

Minutes of the FGC Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee

Wednesday, 8 February 2006: 10:00 – 10:45 AM

Telephone conference

Present: Robb Bennett (Chair), BC MoF	Coast pest management
Dave Kolotelo, BC MoF	Nursery and seed pest management
Jack Woods, SelectSeed	Forest Genetics Council
Tim Crowder, Timberwest Forest Company	Coast industry orchards
Staffan Lindgren, UNBC	University pest management research
Peter de Groot, CFS Sault Ste Marie	Canadian Forest Service
Roger Painter, BC MoF	FGC (guest)
Regrets: Dave Reid, BC MoF	Ministry orchards
Ward Strong, BC MoF	MoF pest management research
Dan Gaudet, Vernon Seed Orchard Company	Interior industry orchards
VACANT	Interior pest management

ACTIONS:

Bennett	Pursue extension ideas (including TICTALK article)
Bennett	Update on interior pest management biologist hiring
Lindgren	Mountain pine beetle – PGTIS project update
Bennett	Clarify MPB research or operational seed production status of PGTIS orchards 201 & 204
Bennett	Develop larch adelgid / seed extractability project.
Strong	Work with John McLean to develop adelgid proposal for future research funding consideration.
Bennett	Pesticides trials final report on 2005/06 trials.
Bennett	<i>Fusarium</i> proposal contamination control assurances and 2005/06 progress report
Bennett	<i>Leptoglossus</i> 2005/06 progress report.
Strong	Continue project proposals development. TAC will approve funding for acceptable projects within constraints of budget allocation.
Painter	Monitor research lab establishment.
Bennett	Draft budget request document and circulate for review.
Woods/Bennett	Present budget request to FGC, March 8

CALL TO ORDER at 10:00 AM.

AGENDA. Meeting agenda approved with no changes.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES. Minutes of 30 Jan meeting circulated by e-mail on 31 Jan 2006. No changes requested.

REVIEW PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS (Bennett)

From 28 Nov 2005

- **Pursue extension ideas (Bennett & Douglas)**
In progress. Carry forward. Initial discussions have been made. Bennett will prepare contribution RE: program restructuring including new scientist hire and posting of pest biologist position.
- **Ideas for usage of unspent pest management allotment (All)**
Done. Allotment to be used towards establishment of new research lab. See below.

- **New interior pest management biologist search (Bennett & Reid)**
Done. Carry forward. Job description redrafted. Position posted AM 8 Feb 2006. Bennett has circulated e-mail notification. Posting emphasizes extension/training/service (not research). Job description and classification both remain under review. Chris Walsh (Kalamalka Seed Orchards manager) will share supervisory duties with Bennett. Job description draft is linked to the posting website.
- **Draft 2006/07 Call for Proposals (Bennett)**
Done. CFP successfully launched. Review of proposals completed at 30 Jan 2006 PM TAC meeting.
- **Draft outline for research scientist projects proposal (Strong)**
Done. Initial review completed at 30 Jan meeting.
- **Mountain pine beetle – new PGTIS project update (Lindgren)**
Carry forward. Lindgren provided the following overview and will deliver update later this year (probably at Fall 2006 meeting). Bennett will clarify seed production vs research objectives with Reid.
 - heavy beetle pressure in PGTIS in area in 2005 resulted in heavy, clumped attacks in 2 old Pli seed orchards (OP 201 & Smithers 204)
 - initial surveys suggested possible clonal resistance to, or tolerance of, attack
 - currently organizing funding for UNBC math/stats grad student to analyze PGTIS survey data (as well as results of progeny tests studies currently underway with Kimberly Wallin through Research Branch). Research Branch contribution agreement is in place. Grad student will be jointly supervised by Lindgren, Wallin, & Dezene Huber.
 - organizational meeting with all ‘players’ to be held at UBC Feb 15
 - raw data have been sent to Reid
 - unresolved issue: it remains unclear if current seed shortage issues will override research potential of the attacked orchards (i.e. will the 2 orchards be managed for seed production in current year or left to maximize research potential). Seed from these orchards is low gain but all Pli seed is in high demand. General feeling is that research potential is prime priority at this point but this requires clarification.
 - cannot yet predict in-coming beetle pressure for 2006 flight but it is expected to remain high. Little on-site beetle flight is expected – huge attack levels and other factors in individual trees combine to ensure death of most beetle progeny within the PGTIS site.
 - younger trees appear to be more resistant to the fungi associated with MPB attack than are older trees. The physiological basis for this is unresolved.
- **Research vs. operations caveat for Call for Proposals (Bennett)**
Done. Incorporated into CFP.

