

## Minutes - General Meeting

**Date:** 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Wednesday, June 17, 2020  
**Location:** GoToMeeting Video Conference

### Participants

**Members:** Annette van Niejenhuis, Bevin Wigmore, Bill Laing, Bob Johnson, Domenico Iannidardo, Gordon Chipman, Jeff Mycock, Juergen Ehling, Katherine Spencer, Keith Thomas, Pat Martin, and Tony Hopkin.

**Member Regrets (proxy):** Mark Hay (Pat)

**Guests:** Henry Benskin, Kerry McGourlick, Jim Burbee and Brian Barber, Select Seed Co. Ltd; and Dan Mazerolle, Canadian Wood Fibre Centre.

### Proceedings

This quarterly general meeting of FGC was held via Video Conference. It occurred 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 8, 2020 are hereby approved. Katherine/Bob. Carried.

### Summary of Actions:

Person(s)	Actions	Date
Brian & Kat	Brian to replace Conservation photo on new FGC website homepage due to safety optics. Kat to ask Parks Canada for alternate photos.	ASAP
Pat and Keith	Scope out a strategy for engaging Executive to influence the 2021/22 budget decisions made in the fall 2020. Present plan to FGC.	Next Mtg
Strategic Plan Subcommittee	Prepare outline of the 2020-25 Strategic Plan.	Next Mtg
(?) Domenico, Pat and Brian	Draft a diversity policy/objective for inclusion in FGC's revised terms of reference and the next Strategic Plan.	Next Mtg
Brian	Issue Doodle Poll for a video conference meeting in September and	ASAP
Brian	Arrange some technical sessions on-line for FGC and TAC members.	Fall 2020

## 1. Agenda

There being adequate notice served and a quorum of members present, Domenico, FGC Co-Chair, called the meeting to order, confirmed participants and reviewed the agenda.

3:00	90	<i>C. Forest Genetics Council</i>	
	5	1	Participants and Agenda Domenico (Co-Chair)
	10	2	Safety Domenico
	5	3	<i>C1</i> Minutes from April 8, 2020 Domenico
	5	4	Action Items from April 8, 2020 Brian
	10	5	<i>C2</i> FGC Dashboard Brian
	15	6	<i>C3</i> LBIS Budget Update Pat
	10	7	FGC Strategic Plan Subcommittee Report Brian
	10	8	Membership and Directors Domencio
	5	9	New Business Chairs
	5	10	News and Events All
	5	11	Next meeting – Fall Field Trip All
	10	12	In camera session Domenico
4:30		13	Adjournment

**Motion:** The Agenda for this meeting is hereby approved. Annette/Bill. Carried.

## 2. Safety

Members were invited to report any safety-related initiatives or concerns within the purview of FGC, including Covid 19. The Tree Seed Centre hosted a conference call on May 25 to discuss cone and seed processing and handling protocols. Orchard managers also identified the extra measures they have put in place to reduce risk of spread and infection – hand washing stations, staggered breaks, extra cleaning etc. No close calls or injury reports.

## 3. Minutes from April 8, 2020.

The draft minutes of the FGC meeting held via video conference on April 8, 2019 were circulated for review and edits. See attachment C1.

**Motion:** The minutes of the FGC meeting held April 8, 2020 are hereby approved. Katherine/Bob. Carried.

## 4. Action Items from April 8, 2020

Person(s)	Actions	Status
Annette and Brian	Include Orchard Safety information on the new FGC Website for June 2020	In Progress
Pat or Keith	Pat or Keith to report estimated LBIS expenditures for 2019/20 and budget allocations for 2020/21 for FGC's programs.	See item #6
Brian and Kat Gunion	Update Forecast Seedling Needs Report and Pli seedling projections and share with FGC and TAC members	Completed

Annette	Organize a Forecasting Seedling Needs Project presentation to coastal licensees and BCTS to improve the coastal seedling forecasts, including those for private forestlands.	Deferred
Brian and Kevin	Discuss development of CBST species plans and convene the CBST Species Plan Committee.	Completed & In Progress
Brian	Circulate FGC home page mock-ups to FGC members for review and selection.	Completed Website In Progress
Pat, Domenico, Annette, Bob and Kat	Convene an FGC Strategic Plan Committee, supported by Brian.	Completed See item #7
FGC and Others	Forward photo and short write-ups for retiring staff and new hires, as appropriate, to Brian for honorable mentions in FGC's annual reports and newsletters.	In Progress
Pat & Domenico	Write a letter on behalf of FGC thanking the authors of the recently published "Tree breeding and Silviculture" paper	Completed
Brian	Circulate Doodle Poll to identify suitable dates for the June AGMs.	Completed

**Action:** Brian to replace Conservation photo on new FGC website homepage due to safety optics. Kat to ask Parks Canada for alternate photos.

## 5. Dashboard

An updated Dashboard was provided as a separate attachment (C2). Brian provided an overview of changes since the April 8, 2020 version. No significant changes or additions upon review.

