

Minutes of the FGC Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, 27 November 2008: 10:00 – 11:45 AM PST

Telephone conference

Present: Robb Bennett (Chair), BC MoFR
 Ward Strong, BC MoFR
 Jim Corrigan, BC MoFR
 Staffan Lindgren, UNBC
 Peter de Groot, CFS Sault Ste Marie
 Tim Crowder, Timberwest Forest Company
 Chris Walsh, BC MoFR
 Jack Woods, SelectSeed

Coast pest management
 MoFR pest management research
 Interior pest management
 University pest management research
 CFS pest management research
 Coast industry orchards
 MoFR orchards
 Forest Genetics Council

Guests: None

Regrets: Dan Gaudet, Vernon Seed Orchard Company Interior industry orchards

ACTIONS:

Strong, Bennett, et al.	Resolve URMULE issues
Bennett	Continue with revisions to Business Plan
Bennett	Post 2007/08 field guide report to PM TAC website
Lindgren	Proceed with revision of <i>Fusarium</i> manuscript as necessary
Corrigan	Review needlecast issues, monitor budworm populations
Woods	Pursue overhead issue with Forest Science Program
Strong	Ensure overhead rate is negotiated for each collaborative proposal
Strong	Continue development of research proposals
Bennett	Continue development of “operational” proposals
All	Resolve information dissemination issue
Strong	Require report authors to prepare annual executive summaries
Corrigan, Bennett	Draft information dissemination input request

IMPORTANT DATES:

Next PM TAC meeting slated for **17 December 2008**, teleconference @ 10:00 AM (PST). “Face-to-face” meeting will occur sometime during last two weeks of January 2009. Proposals and FGC budget request should be completed by **mid-February 2009**.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at about 10:00 AM (PST). Previous minutes (18/iii/08) were not formally reviewed; no issues with minutes noted. Formal agenda was not circulated prior to meeting; agenda topics for this meeting were established as – Proposals overhead issue (Bennett), Research proposals development (Strong), “Operational” proposals development (Bennett), Dissemination of project reports (Strong), and Next meeting dates (Bennett).
2. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM 30 OCTOBER 2008 MINUTES.** Bennett briefly outlined progress on 30 October action items.
 - a. **Set up publicly accessible PM TAC information distribution (Bennett).** In progress. Keith Thomas has been asked to set up two “list-serve” e-mail distribution lists, one for PM TAC members, the other for “client” base. See also Item 6a below.
 - b. **Resolve URMULE issues (Strong, Bennett, et al.).** No progress to report. **Carry forward.**
 - c. **Continue with revisions to Business Plan (Bennett).** On-going, business plan currently in fairly good shape but requires input of some revisions discussed at last meeting. **Bennett will continue with further revisions for future PM TAC discussion.**

- d. **Organize meeting re: *Contarinia* work for 2009/10 fiscal year (Bennett, Strong).** Done. Strong, Lindgren, and Bennett met with Gerhard Gries by teleconference 25/xi/2008. See Item 4e below.
- e. **Post 2007/08 field guide report to PM TAC website (Bennett).** No progress. **Carry forward.**
- f. **Discuss reorganization of *Fusarium* manuscript with Mike Peterson (Bennett).** Done. Peterson is happy to have PM TAC revise the manuscript as necessary. **Lindgren will pursue revisions as necessary.**
- g. **Organize next “face-to-face” meeting for winter 2009 (Lindgren).** See Item 6b below.
- h. **Review needlecast issues (UNBC), monitor budworm populations (MoFR Regional staff) in Salmon Arm area (Corrigan).** To be done in winter and spring 2009 as required. **Carry forward.**
- i. **Lead development of research proposals (Strong).** In progress. See Item 4 below.
- j. **Develop Interior pest management proposal and others as required (Bennett).** In progress. See Item 5 below.
- k. **Develop limited call for proposals for pesticides trials (Strong).** Done. See Item 4f below.

