

Minutes of the FGC Pest Management Subcommittee
Monday, February 23, 2004: 10:15 – 11:45 AM
Telephone conference

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

- Bennett** Notification of approval of carry-over of 03/04 coneworm funding
- Bennett** Seed bug proposal details clarified with proponent
- Bennett** Note for Mar. 4 FGC presentation regarding fungal assay program funding
- Kolotelo** Continue lobbying for base funding for fungal assay program
- Kolotelo** Discuss improvement of future *Fusarium* contamination proposals with proponent (input from Lindgren & Strong as necessary)
- Bennett** Prepare FGC budget request as per discussion

CONVENED at ~ 10:15 AM. Crowder present at commencement of meeting but left shortly thereafter to deal with other pressing business.

NOTE added after meeting - Kolotelo sitting in for Trotter (administrative error by Bennett – Trotter is the “official” nursery and seed pest management rep but had inadvertently been dropped from e-mail circulation list for this meeting).

AGENDA and previous meeting MINUTES. No official agenda was presented. Purpose of meeting was to discuss funding proposals for 2004/05 projects resulting from Call for Proposals. Minutes from previous meeting (Nov 19, 2003) were not discussed.

PROPOSAL OVERVIEWS AND DISCUSSION: Bennett presented initial commentary on each proposal, including an overview of review comments and rankings. Each presentation was followed by open discussion of merits/weaknesses of the relevant proposal. Six proposals received, summarized in table below

Proposal	\$\$ Requested	Continuation?	2003/04 Award
Fir coneworm	\$5,000.00	Yes	\$27,000
Conifer seed bug	\$39,900.00	Yes	\$34,900
Seed chalcids	\$8,505.00	Yes	\$7,100
Fungal assays	\$15,000.00	Yes	\$10,000
<i>Fusarium</i>	\$14,490.00	No	n.a.
Pine shoot moth	\$17,377.50	No	n.a.
Totals:	\$100,272.50		\$79,000

- 1. Fir coneworm.** Small funding request for continuation of 2003/04 work. Also a request for permission for 2004/05 carry-over of unspent 2003/04 funds (~ \$22,000 - resulting from administrative errors preventing timely provision of funds to proponents). Proposal ranked high by all reviewers; no problems or concerns expressed. **Subcommittee approval given for carry-over of 2003/04 funds.** Role of some of listed collaborators clarified.
- 2. Conifer seed bug.** Largest funding request, continuation of 2003/04 work. Proposal rated high by all reviewers. Questions were raised about apparent lack of attention to chemical ecology aspect of project and the potential for the operational management application of acoustic signalling. Both candidate pheromone and acoustic signalling should be field-tested in 2004/05 season. It is likely that combination of pheromone and acoustic signal will be required for successful operational effects. **Bennett will clarify project details with proponent (particularly need of bioassay of candidate pheromone) and relay proponent's response to Subcommittee.**
- 3. Seed chalcids.** Low funding request, continuation of 2003/04 work. Proposal ratings: two high, one moderate. Questions raised regarding actual impacts of seed chalcids, the amount of chalcid distributional data obtained to date, and the importance of collection timing for determination of attack of chalcids by parasitoids. For various reasons, exact data are not available for impacts on BC conifer seed crops; there is general agreement that losses average 10% annually. Accumulation of distributional data is constrained by availability of cone crops and access to them – working with seed extraction facilities (Tree Seed Centre and Yellow Point Propagation in 2003/04) appears to be best way for cost-effective accumulation of these data. Proponent will seek to include more extraction facilities in 2004/05, assuming continuation of funding. Parasitoids attack chalcids overwintering in seeds in cones; attack occurs after normal commercial harvest period hence the need for post-harvest collection and monitoring to determine timing of this attack and the species of parasitoids present.
- 4. Operational seedlot fungal assays.** Moderate funding request, continuation of 2003/04 work. Proposal ratings variable: one high, two low. Subcommittee appreciates the importance and value of the work but remains generally uncomfortable with approving funding for operational projects through a program originally established to address research shortfall. Earlier Subcommittee discussion has centred on this issue. Currently this work is identified as a priority within the Subcommittee business plan. **Bennett will prepare addendum for Forest Genetics Council presentation (Mar 4) outlining the controversy and expressing Subcommittee support for this work with caveat that it should be funded through the Operational Tree Improvement Program. Kolotelo will continue to press for some level of base funding through Tree Seed Centre budgets.**
- 5. Reducing *Fusarium* contamination of A-class seed.** New proposal, moderate funding request. Proposal ratings one low, two moderate. General concerns expressed over technical aspects of proposed work – especially the work centred on determining presence of *Fusarium* spores during pollination and on mature cones. More attention needs to be paid to background presence of spores on various relevant substrates and to determination of connection between spore presence on cones and actual seed contamination rates. General agreement expressed that this proposal touches upon an important issue but does not do a good job of addressing it. **Kolotelo will work with proponent to improve a future proposal, with input from Strong and Lindgren as necessary.**

- 6. European pine shoot moth in seed orchards.** New proposal, moderate funding request. Proposal ratings: two low, one low/moderate. General concern expressed over considerable number of perceived technical problems in the proposal. No big benefit is seen to be forthcoming from this project. Current problem is spatially restricted (one orchard site) and not likely to increase in near future.

DRAFT FOREST GENETICS COUNCIL FUNDING REQUEST: Following the evaluation of individual project proposals, the Subcommittee discussed options to be presented to Forest Genetics Council's March 4 meeting. A decision was reached to reject proposals 5 and 6 (above) for technical reasons and submit a request for full funding of proposals 1-4 (\$68,405.00).

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION: In conclusion, timelines for preparation of budget request for presentation to Forest Genetics Council were discussed.

- 26 Feb. **Bennett prepares Feb 23 Minutes and draft FGC budget request and forwards to Subcommittee members for review.**
- 1 Mar. **Subcommittee members return commentary on Minutes and draft budget request to Bennett.**
- 2 Mar. **Bennett revises Minutes and budget request as necessary and circulates final version to Subcommittee.**
- 4 Mar. **Woods/Painter present budget request to FGC & report preliminary allocation decision to Bennett**
- 8 Mar. **Bennett circulates allocation details to Subcommittee.**
- 9 Mar. **Subcommittee meets by teleconference to discuss allocation.**

ADJOURNED at approximately 11:45 AM.

Minutes compiled by R. Bennett, 26 February 2004.