

Minutes of the FGC Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee

Wednesday, 14 March 2006: 10:00 – 11:00 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
Dan Gaudet, Vernon Seed Orchard Company	Interior industry orchards
Staffan Lindgren, UNBC	University pest management research
Peter de Groot, CFS Sault Ste Marie	Canadian Forest Service
Regrets: Dave Reid, BC MoF	Ministry orchards
Ward Strong, BC MoF	MoF pest management research
Roger Painter, BC MoF	FGC (guest)
VACANT	Interior pest management

ACTIONS:

Bennett	Pursue new project ideas (new systemics, <i>Contarinia</i> management, <i>Leptoglossus</i> population studies, cone & seed insect field guide)
De Groot	Investigate revision of decision support tool with Forest Genetics Ontario

NEXT MEETING: April (?) – date to be announced following final FGC budget decisions.

CALL TO ORDER at 10:00 AM.

AGENDA. Meeting agenda approved with no changes.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES & ACTION ITEMS. Minutes and action items from 8 Feb meeting will be reviewed at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget request results (Bennett).** Budget request was presented at Forest Genetics Council meeting, Wed. March 8. Budget request approved as submitted after some discussion.
- **FGC “incremental” funding**
Background (Woods). The Forest Investment Account provides annual funding for forestry projects; approximately \$80 million in 2005/06 of which about \$4.4 million was administered by the FGC. Largely in response to the mountain pine beetle “situation”, FIA funding will be around \$100 million in 2006/07 with similar amounts in the following 2 years. FGC has explored using its proportion (\$1.5 million, pending final agreement between provincial government and FIA) of these incremental funds to pursue orchard expansion for species of use in restocking areas impacted by MPB. For various reasons, FGC concluded that orchard expansion in response to MPB was not justified and is now requesting input from the subprograms on project-relevant investments. The Pest Management subprogram “increment” in 2006/07 will likely be about \$80k. Preferentially, investments will target major issues in the interior and/or on the coast and will have a primary goal of boosting seed production.
Usage discussion (all). Work load capacity, staffing, and timing issues may make effective usage of incremental funds difficult. CFS scientists already have large work loads associated with exotic invasive insects and will be unable to commit their time to cone and seed projects. Usage needs to be effective and must

target identified pest management and SPU priorities. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir seed supply are critical issues currently. During discussion of specific project ideas and how best to carry them out, TAC members agreed to the following outline.

Project	Details	Delivery	est. \$\$/yr	Lead
Additional systemics	Neem & emamectin benzoate injections	Contract (Bioforest & Don Grossman (?))	\$10,000 (2-3 yrs)	Bennett
<i>Contarinia</i> management	Operational usage of sex pheromone	Post-doc (SFU?)	\$42,000 (2-3 yrs)	Bennett
<i>Leptoglossus</i> pop'n studies	Pop'n dynamics to improve predictive abilities	Post-doc	\$42,000 (2-3 yrs)	Bennett
BC c&s insect field guide	Produce spiral bound field guide	Contract	\$20,000 (1 yr)	Bennett
Cone crop monitoring decision support tool	Contribute to FG Ontario revision of DST	Contract	\$10,000 (1 yr)	de Groot

Projects expenditure estimates total \$124,000, about 50% higher than probable “incremental” allotment. However, realities of initiating projects (timing, securing contracts, finding suitable post-doctoral candidates) will likely result in actual expenditure figures lower than the estimated total.

Systemics – Bioforest & Blair Helson have had considerable success with injections of neem against invasive exotics in eastern Canada. Don Grossman (Texas Forest Service) and Leo Rankin (BC Forest Service) have demonstrated successful long term effects of emamectin benzoate on mountain pine beetle and cone and seed insects (cone and seed work summarized in 2005 WFIWC proceedings). (NOTE ADDED AFTER MEETING: Strong has already made contact with Bioforest – timing of production of injection equipment will likely preclude incorporation of neem trials in spring 2006 work plan). Bennett will continue investigation of neem and emamectin benzoate options.

Contarinia – Douglas-fir cone gall midge sex pheromone has been identified, synthesized and successfully field tested. Development of operational pheromone-based gall midge management plan would be a good post-doctoral project. Bennett will investigate potential with SFU lab (Gerhard Gries).

Leptoglossus – A population dynamics study may prove useful for improving population level predictive abilities. Strong may already be trying to cover some of this off within his research program. Bennett will investigate possibilities.

Cone and seed insect field guide – There is a strong need for a hardcopy field guide containing identification and management information for BC cone and seed insects. “Insects of seed cones in Eastern Canada” and a CFIA manual on exotic insects are appropriate models. Basis for field guide exists in Tree Improvement Branch website on BC cone and seed insects. Bennett will investigate contract opportunities.

Cone crop monitoring decision support tool – Forest Genetics Ontario is currently revising the provincial cone crop monitoring publication. This will be applicable to BC situation and of value to BC seed orchard managers. The opportunity exists to participate in production of the revision. De Groot will investigate.

ADJOURN. Meeting adjourned shortly after 11:00 AM.

Minutes compiled by R. Bennett, 15 March 2006.