3. OVERHEAD ISSUE (Bennett)

Early in current fiscal year during finalization of research contribution agreements with collaborators, we were unexpectedly hit by university administrations with a dramatic increase in overhead costs from previous levels of 5-8%. Increases were variable with UBC leading the pack. This move was apparently the result of provincially mandated decreases to university operating budgets. Indication was made at that time that Forest Science Board representatives and university administrators were trying to resolve the issue. Subsequently nothing appears to have changed and overhead costs will need to be negotiated on a proposal-by-proposal basis during the current round of deliberations. **Woods will ask Monte Locke (FSB) for input. Strong will ask research collaborators to confirm with their administrators the necessary overhead percentage applicable to each proposal budget (bearing in mind that funding will be provided in form of grants, not service contracts).**

4. RESEARCH PROPOSALS DEVELOPMENT (Strong)

- a. **Adelgids (UBC).** This project will be completed in current fiscal year; no new proposal.
- b. ***Dioryctria* (UAb).** Ongoing work; new proposal and budget will be similar to existing.
- c. ***Leptoglossus infrared* (SFU).** This ongoing project will be expanded to include infrared sensitivity of *Dioryctria* and *Contarinia* as well as responses to visual spectra and trap size factors. Proposal will be organized by pest species. New graduate student Tracy Zahradnik has already started some of this work. Proposal details and budget have yet to be developed.
- d. ***Leptoglossus mark/release/recapture* (UNBC).** Ongoing work; new proposal and budget will be similar to existing.
- e. ***Contarinia* (SFU).** Aside from 4b above, there is great interest in renewing earlier work with pheromone-based management of *Contarinia oregonensis*. Lindgren, Strong, Bennett, and Gerhard Gries recently discussed options. Current primary obstacles are costly synthesis pathway, lack of pheromone stocks, and no student is currently willing and available to pursue field trials in 2009 field season. A new proposal will be developed targeting a new synthesis pathway for *Contarinia* pheromone with subsequent production of sufficient pheromone for 2010 field season (Feb-April 2010) research. Details and budget to be determined. Proposal will include clear indication of pragmatic connection to operational interests.
- f. **Pesticides trials (CropHealth Advising & Research).** Discussions with Pest Management Regulatory Agency personnel and others have determined that CHA&R (Mario Lanthier and associates) is the most competent company available to help us with our pesticides trials requirements. Following discussions with Strong, a well-structured draft proposal has been prepared by CHA&R. Proposal is closely tied to PMRA regulations/guidelines with respect to screening of candidate pesticides for eventual registration. Proposal suggests \$10k per tree

species for each of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and spruce (*i.e.* potential of \$30k). Trials work to be done at Kalamalka Forestry Centre. Mid year and harvest data collection and product costs will be funded under separate contract for potential additional costs of \$10-20k. If proposal budget requires trimming, pine and Douglas-fir trials will be given priority over spruce. Strong will continue to work on proposal details and budgets.

5. “OPERATIONAL” PROPOSALS DEVELOPMENT (Bennett)

- a. **Interior operations.** Ongoing work; new proposal and budget will be similar to existing.
- b. **Field guide.** Ongoing work; new proposal will be similar to existing except that photography budget will be reduced to reflect fact that most “major” insects are now well represented in our image bank.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Dissemination of results of PM TAC projects (Strong).** This topic generated much (occasionally ~~heated~~ passionate!) discussion and PM TAC members were divided upon how best to proceed. Some members wish to see all reports, including all preliminary data and analyses, interim progress reports, and any other project information made available for public scrutiny. Others believe that this “full disclosure” will serve no useful purpose and could compromise “real” results and/or our relationships with our research collaborators. Until this issue is resolved, a compromise was reached that will have executive summaries for public posting produced by authors of final reports. Indication will be made that details of individual projects can be obtained through contact with PM TAC chair and/or report authors. On a related issue, some members felt that “listserve” approach should be adequate for public dissemination of executive summaries or other project information; others felt that this should be done through an open access PM TAC website. **Both issues (what info to release and how best to release it) will be discussed and resolved at January 2009 meeting. Strong will ask research collaborators to append executive summaries to annual project reports (with clear indication that executive summaries will be made publicly available). Corrigan and Bennett will draft a request for input from clients on these issues; to be approved by PM TAC prior to circulation to client base.**
- b. **Next meetings (Bennett).** Date for next teleconference meeting was decided by e-mail correspondence after this meeting: Wednesday 17 December 2008, commencing at 10:00 AM (PST). This should be a very short meeting (one can always be hopeful) focused on current status of proposals and budgets and any other related issues. January “face-to-face” meeting will be held at a location yet to be determined at some time during the last two weeks of that month (weeks of 19th and 26th Jan.).

7. ADJOURN.

Teleconference was adjourned at about 11:45 AM PST.

Minutes compiled by R. Bennett, 1 December 2008.