

Minutes of the FGC Pest Management Subcommittee

Monday, Nov 22, 2004: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Telephone conference

Present: Robb Bennett (Chair), BC MoF
Tim Crowder, Timberwest Forest Products
Dan Gaudet, Vernon Seed Orchard Company
Dave Kolotelo, BC MoF
Ward Strong, BC MoF
Jack Woods, SelectSeed
Roger Painter, BC MoF
Regrets: Dave Reid, BC MoF
Staffan Lindgren, UNBC
Vacant:

Coast pest management
Coast industry orchards
Interior industry orchards
Nursery and seed pest management
Interior pest management
Forest Genetics Council
FGC (guest)
Ministry Orchards
University pest management research
Canadian Forest Service

ACTIONS:

Kolotelo Monitor adequacy of base funding for fungal assays
Kolotelo Development of *Fusarium* proposal (input from Lindgren & Strong)
Bennett Apparent seed bug work shortfall discussed with proponent
Bennett & Woods Prepare resolution for FGC re: appropriate venues for research and operational proposals
Bennett Prepare presentation for FGC re: pest research needs
Bennett Continue development of business plan including detailed pest loss estimates
Kolotelo Input to business plan regarding *Fusarium* work
Bennett Circulate "Table 1" from Call for Proposals for discussion
Bennett Organize Spring 2005 field-based meeting

CONVENED at ~ 1:00 PM.

AGENDA and previous meeting MINUTES.

Agenda approved after addition of one item regarding appropriate venue for research proposals. Action items from Feb 23 Minutes reviewed as follows:

- Approval of carry-over of 03/04 coneworm funding (Bennett) - **done**.
- Seed bug proposal details clarified (Bennett) - **done**.
- Suggestion to FGC regarding fungal assay program funding (Bennett) - **done**.
- Funding for fungal assay program (Kolotelo) - Unlikely to be made eligible under OTIP. Tree Seed Centre will attempt to fund in future through base accounts. Options for charging fees for assay work discussed; general agreement that managing assay fees would be cumbersome. **Kolotelo will provide update in Fall 2005.**
- Development of *Fusarium* contamination proposal (Kolotelo) - **ongoing**. **Kolotelo will continue to pursue with input from Strong & Lindgren.**
- Bennett Prepare FGC budget request as per discussion - **done**.

Membership

Dave Kolotelo is replacing Dave Trotter as the Nursery and Seed Pest Management representative on this subcommittee. Trotter and Mike Peterson (Sec'y, Forest Nursery Association of BC) will provide advisory input to Kolotelo.

Projects

1. **Fir coneworm.** Good progress has been made through successful field testing of candidate pheromone blend. Some good, late-season flight data for adult fir coneworms collected. Based on these results, proponent will provide, at no cost, sufficient traps for all orchards for 2005 monitoring of commencement of adult flight. These data can be used for timing of any necessary emergency sprays and will provide further life history information for development of management plan. Further research is planned to test pheromone rates and blends in 2005.
2. **Conifer seed bug.** Apparent lack of progress by proponent this year has been noted. General dissatisfaction with very slow pace of this project was expressed. Resolution of the seed bug problem is very important; if proponent is unable or unwilling to pursue this work in a satisfactory manner, another venue for completion of the work needs to be found. **Bennett will discuss concerns with proponent.**
3. **Seed chalcids.** Lack of natural stand cone crops in BC in 2004 has slowed this work. Bennett did not collect natural stand cone samples this year but is continuing to sample seedlots in collaboration with Tree Seed Centre and Yellow Point Propagation. CFS (Sault Ste Marie) & INRA (France) partners in this work have made good progress.
4. **Operational seedlot fungal assays.** Budgeted work has been completed.

Cone & Seed Pest Research shortfall

Bennett has been using serious 2004 losses in interior spruce and other seed crops to *Dioryctria abietivorella* (fir coneworm) to spur a renewed push for re-establishment of a cone and seed pest management research position in the province. Earlier in November 2004 presentations were made to, and generally well-received by, Interior Technical Advisory Council and interior and coastal seed orchard managers meetings. Later this month the Coastal TAC will be addressed; a final presentation is planned for the Forest Genetics Council meeting on 7 Dec 2004.

Background: Through the late 1980's, up to 6 full-time people were working on cone and seed pest management issues in BC with research and operations divided roughly between CFS and BCMoF. Currently only 2 people, both in BCMoF, work on these issues although their mandate is primarily operational. Despite establishment of FGC Pest Management Program, research issues remain inadequately addressed. To resolve this issue, Bennett has suggested that FGC underwrite costs of re-establishing one or more research positions (with technical support) either as an "endowed chair" at a BC post-secondary institution or within current research structure at CFS (Pacific Forestry Centre) or BCMoF (Research Branch). This would allow current BCMoF pest management staff to return to mandated emphasis on extension services to seed production community.

Discussion: Various other options for resolution of issue were discussed such as housing of research position in Select Seed or upgrading of current BCMoF positions including addition of technical support staff. Value of extension and tech transfer of research to orchardists must not be overlooked - for immediate needs of seed production community, extension and tech transfer are the most important components of the cone and seed pest management program. The following needs were identified:

- maintain a clear distinction between **research** (everything from well designed trials of pesticides to high tech lab research) and **operations** (e.g. routine monitoring and other control work) and

- keep such work separated between Pest Management Program (research) and Operational Tree Improvement Program (operations).

General agreement was reached on how best to approach Forest Genetics Council (see below).

Bennett & Woods will draft a motion for presentation to Forest Genetics Council regarding clear separation of research and operational mandates between Pest Management and Operational Tree Improvement Programs: PMP is venue for review and approval of all pest management research proposals; OTIP is venue for pest monitoring and treatment proposals as well as for requests for funding in support of approved research projects.

Bennett will update business plan matrix with aim of producing meaningful seed loss statistics. Seed loss estimates (\$\$) will be gathered from each provincial orchard as well as from Tree Improvement Branch and Tree Seed Centre statistics. **December 2004 presentation to Forest Genetics Council will highlight these statistics and ask for FGC guidance on how best to resolve the research shortfall.** Based on FGC response, resolution options will be discussed by e-mail by Pest Management Subcommittee; subcommittee decision to be presented to FGC in March 2005.

Development of Business Plan

Current draft of business plan was reviewed. Need for revisions was identified. **Kolotelo will revise research needs and achievable objectives for seed fungi (*Fusarium*).** **Bennett will update seed loss estimate figures and priority indices and work these data into a new worksheet in the business plan spreadsheet file (see above).**

2005/06 Call for Proposals timeline

Call for Proposals for 2005/06 fiscal year needs to be released early in December 2004. Table of research needs and objectives from 04/05 Call for Proposals requires revision and updating. **Bennett will circulate Table to Subcommittee members for commentary and revision; revision will be completed in time for release of new Call for Proposals early in December 2004.**

Other New Business

Interest was expressed in having a face-to-face meeting at least once a year. **Bennett will look into organizing a spring or early summer 2005 meeting combining business and field tour components.**

ADJOURNED at approximately 3:00 PM.

Minutes compiled by R. Bennett, 26 November 2004.