

3. 2009/10 PROJECT UPDATES –

- a. **Research proposals (Strong).**
- i) ***Dioryctria* reproductive biology (UoAlberta).** Field projects now finished, interesting results produced. Project should be completed early in the new fiscal year. Organization of funding was disastrous – provincial politics and MoFR and UoA administrative issues combined to produce major delays.
 - ii) ***Leptoglossus* IR & visible light (SFU).** Project has proceeded well; two more years of field work are required. Project has expanded to include *Dioryctria* and *Contarinia*. Tracy Zahradnik’s presentation of current results won first prize among forest entomology student presentations at the recent annual meeting of the Entomological Society of Canada.
 - iii) ***Leptoglossus* mark/release/recapture (MoFR, UNBC, UBC-O).** As with UoA *Dioryctria* project, field projects now finished and interesting results have been produced. Project should be completed early in the new fiscal year. Provincial politics and MoFR administrative issues caused major funding delays.
 - iv) ***Contarinia* pheromone synthesis pathway (SFU).** Provincial politics and MoFR and SFU administrative issues caused major funding delays. Hurdles have now been cleared and work should be completed prior to fiscal year end.
 - v) **Pesticides trials (CropHealth).** Provincial politics and MoFR administrative issues caused major funding delays. Despite these impediments, contractor did excellent work in a very professional manner. Strong covered some aspects of the data collection work when some contracted work was cancelled by MoFR middle management.
 - vi) **Research lab funding (MoFR).** Budget significantly reduced after start of fiscal year, primarily because of travel and other spending restraints. Status of the retracted dollars is uncertain. **Strong will make enquiries.**
- b. **Operational proposals (Corrigan & Bennett).**
- i) **Pest management interior operations (MoFR).** Project has proceeded well. Some funding was transferred to the research program to facilitate progress on projects during the financial debacles of the first part of the fiscal year. **Bennett will organize transfer of unspent field guide funds in the event of a shortfall in the interior operations budget.**
 - ii) **Field guide development (MoFR).** Bennett is working on final drafts of 13 fact sheets, with help from Strong and Corrigan. Work should be completed by fiscal year-end (files ready for posting to FGC website).

4. NEW BUSINESS: 2010/11 business planning –

- a. **Why bother? (Bennett).** The current fiscal year has been characterized by significant fiascos at various levels of government: **high level political posturing** (constantly shifting priorities and figures from “Treasury Board” resulting in withholding of budgets (7 months into fiscal year and we are still struggling to organize agreements and payments)), **mid level interference with business planning** (micro-management of budget dollars by MOFR middle management in a manner contrary to the results of our annual 4-month business plan development process), and **low-level administration errors and other issues** (important documents stalled on clerical desks, new “hoops” to jump through).

Low-level issues can be dealt with relatively easily but it is next to impossible for us to effect useful changes at mid and high levels. A cynical view evolving from the year’s financial debacle asks – why bother with developing a business plan if we cannot be free to administer it accordingly? We can live with budget cutbacks provided we are informed of them in a timely fashion and are then free to administer our FGC-approved annual business plans without mid-level interference. In the last few months, Bennett has presented this message to various audiences including the Chief Forester’s office and the Forest Genetics Council.

During a meeting on 3 September, Chief Forester Jim Snetsinger told Bennett to expect timely delivery of budgets for the 2010/11 fiscal year – *i.e.*, budget figures should be announced within the first two weeks of April 2010. He also noted that much of the problem with the current fiscal year budgets was the result of the timing of the 2009 provincial elections. Woods has received a similar message from Minister Pat Bell (high priority of tree improvement funding

within FIA). At this point, Bennett is “hopeful” that some indication of budget levels will be made apparent in January 2010 and that the Snetsinger outlook will hold true (April release of budgets). Therefore, it is prudent to continue with “normal” development of a business plan for the coming fiscal year

During discussion, the issue of multi-year funding was raised: on-going support to ensure successful completion of multi-year projects (as opposed to our current year-to-year funding arrangements) would ease the burden of administering research projects. Lindgren and de Groot mentioned examples of lump sum provincial funding for multi-year projects in BC and Ontario. Bennett noted that only once in nearly 2 decades of organizing cone and seed pest management research has funding been pulled from a successfully proceeding project. Current FIA funding arrangements make lump sum multi-year funding unlikely (but not impossible...).

b. **What do we do this year?**

i) **Projects** (see appendix summary).

1. ***Dioryctria* reproductive biology (Strong)**. Successful completion early in new fiscal year should only require funding for some salary dollars, to be determined. See also 9 below.

2. ***Leptoglossus* IR & visible light (Strong)**. Second year of field work will require funding at a level similar to 2009/10.

3. ***Leptoglossus* mark/release/recapture (Strong)**. Successful completion early in new fiscal year should only require funding for ~3 months of salary (~\$6k).

4. **Pesticides trials (Strong)**. Field work will require funding similar to 2009/10.

5. **Research lab funding (Strong)**. Amount to be determined.

6. **Interior operations (Bennett)**. Amount to be determined.

7. **New projects (Strong)**. Strong briefly outlined ideas for new projects on *Dioryctria* (pheromone-based control, possibly with Gary Judd lab, AAFC, Summerland), *Contarinia* (density/damage relationship, improved monitoring, pheromone-based control, possibly with Gries lab, SFU), and **climate change** (modelling effects on cone/seed insects – range expansions, new pests, other emerging issues). Following discussion, PM TAC members decided that a new *Contarinia* project showed the most promise, a new *Dioryctria* project could run into problems because of the extended flight period of fir coneworm, and a climate change project had no strong apparent benefits. However, climate change topic could be a good way to begin a relationship with Allan Carroll, the new forest entomologist at UBC.

ii) **IUFRO meeting**. Jean-Noël Candau (INRA-France) has requested participation by Strong in the August 2010 IUFRO meeting in Korea. Our research program is internationally known and very well respected but we have never participated in IUFRO meetings. PM TAC members expressed strong support for participation by Strong and adding a relevant line item to the PM TAC budget table. **Bennett will organize travel approval lobbying effort in new fiscal year if FGC approves funding.**

5. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

a. **Red turpentine beetle (Corrigan)**. Lindgren & de Groot provided much needed help in the development of Corrigan’s response to this year’s red turpentine beetle issue at the PRT Grandview site. The problem is believed to be another example of a population increase in the wake of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Development of a management plan for the 2010 field season is underway. **Corrigan will provide update to PM TAC as necessary.**

b. **Next meeting (Bennett)**. No face-to-face meeting will occur in this planning cycle. Next meeting will be held by teleconference in mid January 2010. In early December **Bennett will request date preferences.**

4. ADJOURN. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM PST.

Minutes compiled by R. Bennett, 16 November 2009.

Appendix follows –

Appendix

PM TAC budget table draft (16/xi/09) – 2010/11 fiscal year

Current Projects	2009/10 budgets	2010/11?
1 Lab operations	10 000	similar to 2009/10?
2 Lepto IR	33 400	similar to 2009/10
3 Contarinia pheromone	11 000	completed, \$0
4 Dioryctria UA	39 300	nearly finished, some salary \$\$
5 Lepto MRR UNBC	45 000	ditto, some salary \$\$, ~6k?
6 Pesticide trials	29 100	similar to 2009/10
7 Interior operations	18 200	similar to 2009/10
8 Pest guidebook	4 000	completed, \$0
New Projects		
9 Contarinia monitoring, etc		??
10 IUFRO meeting		??
Salaries		
Robb and Ward	170 000	170 000
Total	360 000	??