

Minutes of General Meeting – October 17, 2024

Participants:

Forest Genetics Council of BC:

Annette van Niejenhuis, Bevin Wigmore, Bob Johnson, Dan Mazerolle, Francesco Cortini*, Juergen Ehling, Leith McKenzie, Katherine Spencer*, Keith Thomas, Kona Van Diest* and Shannon Jonasson* (* via video)

Guests:

Albert Nussbaum, Deputy Chief Forester; Kevin Astridge and Alvin Yanchuk, FIRM; Laura Klade, Tree Seed Centre; Dan Gaudet, VSOC; Brian Barber and Kerry McGourlick, SelectSeed. John Moore, New Zealand, was also introduced during the meeting.

Proceedings

This meeting was held in-person and by video conference. It was co-chaired by Keith and Annette. Meeting materials were posted on the [FGC Secure Access webpage](#) in advance.

The meeting was proceeded by a field trip and dinner on Oct. 16 attended by FGC members and several guests. The field trip itinerary is included as Appendix 1.

Summary of Motions

Motion: Minutes of the June 12, 2024, meeting, as amended, are hereby approved.
Bevin/Bob. Carried

Summary of Actions

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Kat	Share a Kalamalka seed orchard incident report with orchard managers	ASAP
Keith, Annette, Bevin and Bob	Discuss the vacant FGC industry positions.	ASAP
Keith	Report on Ministry budget allocations to the forest genetics program for fiscal 2024/25.	ASAP
Keith	Provide direction to TAC chairs with expectations re reviews of Ministry business plans, projects and budgets	ASAP
Francesco	Share link with several recent Ministry videos	ASAP
Brian	Set up an extraordinary meeting in December to develop an FGC extension plan.	ASAP
Brian	Send out doodle polls for proposed FGC meeting dates in 2025	ASAP

1. Agenda

There being adequate notice served to members, and a quorum being present, Keith called the meeting to order, welcomed participants, reviewed safety and housekeeping items, and confirmed the agenda.

#	Time	Min		Topic	Lead
1	8:30	10		Welcome & agenda	Keith
2	8:40	10	A	Minutes and action items from June 12 meetings	Brian
3	8:50	10		Safety updates	All
4	9:00	10	B	FGC and SelectSeed dashboards	Brian
5	9:10	10		FGC membership	Keith
6	9:20	10		MoF seed policy updates	Kevin
7	9:30	30	C	SelectSeed updates including succession planning	Brian
	10:00	20		Coffee break	
8	10:20	30	D	2024 cone crop and Tree Seed Centre update	Laura
9	10:40	20		Seedling needs forecast project	Brian/Kevin
10	11:00	10		TAC updates	Kat/Juergen/ Annette
11	11:10	30		FGC extension needs and priorities	All
12	11:40	5		News and announcements	All
13	11:45	5		Next meetings	Brian
14	11:50	10		<i>In camera</i> session	Keith
	12:00			Adjournment, lunch & option tour of CLRS	

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

2. Minutes from June 12, 2023, meetings.

The draft minutes of AGMs for the BC Forest Genetics Society and SelectSeed, and FGC general meeting, held via video conference on June 1, 17, 2023 were included as attachments A. The AGM minutes will be approved at the next AGMs

The draft minutes were amended to include Shannon's attendance at the June 12 meeting and the BC First Nations Forestry Conference held in Penticton, May 29-30.

Motion: Minutes of the June 12, 2024, meeting as amended, are hereby approved. Bevin/Bob. Carried.

Action Items from the June 12, 2024 meeting

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Keith	Arrange genetics tour for First Nations Forestry Council at an MoF site in Fall 2024.	In progress
Brian	Update FGC display panels for conference trade shows in fall 2024	In progress

FGC	Discuss extension needs and priorities	See item #11
Keith	Discuss the two vacant industry positions (co-chair and interior rep) with non-Ministry members.	See item #5
Brian	Circulate latest version of the seedling needs forecast project terms of reference	Completed
Brian	Enquire about potential dates, field stops and recommend an itinerary for a fall FGC meeting and field trip.	Completed

3. Safety

Members were invited to report on any other safety-related incidents or initiatives.

The Great Shakeout earthquake preparedness drill will take place at 10:10 am. WorkSafe BC's new first aid requirements take effect November 1. All reported completion of site assessments and compliance with the new regulations.

