of seed (equivalent to 7.B trees). The project contractor and architect were acknowledged for their professional services and accommodating the needs of the TSC and the City of Surrey.

Laura also said the TSC processed 8 cottonwood seedlots that yielded 201 grams of seed with 1587-2755 seeds/gram.

Shannon said there was growing interest in growing aspen in the Interior. The TSC can advise on seed collections, and Alberta with root propagation. The resources and technical support required are, however, dependent upon scale (e.g. #s planted).

**Action:** Kat and Shannon to discuss adding aspen propagation to ITAC or interior broadleaves committee meeting.

## **7. CF Memo regarding Seed Planning**

On Oct. 17, FGC members were invited to comment on a draft seed planning guidance memo prepared for the chief forester. The memo updates a similar one prepared in 2017, which was based on input received from FGC.

Kevin Astridge, Seed Policy Officer, MoF, summarized the comments received and changes incorporated into the draft memo, which is now before the chief forester for sign-off. The final memo will be circulated and posted on the Ministry's website.

## **8. Action items from Oct 12 Workshop**

FGC held a Seed Supply Strategy Challenge Dialogue workshop at the Pacific Forestry Centre on October 12. The workshop was attended by 24 persons from governments,

industry and academia. A summary of the meeting, proposed next steps and background documents are posted on the following [website](#).

On Nov.3, the summary and draft action plan, including proposed priorities and leads, were circulated to the challenge dialogue participants for review and comment.



Keith and Kevin summarized comments received on the action plan. Members provided feedback resulting in some changes to the project descriptions and rankings. Leads, resources and details for each project will be confirmed at a later date.

Members recommended the full scope of the action plan be brought to the attention of the chief forester for endorsement.

**Action:** Kieth and Kevin to update the action plan, circulate to FGC for review next week, then subject to comments received, present to the chief forester for approval/direction.

## **9. TAC Chair Updates**

Kat Spencer, Interior TAC Chair, announced the ITAC extension and business meetings will occur Jan 17-18, 2024 in Vernon. These meetings will be in-person only. SelectSeed is assisting with planning and sponsorships. Agendas and venue to be confirmed in 2-3 weeks.

Annette van Niejenhuis, Coastal TAC Chair, will organize a virtual CBST meeting with coastal seed users and others, followed by a tree breeders' business meeting. Tentatively late January and February



Juergen Ehling, Genetic Conservation TAC Chair, intends to host a combined conservation and extension and business meeting at UVIC. The conservation strategic action item can also be introduced at this time. Date to be confirmed.

## 10. News and announcements

[Forest Genetics 2023](#), held July 10-14 in Vernon, was attended by over 105 researchers, students and professionals from across Canada, the USA, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Sweden, Poland, Taiwan, South Korea and Australia. The co-hosts, WFGA and CFGA, broke-even thanks to over \$50k in sponsorships received from 16 organizations, including those with representatives on FGC (CFS, MoF, Mosaic, VSOC, UVic) and SelectSeed. The proceedings and videos will soon be posted at: <https://cfga-acgf.com/>

A recognition dinner for Pat Martin, RPF, former Director, FIRM, and FGC Ministry Co-chair, was held on October 12. The dinner was attended by 18 persons, most of whom also participated in the aforementioned workshop. Pat was presented a couple of gifts and words of thanks. Pat is happily enjoying retirement.



*L to R: Keith Thomas, Domenico Iannidinardo, Pat Marting, Brian Barber*

Keith announced Haley Tumas, UBC, is working for the Ministry on a one-year auxiliary appointment on the coastal cedar programs at Lake Cowichan.

Dates and locations for upcoming meetings. Details to follow in weeks ahead.

- Canadian Forest Genetics Association AGM, on-line, December 6, 2023.
- Interior TAC Extension and Business Meetings, January 17-18, 2024, Vernon, BC.
- Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative, March 6, 2024, Coeur d'Alene, ID.

- IUFRO Seed Orchard Conference, May 20-24, 2024, Braşov, Romania  
[1st announcement](#)
- North American Forest Genetics Society, June 10-14, Oaxaca, Mexico.
- BC Seed Orchard Association (BCSOA), June 18-19, 2024, Sidney, BC
- IUFRO World Forestry Congress, June 23-29, 2024, Stockholm, Sweden

Brian will include above in an upcoming FGC eNewsletter. FGC members were invited to share other news to include in the newsletter.

### **11. Next FGC Meeting**

The next FGC meeting is proposed for mid-late April 2024.

**Action:** Brian to circulate Doodle Poll for FGC meeting in April 2024

### **12. *In camera* session**

Motion to move the meeting *in camera*, Annette/Kona. Carried

Motion to move the meeting out of *in camera*. Annette/Shannon. Carried

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 pm. Francesco/Jurgen. Carried

*Draft minutes by B. Barber. Nov 20, 2023*

*Approved April 24, 2024*