
MINUTES

Forest Genetics Council — Meeting

June 15, 2006 -- Executive Airport Plaza, Richmond BC

Attending

Councillors: Sally Aitken, John Barker, Michael Carlson, Dale Draper, John Elmslie, Frank Gundersen, Chris Hawkins, Gary Hogan, Scott King, Mike Madill, Al McDonald, Alvin Yanchuk

Regrets: Henry Benskin

Others: Roger Painter, Jack Woods, Keith Thomas

Guests: Brian Barber, Tom Pedersen, Patrick von Aderkas, Barbara Hawkins, Camille Cuthill

Summary of Action Items

Person	Action
Jack Woods	Prepare a letter of thanks to Tom Pedersen and Patrick Von Aderkas, which will provide encouragement in their funding efforts, but make no commitments to the initiative
	Contact Rob Bennett and Ward Strong regarding a presentation on the pest management subprogram at the fall 2006 meeting.
Alvin Yanchuk, Jack Woods, all FGC members	Alvin Yanchuk was asked to draft a letter by June 30 th expressing viewpoints discussed by Council on the FFEI report. This will be forwarded to Jack Woods, who will comment and forward to FGC members for review. Comments from FGC members will be collated to a single response letter by Jack Woods. Focus will be on genetic issues. The response letter will be forwarded to CTAC and ITAC members for input. Industry members of Council are encouraged to seek input from other industry staff.
Draper, Elmslie, Woods	The Co-Chairs will try to meet with Jim Snetsinger on the FFEI issue prior to the forums.
	Approach the Chief Forester to better clarify his expectations for FGC membership
Dale Draper	Apprise Jim Snetsinger of Council's recommendations regarding GE ³ LS
Sally Aitken, Alvin Yanchuk	Alvin Yanchuk and Sally Aitken will be in contact with Paul Wood and act as liaisons to GE ³ LS.

Summary of Motions Carried

1. That the minutes of the March 8, 2006 meeting are hereby accepted. (McDonald / Hogan) CARRIED.
2. That the minutes of the conference call held April 6, 2006 are hereby approved. (Barker / Carlson) CARRIED
3. That Council agrees to identify of \$25,000 of the \$170,000 currently approved by the subcommittee for the UBC Applied Biotechnology project (El-Kassaby) towards NSERC Chair support on the understanding that projects approved in the working plan will

continue. It is the expectation of Council that Dr. El-Kassaby will attempt to find a replacement for the lost funding in the coming year. (Barker / Elmsley) CARRIED.

Meeting called to order at 9:45 A.M.

1. Adoption of agenda and approval of minutes

Agenda adopted as presented.

1. **MOVED:** Minutes of the meeting held March 8, 2006 are hereby approved. McDonald / Hogan CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes.

Council will request further input from the Chief Forester on possible membership changes to Council. This item will be addressed further at the October, 2006 meeting.

Action Item: The Chief Forester be approached by the Co-Chairs and Jack Woods to better clarify his expectations for FGC membership.

2. **MOVED:** That the minutes of the conference call held April 6, 2006 are hereby approved. (Barker / Carlson) CARRIED

2. University of Victoria Chair in Forest and Environmental Genomics. Tom Pedersen

Dr. Tom Pedersen, Dean of Science at the University of Victoria, and Dr. Patrick von Aderkas, also of UVic, spoke to Council about a new research initiative at UVic for the establishment of a BC Leading-Edge Endowment Fund (LEEF) *Chair in Forest and Environmental Genomics*. Approval-in-principle has been received from LEEF, but matching funds are needed. The nominee for the Chair is Dr. Claire Williams, currently with Duke University. The Chair will integrate new genomics-based knowledge with more applied applications.

Discussion ensued on possibilities for attaining matching funding, including returned softwood lumber tariff funds, industry donations, and private donations. Funding may not come from provincial sources, as this money would not be acceptable to LEEF as matching funds.