Kat reported WorkSafe BC approved the operation of 3-wheel Gillson lifts for cone picking on slopes up to 10%. The previous max. slope for use in Canada was 5%. Kat also reported new orchards at Bailey Rd will be oriented up/down versus across slope for safer lift operations.

Action: Kat to share a Kalamalka seed orchard incident report with orchard managers.

4. FGC Membership

Domenico Iannidinardo was recognized for his service on FGC between March 2013 and May 2024 at the dinner held the previous evening. Domenico is the new CEO for Strategic Natural Resource Consultants Inc.



Brian Barber, Domenico Iannidinardo, and Keith Thomas

Bevin, Bob and Juergen were reappointed for additional 3-year terms on October 3.

Jeff Mycock, Chief Forester Canada, West Fraser Timber, resigned from FGC on Oct 3. Jeff served on council since Nov. 2016. He nominated Dan Gaudet, Managing Director, Vernon Seed Orchard Company (VSOC), to serve on FGC. VSOC has seed orchards in Vernon and Quesnel, and a new seed processing facility in Vernon.

Action: Keith, Annette, Bevin and Bob to discuss the vacant FGC industry positions ASAP.

5. FGC and SelectSeed Dashboards

Brian provided an overview of changes to the dashboards since June. Most of the tasks were subsequently discussed later in the meeting. See Appendix 2.

6. MoF seed policy updates

Kevin provided an overview of the Ministry's new cone and seed fee schedule that came into effect on August 1, 2024.

Kevin also reported the recent release of a new SPAR portal for seedlot registration. The modernization of other SPAR features, CONSEP (the Tree Seed Centre's internal business system), and several other Ministry legacy systems, continues. FIRM will also conduct an audit to check compliance with the chief forester's seed use standards, including CBST, in the months ahead.

7. SelectSeed updates including succession planning

Brian provided an update on SelectSeed's orchards, including safety initiatives, the 2024 cone crops, partner negotiations and progress on establishing two Pli orchards in Quesnel. See attachment C.

Of note is the clearing of a 10 m right-of way over a Fortis gas line running thru PRT Armstrong's property. Approx 35 trees in Pli 338 TO low and 54 trees in Fdi 321 NE low will be removed, which represent 1.3% and 3.5% of the total ramets in each respective orchard.

Kerry and Brian also reported on the status of Company's succession plan. SelectSeed's board has discussed options with Keith and will bring recommendations/decisions forward to FGC with next year's business plan.

8. 2024 cone crop and Tree Seed Centre update

Laura Klade, Manager, provided an overview of the 2024 seedlots processed being at the Tree Seed Centre, as compared to the previous (low) year.

Processing 2024-25				2023-24 hL
Source	hL	# seedlots	# priorities	hL
A class	2,900 ¹	31 + 40 ²	9	910
B class	1,700	40	14	120
Total	4,600	71 + 40	23	1,030

¹ Estimates are approximate

- Large Fdc crops are still being harvested
- Wild stand collection volumes are still coming in

² 40 individual family lots

Laura also reported the near completion of new freezers. Seedlots from the old freezer are now being transferred to the new ones set at -20°C. An open house will be held in spring 2025 when construction and landscaping have been completed. See attachment D.

9. Seedling needs forecast project update

Brian provided an update on the seedling needs forecast project. Compilation of the input data (harvest area and reforestation standards for each TSA and TFL) and the project website are near complete.

Brian will send out a request for forest professionals to review and update the data via OIF industry co-chairs and other channels by November 1.

BCTS and Forest Investment Program will review and submit their data separately. Deadline for submissions is December 13. All data will be compiled to estimate annual seedling needs by species, BEC variant, management unit and funding source to 2054.

Preliminary numbers will be shared at ITAC in January. Forecasts will be used to identify seed orchard needs and priorities and held guide investments.

10. TAC Chair Updates

Annette, Coastal TAC Chair, recognized the coastal seed orchard staff who co-hosted a successful BC Seed Orchard Assoc. meeting in June 2024. A coastal breeder's budget review meeting will be held in Feb-March.

Kat, Interior TAC Chair, announced the ITAC extension meeting will be held in Vernon on Jan 15-16, 2025. It will be in-person and virtual. Concerns were expressed that travel and fiscal restrictions could impact attendance. Kat will consider and discuss with Keith.

