

## Minutes of the FGC Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee

Monday, 28 November 2005: ~10:00 – ~11:45 AM

### Telephone conference

<b>Present:</b> Robb Bennett (Chair), BC MoF	Coast pest management
Dave Reid, BC MoF	Ministry orchards
Tia Heeley, 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
Tim Crowder, Timberwest Forest Company	Coast industry orchards
Diane Douglas, BC MoF (guest)	FGC Extension TAC
<b>Regrets:</b> 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
Roger Painter, BC MoF	FGC (guest)

Tia Heeley represented interior industry orchards in Dan Gaudet's absence.

#### ACTIONS:

<b>Bennett &amp; Douglas</b>	<b>Pursue extension ideas.</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>Ideas for usage of unspent pest management allotment.</b>
<b>Bennett &amp; Reid</b>	<b>New interior pest management biologist search.</b>
<b>Bennett</b>	<b>Draft 2006/07 call for proposals</b>
<b>Strong</b>	<b>Draft outline for research scientist projects proposal</b>
<b>Lindgren</b>	<b>Mountain pine beetle – new PGTIS project update</b>

**NEXT MEETING – teleconference 5 December 2005, 10 AM PST**

**CONVENED** at ~ 10:00 AM.

#### AGENDA.

Agenda approved with no changes.

#### **EXTENSION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Douglas)**

Douglas gave a brief presentation outlining the Extension TAC's interest in collaboration with Pest Management TAC in production of pest management extension items. Discussion focused on what sorts of extension products might be useful: update/upgrade of current cone and seed pest website and/or production of related hardcopy items (posters, fact sheets, etc.). Eastern Canada publications on conifer insects, seed orchard pest management (Turgeon & de Groot 1992, recently revised) as well as pest management fact sheets for BC Christmas tree growers were mentioned as new examples of good hardcopy extension materials. General agreement that both electronic and hardcopy materials are warranted. Bennett has already committed to working with Douglas to upgrade website. Bennett will pursue this further with Douglas prior to Christmas.

#### **PROGRESS SINCE MARCH 2005 (Bennett with TAC input)**

- Last meeting of the PM TAC (14 Feb 2005) hammered out outline of the final draft of the FGC-requested pest management restructuring proposal. Completed proposal and 2005/06 projects budget request were delivered to Jack Woods on 23 Feb for

presentation to FGC on 2 March. Proposal highlighted budgetary needs and 3 main recommendations:

- Regular pest management operational activities to be handled by orchardists
- Extension/applied trials/training/pesticides registrations, etc. to be handled by Tree Improvement Branch pest management staff
- Research to be handled by new research scientist position in BC MoF.

FGC accepted these recommendations and budgeted up to \$250,000 to cover 2005/06 costs associated with projects resulting from annual call for proposals, current TIB pest management salary (Bennett), and salary and operating expenses to establish new research scientist position (05/06 allotment in each of these 3 areas was approximately \$83,000). In subsequent years, up to \$250,000 will be allotted for research salary, operating costs and projects (TIB salary or other expenses will be additional to this amount).

- Budget request for funding of projects was approved by FGC as submitted. Significant progress has been made on 4 of 5 projects:
    - Leptoglossus* seed bug damage potential** project was dropped because of low insect population levels.
    - Dioryctria* coneworm study** (2 projects) has resulted in development of an “optimized” pheromone blend (2 component ratio, trap & dispenser type, pheromone stabilizer were determined) and significant phenology data.
    - Pesticides trials** (control, dimethoate, and 2 rates of each of acetamiprid and imidacloprid) were initiated at 2 coastal (Fdc) and 1 interior (Sx) orchard sites in spite of high pest and low crop levels; cones were collected from trial trees and seed is currently being extracted for analysis.
    - Fusarium* infection routes** study is nearing completion; cone sampling through growing season and subsequent fungal analysis has been completed, high *Fusarium* seedlots in storage have been sampled and analysis of sterilized *versus* unsterilized seed should be completed before Christmas.
- Some discussion ensued regarding the potential for using unspent *Leptoglossus* and new research position funds on other projects. However no clear identification was made of ways to use these funds on pest management priorities prior to the end of 2005/06 fiscal year. Any suggestions for potential projects should be forwarded to Bennett, Painter and Woods for consideration.
- After logistical delays, interviews for new research scientist position were held in early November; Alvin Yanchuk announced last week that Ward Strong is the successful applicant. Official start date for Strong is 3 January 2006 (happy New Year, Ward). Search has now commenced to find a replacement for Ward as the TIB interior pest management biologist.

#### **INTO THE FUTURE (Bennett).**

- Search for new interior TIB pest management biologist requires initial rewriting of outdated job description. Bennett has contacted human resources personnel to initiate the search process. To avoid spring field season down time, Bennett and Reid will ensure that hiring is pursued in a timely fashion; support of Dale Draper will be requested if necessary. Some changes in reporting structure may result.
  - The following options for the approach to 2006/07 budget request were discussed:
    - Issue call for proposals as per previous years
    - Request single, inclusive proposal from new research scientist (to be developed in consultation with PM TAC)
    - Combination of CFP and scientist proposal.
- General agreement that combination approach will best serve pest management

interests for 2006/07 program. It is assumed that research scientist will take over more of the proposal preparation process as the new research program evolves. Bennett will revise 2005/06 call for proposals and circulate to PM TAC for comment; final version of new CFP should be posted during week of Dec 5. Strong will circulate initial ideas for research scientist's projects proposal to PM TAC; details of proposal to be worked out in consultation with TAC. Draft CFP, Strong research proposal outline, and other relevant items to be discussed by PM TAC teleconference 5 Dec 2005.

#### **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

- Kolotelo brought issue of very high *Fusarium* infestation rates in imported Douglas-fir seed (USA sources) to PM TAC's attention. No TAC action required; buyers are currently dealing with issue on as-needed basis.
- An update on the new mountain pine beetle project (identification of various types of apparent resistance in lodgepole pine seed orchard clones at the Prince George Tree Improvement Station) will be placed on the PM TAC agenda for presentation prior to the annual March meeting of the Forest Genetics Council.

#### **ADJOURN.**

Meeting adjourned by consensus at approximately 11:45 PM.

Minutes compiled by R. Bennett, 29 November 2005.