

# July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 GCTAC Conference Call Minutes

**On Line:** Sally Aiken, Lee Charleson, Dave Kolotelo, Jodie Krakowski, Andreas Hamann, Tory Stevens, Tongli Wang, Jack Woods, Alvin Yanchuk

**Regrets:** Scott Green, Alex Woods

In terms of New Project funding opportunities that was advertised by FGC, Jodie submitted two projects (\$1400 and \$2400) related to improving and making more readily available documentation concerning the Cowichan Lake Research Station clone bank material. I submitted a proposal for \$1000 to help with whitebark pine restoration activities in the Fort. St. James area and in Manning Park.

The GCTAC budget of **\$248 000** was reviewed. The budgeting and allocation process was far more humane than the previous year. There are still some issues to be ironed out in terms of U of A funding, and hopefully there will be a release of more funds for Jodie's travel.

	STOB	CFCG	TIB	RB
<u>Genetic Conservation</u>				
UBC Gene Conservation TUA	77	\$ 165,000.00		
Seed bank testing of old lots for conservation			\$ 2,000.00	
Bigleaf Maple seed storage method development			\$ 3,000.00	
In Situ Conservation status of BC tree species				\$ 30,500.00
Implementation of conservation strategy				\$ 32,000.00
Coord with conservation groups & volunteers				\$ 4,500.00
In Situ Climate change work with u of A				\$ 10,000.00
Inter situ management strategy				\$ 1,000.00
		\$ 165,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 78,000.00

In addition to our GCTAC budget there is also \$2500 in the E(Extension)TAC budget that has been dedicated to GCTAC items and the intention is that these funds are to assist Jodie with extension items she will be involved with, but if you have any ideas, please forward them to Jodie.

## **Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics (CFCG)**

Sally provided an overview of ongoing work at the CFCG. The CFCG actually received more money than requested this year, but the extra funding was to compensate Sally for the NSERC and other accounts she had to raid to make up for the shortfall in 2009 for existing commitments. The good news is that the CFCG grant falls under an existing "speed chart" and therefore the University overhead will be retained at the 8% level compared to a 25% level for new projects. Some of the former GCTAC projects like the western larch and western redcedar growth chamber work and the Climate

Change Seed Zone work have been migrated to the Seed Transfer and Genecology TAC (STTAC) that Lee leads. The justification is that these are commercial species and their inclusion could be perceived as preferential treatment by some.

Sierra is currently visited her whitebark pine planting sites for the last time (for her PhD) and has been working on a lodgepole pine manuscript based on her dendrochronology work on the Illinworth provenance trials. Tongli is continuing with climate work and bioclimatic envelope modelling. Other ongoing work includes maintenance and more on existing Garry oak and Dogwood plants. The CFCG was fortunate to have an exceptional student funded with other funds to help with these projects.

Sally also was very excited about reported findings from the “High-5” meeting in Missoula, Montana regarding natural resistance of whitebark pine to white pine blister rust. I’m not sure if any handouts are available or if/when proceedings will be published, but it will be good to review the current state-of-the-art knowledge regarding this at our meeting this fall.

### **University of Alberta**

Andreas had to leave early, but provided an overview of the progress of Laura Darlings work which looks at protected area stability in light of climate change . She recently attended a Conservation Biology meeting and her work was well received (=prize money – Hooray!) and she is working on a manuscript from her thesis. For those not familiar with Laura’s work, I am attaching a pdf in the e-mail of one of her previous presentations, which Jodie sent me.

### **Dave Kolotelo**

I very briefly reviewed the intent of the \$2000 for testing seed bank samples, especially the contributions from former trials (Illingworth lodgepole pine provenance trials and others) in which there is no current estimate of seed viability. It will be a small sub-sample of those with relatively excess seed. The bigleaf maple work is aimed at tested hypothesis regarding collection timing and longevity in storage. Out of our 50 tree species, we cannot store Garry oak and bigleaf maple longevity in storage is unclear, although some literature indicates collection timing is important. The \$3000 will be used for collections and purchasing the very large germination dishes required for testing this species.

### **Jodie Krakowski**

Jodie is currently in the field continuing the field verification work that she started last summer on Cascara and grand fir. Unfortunately not everyone was familiar with Jodie’s pilot study report and valuable time was spent reviewing that. Jodie provided a handout of her summer plans (Thank you) that I forwarded regarding her intentions to focus in situ verification on the CDF and dry CWh zones and species described as “requiring verification” in Technical Report #53. Please review this document as well as last years summary of grand fir and cascara pilot project prior to our fall meeting as this will be a topic of discussion as well as my requested postponing of possible new directions in this area.

Jodie is also planning on placing the co-ordination function for this summers seed bank collections in the capable hands of Don Pigott. The highest priorities are whitebark pine, Limber pine and subalpine larch.

### **Seed Release**

There was no objections to releasing the minimal amounts of seed requested by John Syring and Richard Sniezko. I’ll make it happen.

We all agreed that a face-to-face meeting would be a good idea this fall and hopefully we can overcome any travel restrictions that may still be in effect. Sally graciously offered to host a one day meeting at UBC.

Last, but not least Alvin announced that he will be away for 11 months starting on August 1<sup>st</sup>.