Juergen, Genetic Conservation TAC Chair, reviewed the March meeting including updates to the genetic conservation strategy (Alvin lead). No GCTAC meetings to review projects or budgets are scheduled at this time.

Action: Keith to report on Ministry budget allocations to the forest genetics program for fiscal 2024/25.

Action: Keith to provide direction to TAC chairs with expectations re reviews of Ministry business plans, projects and budgets.

11. FGC extension needs and priorities

A discussion on extension needs and priorities identified the following audiences: First Nations, forestry students, forest professionals and the public. Media and methods included social media/YouTube videos, webinars, field tours, and attending meetings and tradeshow vs old school production of reports and brochures.

Engagement with First Nations includes listening to their concerns and creating a safe space for conversations.

Brian is updating the FGC banners to display at winter meetings including the Forest Professionals BC conference in Victoria on Feb 5-7, 2025.

Action: Francesco to share link with several recent Ministry videos.

Action: Brian to set up extraordinary meeting in December to develop an FGC extension plan.

12. News and announcements

Don Pigott was awarded the Don Summers Award at the Forest Nursery Association meeting held in Vernon, on Sept 13.

Dan Gaudet hosted the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations on tour of VSOC Quesnel on October 4. In attendance were Russ Clinton and Jim Burbee.

13. Next meetings

Proposed date ranges for the FGC meetings in early 2025

- January 21-20 General business meeting
- April 1-10 SelectSeed business plan and MoF budget
- May 27-28 Open house at SelectSeed Quesnel
- June 17-19 AGMs for the Society and SelectSeed

Action: Brian to send out doodle polls for proposed FGC meeting dates in 2025

13. In camera session

No motion to move the meeting in camera was made.

14. Adjournment

Motion. The meeting is hereby adjourned at 12:10 pm. Annette/Dan. Carried.

Draft minutes by B. Barber. November 1, 2024

Approved Jan 24, 2025

Appendix 1. FGC Fall Field Trip, Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Google map of route: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/k9SgCngiPP7DrtGF8>

Hosts: Forest Genetics Council, Select Seed Co. Ltd., and BC Ministry of Forests

Itinerary - Wednesday, October 16, 2024

- 07:45 Arrive at the Pacific Forestry Centre (PFC)
 506 Burnside Road West, Victoria, British Columbia, V8Z 1M5
 coffee available
- 08:00 Welcome and intros
 Dan Mazerolle, Director General, PFC, and Brian Barber, FGC
- 08:15 Indigenous history tree ring reconciliation project
 Thomas White, NRCan
- 08:30 Douglas-fir and W. redcedar drought and pathogen resistance trials
 Mike Cruickshank & Cosmin Filipescu. NRCan
- 09:15 Organize convoy to minimize # vehicles. Vehicles can be left at PFC.
- 09:30 Depart PFC
- 10:30 Arrive Forebay Rd, before Jordan River
 Turn R on Forebay Road, Turn L 800m thru red gate.
 Located within [Totangi Private Forest](#)

 EP 708.22 Douglas-fir general combining ability trail, est. 2003
 Jon Degner, MoF

 GeneSolve project re Swiss needle cast
 Juergen Ehlting, UVic
- 11:30 TFL 61 [Pacheedaht Andersen Timber Holdings](#), managed by Queesto
 11793 W Coast Rd, Jordan River
 Angus Hope, P.Eng, RPF, Manager.
- 12:00 Bag lunch - provided
- 12:30 Turn R on W35, appox. 7 km on W Coast Road past Jordan River
 Sitka spruce realized gain trial – Charlie Cartwright, MoF

























- 13:30 Turn R on W40 approx 1.5 km past W35
Western redcedar progeny test - Jon Degner. MoF
Drone demo, data capture and processing - Jacob King, NRCan
- 14:30 Depart for Port Renfrew & Lens Main
- 15:30 Turn R on Lens Main off Pacific Marine Rd, approx. km N of Port Renfrew
Turn R after 2.6km, and take next right into cutblock
Fdc progeny test incl Swiss needle cast fungicide trial – Jon Degner,
- 16:30 Depart for next stop, head N on Pacific Marine Rd.
- 17:15 Turn R on Lens Road approx. 9 km S of Mesachie Lake
Vine maple and cascara seed collections and conservation – Don Pigott
- 18:00 Arrive at [Cowichan Lake Conference Centre](#)
- 18:30 Dinner including FGC recognition award to Domenico Iannidinardo