Action Item: Jack Woods will prepare a letter of thanks to Tom Pedersen and Patrick Von Aderkas, which will provide encouragement in their funding efforts, but make no commitments to the initiative.

3. Future Forest Ecosystem Initiative. Brian Barber

Brian presented MoFR activity on the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative (FFEI). The Initiative is designed to review issues, changes, and needs with respect to fires, health issues, and climate change. Various reports are now available from MoFR staff working on this initiative.

On June 7, 2006, Jim Snetsinger, Chief Forester, released the MoFR report *Future Forest Ecosystems (FFE) of BC: Draft Recommendations for Review and Comment*. This report is widely distributed for comment and input and is available at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests

FGC members are invited to review the report and to attend review sessions in Victoria and Vancouver on July 5th and 20th, respectively. Written comments will be accepted until August 15th.

Action item: Alvin Yanchuk was asked to draft a letter by June 30th expressing viewpoints discussed by Council. This will be forwarded to Jack Woods, who will comment and forward to FGC members for review. Comments from FGC members will be collated to a single response letter by Jack Woods. Focus will be on genetic issues. The response letter will be forwarded to CTAC and ITAC members for input. Industry members of Council are encouraged to seek input from other industry staff.

Action item: The Co-Chairs will try to meet with Jim Snetsinger on this issue prior to the forums.

5. GE³LS Initiative by Genome BC. Paul Wood.

GE³LS is an initiative of Genome Canada, to be undertaken on behalf of Genome BC by Dr. Paul Wood of UBC, to engage stakeholders on the use of genomics in forest management in BC. The objectives are to get informed and considered opinions about:

- a. the use of genomic tools and information in forestry in BC
- b. the consequences of failing to use genomics tools.

Process will include stakeholder interviews, focus groups, web survey, multi-stakeholder processes, a stakeholders report, and an interactive web survey. Paul Wood stated that this process has been used before, and is considered sound.

Council recommended to Paul Woods that MoFR staff should be involved as stakeholders, and that the FGC should be kept informed as the process proceeds. It was further recommended that Alvin Yanchuk and Sally Aitken will be FGC liaisons to GE³LS.

Action item: Dale Draper will apprise Jim Snetsinger of Council's recommendations

Action item: Alvin Yanchuk and Sally Aitken will be in contact with Paul Wood and act as liaisons to GE³LS.

6. Summary of final 05/06 FIA Tree Improvement Program spending: Roger Painter.

Final FIA Tree Improvement Program expenditures for 2005/6 were presented. Approximately 3% of the overall budget was not spent. This was mostly in the Pest Management Research field and OTIP. The surplus of 2.9% was mostly due to a lack of flexibility in moving funds to other programs near the year-end. Funding will be reviewed earlier in the year than in the past to see if some opportunities are available for transferring. Final expenditures are shown in the following table. Roger was thanked for his report and able budget administration during the year.

Final FIA Tree Improvement Program Spending (2005/06)

Subprogram	Budget (\$)	Expenditures (\$)
Gene Conservation	220	220
Tree Breeding	2,200	2223
Operational Tree Improvement Program (OTIP)	600	543
Extension and Communication	120	120
Gene Resource Information Management	50	45
Seed Orchard Pest Management	250	162
Administration	40	40
Subtotal	3,480	3,353
Expansion of Orchard Seed Supply (SelectSeed Ltd.)	890	890*
Forest Investment Account Tree Improvement Program Contribution	\$4,370	4,243

* Represents amount recorded against FIA TIP. Actual audited expenditures were \$906,418 on a planned budget of \$920,000. Difference of \$16,418 funded through seed sales and investment returns.

7. Summary of Final FIA Allocations 2006/7

2006/07 budgets as they currently stand were presented by Jack Woods. There are no changes at this time to subprogram budgets under the ongoing FIA funding component. Subcommittee reviews for incremental projects are now complete. The following tables outline current budget status for all subprograms and for incremental projects. The incremental project budget of \$1.5 million is currently under-subscribed by \$96,000.