## 6. LBIS Budget Update

On April 8, 2020, FGC recommended a 2020/21 LBIS budget allocation to forest genetics program totaling \$2.5M. Unfortunately, due to government cutback resulting from Covid 19 crisis, the LBIS allocations to forest genetics was reduced to \$2.0 m.

The Ministry has allocated the funds to the FGC programs as per the table below. Attachment C3 includes details within each program.

FGC Program	2019/20 Allocation	2020/21 Target	Budget Requests 2020/21	2020/21 Recommend	Allocations	Variance
Genetic Conservation	\$ 193,994	\$ 210,000	\$ 287,375	\$ 224,375	\$ 179,500	-\$ 14,494
Tree Breeding (Volume & Pest Resistance)	\$ 1,521,006	\$ 1,590,000	\$ 1,594,500	\$ 1,594,500	\$ 1,456,094	-\$ 64,912
Resilience (e.g. Climate Adaptation)	\$ 460,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 348,000	\$ 348,000	\$ 211,000	-\$ 249,000
Operational Tree Improvement (OTIP)	\$ 325,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 354,746	\$ 283,937	\$ 153,406	-\$ 171,594
Other (Holdback)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49,188		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,584,621</b>	<b>\$ 2,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,000</b>	<b>-\$ 500,000</b>

Pat provided elaborated on the Ministry's funding decisions, reductions and allocations. Domenico also spoke with Deputy Minister John Allan about the importance of funding for tree improvement. He was informed reductions were not targeted but part of the government's overall budget cuts in response to Covid-19. It was, however, noted the LBIS fertilizer program has not been reduced proportionately.

A discussion on what could be done to increase funding for next year ensued. Better communications with Ministry Executive and provision of economic (e.g. business case) and climate change impacts (e.g. adaptation, carbon sequestration) would be a good start.

**Action:** Pat and Keith to scope out a strategy for engaging Executive to influence 2021/22 budget decisions which are made in the fall 2020. Present plan to FGC at next meeting.

## **7. FGC Strategic Plan Subcommittee Report**

The subcommittee met on May 21. An update to the 2015-20 plan was agreed upon vs. full revision supported by community and stakeholder surveys etc. TACs and others were subsequently asked to review the current goals and performance measures, and make recommendations for the next period. The committee was to meet again prior to the FGC meeting but limited progress to-date did not warrant.

Henry reaffirmed his offer to assist with the development of FGC's strategic objectives for SelectSeed (e.g. the orchard replacement strategy). A draft plan for the Chief Forester's consideration is expected by the end of the calendar year.

**Action:** Strategic Plan Subcommittee to prepare outline of the 2020-25 Strategic Plan for the next FGC meeting.

## **8. Membership and Directors**

FGC members are appointed for 3-year terms to represent various stakeholder groups, as per the Article 3 of the [FGC Bylaws](#). Directors of the Company are elected by the BC Forest Genetics Society (FGC members) in accordance with the Company's Articles.

Domenico raised the question of diversity in representation. For example, there are no First Nations (FN) representatives on Council. Brian explained FN representation was sought in the past (through the FN Forestry Council) but there was not capacity or interest at the time. Consequently, nominations for representatives with FN's clients were encouraged (e.g. Bob and Gord). NGO representation was also suggested in 2015 but not pursued.

The need to create opportunities and expand diversity was acknowledged. Some guidelines would assist in the recruitment of new members and demonstrate FGC's interest and effort in this regard.

**Action:** (?) Domenico, Pat and Brian to draft a diversity policy/objective for inclusion in FGC's revised terms of reference and the next Strategic Plan.

## **9. New Business**

There was no new or other business identified.

## **10. News and Events**

Kat Spencer recently won the competition for Senior Seed Orchard Officer, Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch, based in Vernon. Congratulations Kat!

The BC Seed Orchard Assoc. (BCSOA) meeting scheduled for June 2020 in Sydney has been postponed to June 2021 due to Covid-19.

The joint Canadian Forest Genetics Association (CFGa) and Western Forest Genetics Association (WFGA) conference scheduled for Kelowna in July 2021 has also been postponed to summer 2022, as the gatherings of >50 persons will not be permitted until Phase 4 is reached (e.g. vaccine, immunity or effective treatments, which are not likely to be realized for months). A video conference featuring student presentation will be held in 2021 instead.

## **11. Next meeting**

Members agreed to forgo its annual fall field trip in consideration of Covid-19 and travel and budget restrictions. Video conference platforms are also improving.

Interest was also expressed for more technical presentations to be offered on-line for FGC and TAC members. For example, the deferred presentation by the CoAdapTree's social-science team, Drs. Kozak and Hagerman.

**Action:** Brian to issue Doodle Poll for a video conference meeting in September

**Action:** Brian to arrange some technical sessions on-line for FGC and TAC members in the Fall.

## **12. In camera session**

Guest were excused from the meeting.

**Motion:** to move meeting in camera. Annette/Bob. Carried

**Motion:** to exit meeting from in camera. Bob/Annette. Carried

## **13. Adjourn**

**Motion:** The meeting is hereby adjourned at 5:00 pm. Bevin/Katherine. Carried

*Draft minutes prepared by B Barber, June 25, 2020. Approved Oct 2, 2020*