

## General Meeting - Minutes

**Time/Date:** 10:20 – 11:52 a.m., Wednesday, June 19, 2025

### Participants

**Members:** Annette van Niejenhuis, Bob Johnson, Dan Gaudet, Dan Mazerolle, Katherine Spencer, Keith Thomas, Leith McKenzie, and Shannon Jonasson.

**Regrets** (proxy): Bevin Wigmore (Bob), Juergen Ehling (Dan M.), and Kona Van Diest.

**Guests:** Albert Nussbaum, deputy chief forester; Kerry McGourlick, Rod Willis, Sally John, Brian Barber and Frederik Vroom, SelectSeed.

### Proceedings

The meeting was held via video conference immediately following the AGMs of the BC Forest Genetics Society and Select Seed Co. Ltd.

### Summary of motions

**Motion:** The minutes of the FGC meeting held April 9, 2025, are hereby approved. Keith/Shannon. Carried.

**Motion:** Bevin is hereby appointed CTAC chair. Keith/Dan G. Carried.

### Summary of action items

Person(s)	Actions	When
Keith	Bring forward the nominations for two industry councillors to the chief forester for consideration and appointment.	ASAP
Annette and Keith	Issue the TAC chairs letters of expectations.	Fall
Brian	Share new seed planning dashboard and 2025 orchard cone crop forecasts in FGC newsletter.	June 30
Annette, Kat, Juergen, Lise and Brian	Complete the forest genetics cycle poster.	Fall
Brian	Enable editing of extension log posted in FGC Dropbox folder and share link with FGC and TAC members (via chairs) to record extension activities.	ASAP
Keith and Kerry	Circulate options for on-going FGC support for discussion.	Fall meeting
Keith, Annette, Kat, Lise and Brian	Strategic plan committee to share draft plan.	Fall meeting
Brian	Send calendar invitations for FGC fall meeting on Tuesday am, Sept. 23 at WFP's Saanich Forestry Centre.	ASAP

## 1. Agenda

There being adequate notice served, and a quorum of members present, Annette, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:20 am, welcomed members and guests, confirmed regrets and proxies, and reviewed the agenda.

10:20	75	<i>C. Forest Genetics Council</i>		
	2	1	Participants and agenda	Annette
	3	2	C1 Minutes and action items from April 9, 2025	Brian
	5	3	Safety	All
	5	4	C2 FGC Dashboard	Brian
	5	5	FGC membership	Keith/Annette
	10	6	Seedling Needs Forecast Project	Brian
	10	7	C3 FGC Strategic Plan 2026-2030	Keith
	15	8	C4-6 Extension activities	Brian
	10	9	FGC support	Keith/Kerry/Brian
	5	10	News and events	All
	5	11	Next meeting – fall field trip	All
	5	12	In camera session	Keith
11:35		13	Adjournment	

**Motion:** The agenda for this meeting is hereby approved. Dan M./Lise. Carried.

## 2. Minutes from April 9, 2025

The draft minutes of the FGC meeting held via video conference on April 9, 2025, were included as attachment C1.

**Motion:** The minutes of the FGC meeting held April 9, 2025, are hereby approved. Keith/Shannon. Carried.

## Motions and action items from April 9, 2025

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Annette	Follow-up with FGC nominees to confirm interest	Completed See item 5
Keith	Prepare FGC reappointment letter for Shannon	Completed. See item 5
Brian	Add a table to FGC Dropbox folder for people to add outreach and extension activities, including engagement with FNs.	Completed See item 8
Extension subcommittee	Share draft forest genetics diagram	Completed See item 8
FGC	Revisit extension plan with recommendations	See item 8
Keith, Dan G., Kerry, and Brian	Discuss FGC support options	See item 9

### 3. Safety

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

Keith conveyed the Ministry's concern regarding a potential BCGEU strike adversely impacting cone harvest and site safety/security. However, a strike is no longer imminent as discussions with the union continue.

### 4. Dashboard

An updated FGC Dashboard was provided as attachment C2. Brian reviewed the changes since April 9, 2025. Keith provided an update on the Ministry's interim budget and travel restrictions. New line items were added to the FGC table for the 2026-2030 strategic plan and economic impacts of tree improvement review.

### 5 FGC Membership

On June 11, 2025, Shannon was reappointed for another three-year term. She was thanked for her continued participation and contributions.

Annette reported that the nominees for the two vacant industry positions are interested in serving on FGC. Their knowledge and experience will be valuable contributions to the council. A misalignment in the nomination processes described in the chief forester's FGC terms of reference and industry rep guidelines for FGC membership were noted. These documents are posted on FGC's [Governance webpage](#).

