

# Minutes of the FGC Pest Management Steering Committee

Teleconference meeting Thursday, January 9 2003

Present: Robb Bennett (Chair), BCMoF	Coast pest management
John Borden, SFU	University pest management research
Tim Crowder, Timberwest Forest Products	Coast industry orchards
Dan Gaudet, Vernon Seed Orchard Company	Interior industry orchards
Dave Kolotelo, BC MoF	Nursery and seed pest management
Ward Strong, BCMoF	Interior pest management
Jack Woods, SelectSeed	Forest Genetics Council
Roger Painter, BC MoF	FGC (guest)
Regrets: Dave Reid, BCMoF	Ministry Orchards
Vacant:	Canadian Forest Service

## ACTIONS:

Bennett	raise seedling pests issue with FGC
Bennett	(with input from Woods, Strong et al.) incorporate suggested changes and prepare 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft of business plan.
All	meet at Saanich Seed Orchard, Tues. Jan 28, to discuss 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft

CONVENED at 9:00 a.m. to discuss draft 3-Year Business Plan for Cone, Seed, and Seedling Pest Management which Bennett sent around by email.

## ITEM: Mandate of the FGC PMSC

Borden suggested that seedling pests other than just seed fungi need to be included in our mandate.

Discussion: Seedling is in title because seedlings are the product of seeds; seed fungi infest the seeds, thus the seedling problem is a carryover from orchard practices. The FGC has no mandate to deal with seedlings or nursery management; extending their mandate would stretch the budget too thin for our other objectives. However, this task force could send a message to the FGC that there's a concern. Best to drop "seedling" from business plan title at this point.

## ITEM: "Basic Objectives" on the Business Plan under discussion.

Borden suggested rewording the 2 objectives on the Plan, and adding two others:

1. Minimize need for conventional chemical pesticides for control of cone and seed pests
2. Develop or refine management plans for high priority species
3. Fill knowledge gaps that will aid in elucidating the impact or facilitating the management of cone and seed pests
4. Promote transfer of technology to orchard managers and, in turn, communication of research needs and ideas to the research community.

Discussion: General acceptance of suggestions. But are "principles" or "goals" not objectives. Objectives have specific targets and timeframe, such as "to reduce cone pest losses due to such-and-such a pest species by X amount within a certain time period". Up to three objectives exist for each pest complex:

- Quantify the impact of the pest complex.
- Reduce seed losses due to the pest
- Reduce the use of traditional chemical pesticides

The Business Plan is a good start on the specific objectives. Each objective is addressed with a work plan. Assigning quantitative values to specific objectives allows the broader "principles" to be stated with some accuracy and improves marketability of the business plan.

ITEM: Add more columns to the Business Plan table and use it to create specific objectives.

Woods suggested addition of 4 columns to business plan spreadsheet to help quantify priorities and objectives:

- Plantables required (for the programs that are affected by each pest)
- Total seed use
- Current A-class seed use
- Seed losses attributable to pest

Discussion: Three other columns should be used with these, to set specific objectives. These match the three objectives for each pest complex mentioned above: Quantify impact; Reduce seed loss; and Reduce pesticide use. Bennett and Strong will go through table and fill in the columns. Woods will help with seed production information. Once basic framework of plan is built, details can be amended as necessary to include new data or pests.

**ASSORTED RANDOM ITEMS INTRODUCED AT CAPRICIOUS TIMES:**

- Strong offered to be secretary and take minutes.
- Orchard specific operational pest management projects will remain in OTIP program.
- Important to ensure that research needs are real and needed.
- Priorities should be set by severity of impacts on broader FGC objectives.
- Pest management subprogram deals with extant orchards (all conifer) and their current and potential problems. If hardwood programs start, they will be included.
- Taxonomic work is reasonable because accurate identification is necessary for gains in other knowledge (e. g. Dioryctria molecular taxonomy work).
- Money from FGC can be used as leverage by researchers for other sources of molecular taxonomy funding.
- Need contingency for situations, pests, or events not covered by the business plan. New pest problems will be added to business plan as the need arises or is perceived.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday January 28, 9:00 a.m. at Saanich Seed Orchards, 7380 Puckle Road, Saanichton BC (250 652-5600).

ADJOURNED at approximately 10:45 a.m.