
MINUTES of the Genetic Conservation Technical Advisory Committee

February 28, 2019

780 Blanshard St. Victoria, BC.

Attendance:

Members present:

In person: Shane Ford (Chair), Alan Vyse, Alvin Yanchuk, Charlie Cartwright, Dave Kolotelo, Michael Murray, Sally Aitken (via phone), Tongli Wang,

Guests:

Brian Barber, Don Pigott, Iain Reid, Keith Thomas, Kendra Bennett

Summary of Action Items:

Action: Shane to confirm GCTAC representatives.

Action: Tongli to update Conservation Catalogue

Action: Project proponents to provide Brian with additional details and budget recommendations ASAP.

Action: Keith and Brian to bring forward GCTAC budget recommendations to Ministry/FGC.

Proceedings

The meeting was held in person in Victoria, hosted by the Ministry of Forests. With adequate notice served and quorum of members present, Shane called the meeting to order at ~1:30 pm.

1. Agenda

The agenda prepared for the meeting was reviewed and adopted.

2. Minutes November 28, 2018:

The draft minutes of the GCTAC meeting held Nov 28, 2018 were circulated with agenda.

Motion: The minutes of the GCTA meeting held on Nov 28, 2018 are hereby approved.

Dave/Michael. Carried.

3. Membership

Pia Smets resigned from GCTAC in advance of the meeting. CFS and MoE reps needed. Shane had reached out to

Shane identified Cyndi Smith, retired from [Parks Canada](#) (retired staff) and Kendra Bennett, Species at Risk Coordinator as potential members, and also contacted the [Nature Conservancy of Canada](#) (NCC). Others offered suggestions (people and organizations) for additional representatives.

Actions: Shane to follow-up and confirm new GCTAC representatives.

4. Updates and Project Proposals

Tongli provided overview of Conservation Catalogue and recommended new criteria/thresholds for minor species. Iain Reid, Michael Murphy, Charlie Cartwright, Dave Kolotelo and Sally Aitken also provided updates on their respective projects and recommended projects & budgets for next fiscal. Kendra Bennett provided an update on the Federal Recovery Strategy for Whitebark Pine and BC's response.

Action: Tongli et al to finalized Conservation Catalogue Report with adjustments as recommended.

5. 2019/20 Budget

Pat Martin's letter re business planning process and budget targets for 2019/20 was reviewed. The budget target for Conservation Activities (\$220k) did not include Tongli's salary which presented a challenge if budgets for on-going and other proposed conservation projects were also to be accommodated.

The following budget options were recommended.

Proponent	2015-20 Strategic Plan	Actuals 2018/19	Option A	Option B	Option C	Activities
Tree Seed Centre	\$40,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 38,000	Ex-situ collections + seed bank mgmt
Whitebark Pine (Cartwright)	\$40,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 30,000	White bark pine field screening, parent tree marking (monumenting), IUFRO Publication
Whitebark Pine (Murray)	\$30,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 31,200	\$ 19,300	\$ 10,500	White bark pine resistance testing, seed extraction, nursery, field trial assessments, verbanone treatments.
Whitebark Pine BMP (Murray)		\$ 20,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 10,500	\$ 7,500	Develop BMP for Healthy Cone-bearing Whitebark Pine in Harvest Units; complete field work, tree ring measurements, report
UBC Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics	\$110,000	\$ 59,594	\$ 64,750	\$ 59,750	\$ 53,500	WBP phenotyping and assisted migration; new project (Ne or Juniper); travel, website and overhead.
Conservation Catalogue (Wang)		\$ -	\$ 78,127	\$ 78,127	\$ 78,127	Refine catalogue; interactive web platform; assess CC impacts on spp protection status; model species richness over time; and identify most effective habitat for species protection.
Other		\$ 4,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	2018 Fall Meeting - used for Feb 28 2019 face to face meeting in Victoria
total	\$220,000	\$186,494	\$271,077	\$242,677	\$217,627	

Action: Project proponents to provide Brian with additional details and budget recommendations ASAP.

Action: Keith and Brian to bring forward GCTAC budget recommendations to Ministry/FGC.

Draft by B Barber Feb 2020. Approved on Feb 28, 2020.