Annette also confirmed that Bevin is willing to assume the role of CTAC chair.

**Action:** Keith to bring forward the nominations for two industry councilors to the chief forester for consideration and appointment ASAP.

**Motion:** Bevin is hereby appointed CTAC chair. Keith/Dan G. Carried.

**Action:** Annette and Keith to issue the TAC chairs letters of expectations by Fall 2025.

### 6. Seedling Needs Forecast Project

Brian reports that the [seedling needs forecast project](#) was completed in early May. On May 13, Kat, Kevin Astridge, Brian and Matthew Leung (Forsite), hosted a webinar describing the project and forecasts. It was attended by 55 persons. Responses were positive, although some were disappointed the projected planting numbers did not return to 300M. See [John Betts' article](#) about the forecasts in the WFCA newsletter of May 16, which was also shared broadly in Tree Frog News.

Over \$6k was expensed by Forsite (under contract with SelectSeed on behalf of FGC) to complete the forecast project in April and May. Matthew was commended for his work.

Mathew and Larry Watkin, Forsite, and Krita Copeland, FIRM, are currently updating the [seed planning dashboards](#) to include the new seedling forecasts, RESULTS planting, and orchard seed production since 2022. The dashboards' layout and user functionality are also being improved. [See new draft dashboard here](#). Funding for this work is being provided by the Ministry.

The updated dashboards will be used to identify seed supply gaps and orchard opportunities, and to develop a provincial seed supply strategy (to be completed in fall 2025). The process to complete this action is still to be determined in consultation with the TAC chairs.

The revised dashboard and seed orchard crop forecasts will be shared with seed users at the end of June. These forecasts are being collected by the Tree Seed Centre. This information will help inform seed users of orchard seed that will potentially be available for 2026 seedling requests, and will help guide wild stand cone collections.

**Action:** Brian to share new dashboard and 2025 orchard cone crop forecasts in FGC newsletter by end of June.

## 7. FGC Strategic Plan 2026-2030

A strategic plan committee, including Keith, Lise, Kat, Annette and Brian, has met several times since the last FGC meeting to discuss scope, format and timelines for preparing a strategic plan for the period 2026-2030. Their goal is completion of a new plan, approved by FGC and the chief forester, in early 2026.

FGC and TAC members were invited to provide feedback on the previous strategic plan by May 2. Only three persons submitted comments. See summary in attachment C3.

Keith will report on status and next steps to complete the plan.

The ministry is currently reviewing methodology to calculate [2021-2025 strategic plan](#) performance measures:

- 1) Additional volume of timber available for harvest attributed to select seed used annually, and
- 2) By 2025, >30% of pest tolerant seed is directed to moderate- and high-hazard sites.

Subject to determination of these metrics, a progress report for the period 2022-25 may be prepared.

**Action:** Strategic plan committee (Keith, Annette, Kat, Lise and Brian) to share draft in advance of fall meeting.

## 8. Extension

Since October 2024, Kat, Annette, Lise, Juergen and Brian have met several times to develop a new forest genetics diagram to replace the [2006 tree improvement cycle](#) poster. See attachment C4 for latest draft. Subject to comments from members, and available funds, a graphic designer will be retained to complete the design for publication.

Two additional panels for the [BC Forest Discovery Centre](#) were recently completed and installed. Brian showed photos at the meeting. Design costs were paid by SelectSeed, and the Centre paid for printing and installation. Members were encouraged to visit the display.

Brian prepared a draft log (xls file) to record forest genetics extension activities (attachment C5). The fields were deemed appropriate. This file will be posted in the FGC Dropbox folder, and FGC/TAC members will be invited to record their extension activities and audiences.

An FGC extension map was prepared for the Dec. 6, 2024 meeting (attachment C6). The map can be used to identify other extension activities and projects for 2025/26, subject to available resources (time and funding). Extension will remain a standing FGC agenda item.

Brian also shared a draft FGC communication plan, completed in January 2019. The plan, which includes references to prior extension plans and reports, was not finalized due to other priorities (see [April 2, 2019](#) minutes). However [FGC's website](#) was revamped, and most of the other recommended actions are reflected in the new extension map (e.g. target audiences and tools identified).

**Action:** Annette, Kat, Juergen, Lise and Brian to complete the forest genetics cycle poster by fall.

**Action:** Brian to enable editing of the extension log posted in the FGC Dropbox folder, and share a link with FGC and TAC members (via chairs) to record extension activities ASAP.

