

Minutes of the FGC Pest Management Subcommittee

Wednesday, November 19, 2003 9:00 AM - 10:10 AM
Telephone conference

Present: Robb Bennett (Chair), BC MoF	Coast pest management
Dave Reid, BC MoF	Ministry Orchards
Bevan Wigmore, 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, BC MoF	Interior pest management
Jack Woods, SelectSeed	Forest Genetics Council
Roger Painter, BC MoF	FGC (guest)
Regrets: Dave Trotter	Nursery and seed pest management
Tim Crowder, Timberwest Forest Products	Coast industry orchards
Vacant:	Canadian Forest Service
	University pest management research

ACTIONS:

Bennett	Compile and circulate project interim progress reports
Bennett	Continue development of business plan.
Kolotelo/Trotter	Revise seed fungi "Research Needs."
Bennett	Project summary information to Woods prior to next FGC meeting.
Bennett	With input from subcommittee members, organize new Call for Proposals
Bennett/Trotter	Ensure Call for Proposals is posted on web prior to Christmas
Bennett	Contact Diane Douglas regarding possible enhancements to current seed pest management diagnostics webpage.

CONVENED at 9:00 AM. Wigmore and Kolotelo sitting in for Crowder and Trotter respectively. John Borden has resigned from the committee because of other commitments; Staffan Lindgren (Univ. of Northern BC) has agreed to take his place as representative for University pest management research.

AGENDA and previous meeting MINUTES approved. Action items had been dealt with appropriately. Initial series of four pest management projects selected and funded in late winter and are now proceeding well.

PROJECT OVERVIEWS:

Conifer seed bug. Excellent progress being made. Significant achievement of Gries lab (Simon Fraser University) has been successful identification and characterization of acoustic signals made by male seed bugs. Good potential for utilization in monitoring and/or management of conifer seed bug.

Seed chalcids. Good progress to date. Bennett has worked with Canadian Forest Service and French researchers to collect post-harvest cone samples from a range of BC conifers for rearing of seed chalcids and their parasitoids. In addition, seed samples are being collected from discard fraction of most conifer seedlots entering the provincial Tree Seed Centre and a Vancouver Island private seed processing facility.

Fir coneworm. Good progress has been made on a difficult subject. CFS and Univ of California (Riverside) researchers have run series of sex pheromone trials in Vernon BC and Chico CA areas. Significant but low trap catch results in particular test treatments indicate research is on the right track but, as expected, methodology will need further refinement. Strong participated in Vernon area work and has also been shipping adult coneworm specimens to U Alberta lab for molecular diagnostic work – this has shown single species involvement (with overlapping generations and consequent hugely extended annual flight period).

Operational seedlot fungal assays. Contracted (Applied Forest Science) seedlot fungal assays proceeding well in spite of funding shortfall. Choice of seedlots for testing has been based on priority matrix in Seed Handling Guidebook coupled with seedlot size and test cost factors. \$15K needed annually in order to do job in best fashion (\$10K awarded this year). Results are being incorporated into SPAR as they become available.

DISCUSSION centred on how to make best use of significant results. Fungal assay results are being posted on SPAR. Interim progress reports for each project are soon due (final reports at year end) – **Bennett will compile and circulate these to Subcommittee members.**

BUSINESS PLAN DEVELOPMENT:

Bennett provided quick overview of current state of Pest Management Subprogram business plan. A few blank columns remain in spreadsheet.

DISCUSSION. General satisfaction expressed with state of business plan.

- **Bennett will fill in blank columns as deemed necessary and will add columns indicating funding awarded in previous years (for each row heading) and estimated funding needed for completion.**
- **Kolotelo and Trotter will revise “Research Needs” for both operational and research Seed Fungi headings.**
- **Bennett will provide summary project info to Woods for Dec 3 FGC meeting reporting purposes.**

NEXT CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

Timelines and formatting for upcoming Pest Management “Call for Proposals” were discussed. A separate CFP from upcoming OTIP CFP was deemed the best approach. The following timelines and action items resulted (timelines discussed in general terms during meeting; actual dates applied by Bennett subsequently).

- 19 Nov. – 3 Dec. **Bennett and Strong draft CFP based on OTIP format (to be supplied by Painter). Draft forwarded to Subcommittee members for review.**
- 3 – 17 Dec. **Subcommittee members review draft and discuss editorial recommendations. CFP revised as necessary.**
- 18 Dec. **Bennett forwards CFP to Trotter for posting on Tree Improvement Branch website and spreads word among research community.**

OTHER ISSUES:

Kolotelo discussed administrative problems arising because of high fungal infestation rates on imported seedlots. Issue needs publicity and resolution although this is not something the Pest Management Subcommittee is set up to deal with.

Gaudet requested that efforts be made to ensure that new pest management knowledge is made easily available. **Bennett will discuss ways of upgrading information currently available on existing cone and seed insect diagnostics webpage with Diane Douglas.** (<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hti/IIG/index.htm>)

ADJOURNED at approximately 10:10 AM..

Minutes compiled by R. Bennett, 19 November 2003.