From 5 Dec 2005

- **Develop “in-house” research proposal (Strong & TAC)**
Done. See above.
- **Canvas coastal orchard managers for research proposal input (Reid & Crowder)**
Done. Crowder reported managers’ consensus that PM TAC carry on with current course.
- **Research lab logistics (Strong & Bennett)**
Done. Initial logistics organized. Some hurdles encountered. See below.

From 30 Jan 2006

- **Larch adelgid study – seed extractability issues – develop in-house project with Kolotelo & Chris Walsh (Bennett)**
No progress yet. Carry forward.
- **Work with John McLean to develop adelgid proposal for future research funding consideration (Strong)**
In progress. Carry forward. Both Strong and Bennett have had discussions with McLean. Bennett will meet with McLean at UBC on Feb 9 to discuss further. General feeling expressed by TAC members that Strong's research program is developing well. Input from mainline researchers in TAC (de Groot, Lindgren) and elsewhere (e.g. McLean, Gerhard Gries) will be critical for successful development of a dynamic research program.
- **Remind Patti Brown (pesticides trials proponent) of need for final report on 2005/06 trials (Bennett)**
Done. Carry forward. E-mail sent to Brown announcing tentative approval for funding pending FGC approval and receipt/acceptance of progress report. Awaiting reply.
- **Request contamination control assurances from Mike Peterson (*Fusarium* proposal proponent) (Bennett)**
Done. Carry forward. E-mail sent to Peterson announcing tentative approval for funding pending FGC approval, resolution of contamination question, and receipt/acceptance of progress report. Awaiting reply.
- **Request progress report on *Leptoglossus* work performed in 2005/06 by Gerhard Gries (SFU) lab with internal funding (Bennett)**
Done. Carry forward. E-mail sent to Gries announcing tentative approval for funding (through Strong's research proposal) pending FGC approval and receipt/acceptance of progress report. Awaiting reply.
- **Present detailed project proposals to PM TAC as they are developed. TAC will approve funding for acceptable projects within constraints of budget allocation (Strong)**
On-going. Carry forward.
- **Discuss research lab establishment issues with Research and Tree Improvement Branch administration (Woods & Painter)**
In progress. Carry forward. Strong has provided a list of lab requirements. Painter has visited site and discussed issue with Bennett and Chris Walsh. A meeting is scheduled with Alvin Yanchuk on Feb 13. Lab should be in good shape by year-end (31 March 2006).

NEW BUSINESS

- **Draft budget request document** Bennett will prepare draft and circulate to TAC for review no later than week of Feb 20. Final version to be delivered to Woods on or before 1 March 2006. Bennett will use budget figures in the Table below with indication of transitional nature of MoF Research Program component in this inception year (i.e. projects details are in development and will be reviewed/approved by TAC on case-by-case basis.

Table 1. Draft 2006/07 Pest Management Subprogram budget request.

Pest Management TAC				
Draft budget request - 2006/07 fiscal yr.				
			Subtotals	
Ongoing proposals				
1	<i>Fusarium</i>	Peterson AFS	6,589	44,589
2	Pesticides	Brown CFP	38,000	
MoF Research Program				
1	Tech support	Strong BCFS	11,000	126,000
2	<i>Leptoglossus</i> studies (trapping, mark/recapture, bagging)	Strong BCFS	60,000	
3	<i>Dioryctria</i> studies (life cycle, pheromones)	Strong BCFS	55,000	
TOTAL (proposals)				170,589
Research program salary costs (approx.)				86,000
TOTAL budget request (incl. salary costs)				256,589

- **Other new business** None noted.

ADJOURN. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Minutes compiled by R. Bennett, 8 February 2006.