FIA Tree Improvement Program approved 2006/07 budget (non-incremental component)

Subprogram	Budget 2006/07	Status
Gene Conservation	\$220,000	Approved and underway
Tree Breeding	\$2,100,000	Approved and underway
Operational Tree Improvement Program (OTIP)	\$686,000	Approved and underway
Extension and Communication	\$120,000	Approved and underway
Gene Resources Information Management	\$50,000	Approved and underway
Seed and Orchard Pest Management	\$284,000	Approved and underway
Administration	\$43,000	Approved and underway
Expansion of Class A Seed Supply (SELECTSEED Ltd.)	\$867,000	Approved and underway
Total	\$4,370,000	

Status of Incremental FIA projects for 2006/07 as of June 11, 2006. Projects and budgets managed through existing subprograms are also listed under subprograms in sections 3.1 to 3.7. U = likely to be under spent. (\$ x 1000)

Project category	Project description	Currently budget status (\$ x 1000)	Project status
Enhanced seed production and genetic gain	Enhancing seed orchard production for MPB impacted seed planning units	123	RFP and review completed; projects approved.
	Progeny and provenance assessments to support long-term genetic gain	448	Ongoing; part of breeding program
	Reconnaissance of B+ seed sources of Pli to support operational collections	22	Helicopter reconnaissance completed
Strategic policy and support information for MPB and gene resource management activities	Development of climate change policy for seed deployment and gene resources	30	Project underway
	Analysis of broadleaf gene resource status and opportunities	30	RFP for report completed; awards will follow soon
	Review of the provincial gene resource management program	0	Proposed that this project be dropped
	Strategic planning and analysis	30	Project underway
Research and information in support of MPB mitigation	Maximizing orchard seedlot inputs and recoveries; parental contributions and sowing efficiencies	200	Subcommittee review and approval of \$170k; discussion pending on the remaining \$30k
	Capacity building in gene resource management at UNBC	150	Discussion underway with Max Blouw of UNBC
	Seedlot response to climate variables; support for seed transfer policy	50	Same as Gene Conservation subprogram
	Responding to climate change; designing a multi-species trial to facilitate species migration through seed deployment	20	Project underway
	Improving applied cone and seed pest management practices	152	Subcommittee recommendations completed; budget increase supported by subcommittee; projects underway
	Improving orchard flower induction techniques for lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir	134	Subcommittee review complete; increased budget recommended to increase sample size. Projects underway
Administration	Incremental administration costs	15	
Total		\$1,404	
Total allocation		\$1,500	
Unallocated		\$ 96	

3. **MOVED:** That Council agrees to identify \$25,000 of the \$170,000 currently approved by the subcommittee for the UBC Applied Biotechnology project (El-Kassaby) towards NSERC Chair support on the understanding that projects approved in the working plan will continue. It is the expectation of Council that Dr. El-Kassaby will attempt to find a replacement for the lost funding in the coming year. Barker / Elmsley.
CARRIED.

Action Item: Council would like a presentation on the pest management subprogram at the fall 2006 meeting (Woods to contact Rob Bennett and Ward Strong).

Other comments on budgets:

- The project for capacity building at UNBC is under discussion with Max Blouw of UNBC. These discussions will continue with the Co-Chairs, Alvin Yanchuk and Jack Woods representing Council.
- Flower Induction program budget was recommended at \$134,000 (up from \$120,000) by the subcommittee.
- The proposed review of the Provincial Gene Resource Management program has been withdrawn.

Next meeting to be held in the Okanagan, in late September or early October. John Elmslie suggested holding it at the Vernon Seed Orchard Company facility.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Minutes prepared by,

Roger A. Painter

Tree Improvement Co-ordinator



Jack Woods
FGC Program Manager