Photos available for downloading in this [Dropbox folder](#) until March 31, 2025















FGC field tour group at Cw trial on W40 west of Jordan River.
Credit: Jacob King and his drone
















FGC Dashboard – October 2024

Category	Metric	Period (Quarter)	Target	To-date (Value or %)	Notes	Prior	Current	Outlook
Forest Genetics Council								
Gov't funding for forest genetics programs	LBIS \$ allocations to forest genetics activities	2024/25	\$2.1M	tbc	LBIS allocations further reduced for 2024/25			
SelectSeed Directors - terms and selection	SelectSeed directors' policy	2024/25	Prior to June '24 AGM	100	Policy completed. Strike nomination committee in Dec/Jan for June 2025			
FGC Membership	All positions filled	2024	June '24 Jan '25		Industry Co-chair and two industry rep positions vacant.			
FGC Species Plans	Seed Orchard Directory	2024/25	May 2024 Sept 2024	50% 90%	Not completed –			
FGC Strategic Plan	Progress Report	2024/25	May 2024 Sept 2024	5%	Seed use performance measure posted on FGC website. Defer full report to 2025			
FGC and TAC Meetings	Agendas, minutes and financial support	2024/25			Support FGC, Society AGM and TAC meetings including FGC field trip; and BCSAO meeting June 18-19			
Seedling needs forecasts	Revised forecasts to ~2054	2024/25	Jan 25	40%	Harvest and reforestation matrices, website near completion. Release week of Oct 28. Feedback by Dec 13			
Genetic conservation strategy	Update in consideration of COP 15 commitments	2024/25	Dec 2024	90%	Alvin leading re-draft of previous strategy – in progress			

Category	Metric	Period (Quarter)	Target	To-date (Value or %)	Notes	Prior	Current	Outlook
Forest Genetics Council								
First Nations Engagement Forestry Council	Host First Nations Forestry Council mtg at Kalamalka Centre	2024/25	Summer or fall 2024		Contact with Leonard Joe, FNFC Ministry to arrange tour			
Seed supply strategy	ID orchard capacity, gaps, quick wins, and longer-term needs	tbd	Tbc		Initiate after above project near completion			

SelectSeed Dashboard – October 2024

Select Seed Co. Ltd								
Category	Metric	Period (Quarter)	Target	To-date (Value or %)	Notes	Prior	Current	Outlook
Seed Orchard Review and Long-term Strategy	10-year strategic plan	2024/25	March '25	In progress	New orchard opportunities uncertain Timing and allocation of materials?			
Orchard Agreements	Two new agreements	2024/25	Dec '24	In progress	Negotiate agreements with Hansinger (Pli) and PRT Growing services (Fdi) by Dec 31 2024.			
Quesnel Pli Orchards	All positions filled 2025	2024/25	Fall '24	In progress	Planting completed Sept 2024 Grafting additional ramets to fill all positions in both orchards by 2025			
Property Management	Subdivision of Quesnel Property	2024/25	Dec '24	In progress	Rezoning approved by CRD. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure review underway – several subjects.			

Succession Plan	CEO succession plan and documentation	2024/25	Dec '24	In progress	Succession plan reviewed by Board in Sept. Discussed with Keith. Finalize by Jan '25			
Safety	Develop site hazard assessments, SPOs and wildfire responses		Fall 2024	In progress	Pursing AgSafe certification			
Seed Production 2024 crop	Kg of seed produced	2024/25	346 kg \$1.69M 101 kg \$647k		Fdi crop damaged in Jan cold event Pli moderate – no harvest at Sorrento or Tolko. Seed in processing at TSC and VSOC			
Seed prices	Updated seed prices	2024/25	Aug 1 Sept 1	100%	New prices Introduced Aug 1			
Revenues	Seed sales income	2024/25	\$1.35M \$1.13M		Subject to 2025 seedling requests and 2024 Pli seed yields			
25 th Anniversary	Celebration event	2024/25	Fall '24		Deferred to Spring 2025	