## 9. FGC support

SelectSeed's budget for the FGC program and Ministry support in its approved 2025/26 business plan is summarized in the table below.

Forest Genetics Council	
Program Manager and Administration	\$ 99,000
FGC Projects & Reports	\$ 7,000
Meetings and Extension	\$ 12,000
Ministry Support	\$ 60,000
<b>Total Forest Genetics Council</b>	<b>\$ 178,000</b>

Over \$6K of the \$7K budget allocated to FGC projects and reports has already been spent completing the seedling needs forecasts. If meeting and extension costs do not exceed the budget and the ministry does not require all \$60K funding for tree breeding support, sufficient funds may be available to cover costs to complete the strategic plan and other FGC projects. Brian's available time and SelectSeed's resources, however, are limited.

Brian will retire at the end of this fiscal year. On May 20, Keith, Jack, Kerry and Brian met to discuss options for providing ongoing FGC support. Kerry and Keith said it will be challenging to find a person with Brian's experience, and SelectSeed may not be able to provide the same level of financial support to FGC in future.

**Action:** Keith and Kerry to circulate options for ongoing FGC support for discussion at the next meeting.

## 10. News and Events

Lise reported Ministry staff hosted a tour of the Kalamalka Forestry Centre and Skimikin Seed Orchards during the [8th IUFRO Workshop on Resistance Mechanisms and Breeding in Forest Trees](#) held in Vernon, June 1-6. International scientists were impressed with the scope of BC's insect and disease resistance breeding programs. SelectSeed sponsored this meeting in part, also on behalf of FGC.

SelectSeed held an open house at its Quesnel seed orchards on June 10. It was attended by 45 persons, including SelectSeed's directors and staff, VSOC's directors and staff, local foresters, contractors, suppliers, and politicians, including MLA Sheldon Clare, Prince George-North Cariboo. Brian shared a few pictures and commended Frederik and Richard Sutton, SelectSeed's new seasonal technician, for preparing for the open house. He also thanked Kat for representing FGC and the Ministry, and Dan G. for hosting a tour of VSOC Quesnel the day prior. Kerry also noted how much improved SelectSeed's Quesnel Orchard 413 appeared compared to his last visit.

The Western Forest Genetics Association, Southern Forest Tree Improvement Committee, and Northern Forest Genetics Association will hold a joint meeting at [Penn State, June 23-27, 2025](#). Lise requested approval for a few Ministry staff to participate via livestream.

Dan G. will attend the [International Seed Federation Tree and Shrub Working Group's](#) conference in Dehra Dun, India, August 26-28, 2025.

The Canadian Forest Genetics Association [Forest Genetics 2025 conference](#) will be held Aug. 11-15, 2025, in Ottawa. Brian will attend as CFGA's past-president, and will present at the tree seed workshop and during the main program. Few BC participants are expected, and no livestream option is available. SelectSeed is a sponsor of this biennial national conference.

The [Forest Nursery Association of BC \(FNABC\)](#) will hold its annual meeting in Sidney, September 23-25, 2025.

The [Southern Interior Silviculture Committee \(SISCO\)](#) fall field trip will take place in the Williams Lake area, October 7-8, 2025.

[Woodlots BC](#) (formerly the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations) will hold its annual conference in **Osoyoos**, October 16-18, 2025. Brian incorrectly stated Nanaimo as the meeting location. Gord Chipman, Executive Director, Woodlots BC, is a past FGC member and attended SelectSeed's open house.

**Action:** Brian to enquire about FGC display options and costs at the FNABC and Woodlots BC meetings in September and October, respectively.

## 11. Next Meetings

Ministry travel restrictions will probably continue through the fall. A fall field trip to Quesnel or Vernon would not likely be feasible. An in-person + video meeting held in conjunction with the FNABC meeting was therefore proposed.

Annette offered to host FGC's fall meeting at [WFP's Saanich Forestry Centre](#) on **Tuesday am, September 23, 2025**. WFP will host a tour of their nursery and seed orchards in the afternoon as part of FNABC's program. FGC members are welcome to attend the WFP tour regardless of

whether they register for the FNABC meeting. Members are encouraged to make travel arrangements.

**Action:** Brian to send calendar invitations for FGC fall meeting on Tuesday am, Sept. 23 at WFP's Saanich Forestry Centre.

## **12. In camera session**

No new business was identified and no motion to move the meeting in camera was made.

## **13. Adjournment**

Motion: The meeting is hereby adjourned at 11:52. Keith/Dan M. Carried.

*Draft minutes by B. Barber, June 24, 2025*

*Approved on September 23, 2025*