

Minutes of Cypress Development Group General Meeting

Held at the Commodore Hotel 1st April

In Attendance: Please see attached sheet

Chairman's welcome.

Apologies: Nick Pollock

General Business:-

Vaughan led discussion on the draft Look up Default tables for the ETS that have just opened for consultation, proposed changes to Exotic trees include;

Softwood & Hardwood increases

Redwoods split from softwood

North and South Island tables

Indigenous tables are 2 years away at this stage

Egon- this was great news, but we need to make a submission.

There is a 4-6 week consultation period. A short discussion on submissions was had.

PSP measurements on alternative species have been used to update look up tables.

Kees then discussed the upcoming PSP measurement Partnership with MPI/TUR and how it had been undertaken for the last 3-4 years under different funding. There is a new protocol for line plots with regard to PSP's.

PSP measurements are supposed to be undertaken;

Annually up to the tree age of 11 years

Bi annually from 11-16 years of age

Every 3 years from 16 years of age to harvest/death.

The Abies research programme was a discussion led by Vaughan.

The programme is looking at the Abies genus and its suitability as a replacement for radiata pine if a bug/pathogen was to cause major problems. Eric Appleton was involved in trial plantings back in 1958-1960 with most of these trees already having been harvested. Tree survival, health, and growth rates are being assessed on remaining trees when found. The seed of Abies Grandis is tricky to deal with. Vaughan - a sawing study on some of these 60 odd year old trees would be an advantage.

Dougal asked about siting and the possibility of interplanting with different species.

Russell Coker talked to his recent trip to California,

He was introduced to a number of people while he was there and looked at their seed collection methods and different treatments of seed at the Green Diamond Nursery.

He also looked at a prototype mechanical pruning machine for Redwood trees - if I understood correctly, there may be a chance to get it to New Zealand.

Toby from Scion updated the meeting on research in relation to the Hybrid Cypresses, The 500 series are the latest - with some three way crosses happening. There are 4 sites where these hybrids are planted out in the field they are Tarawera, Pipiwai, Kaingaroa, and Neil Cullens, the Pipiwai site is to be assessed later this year.

CDG was successful in an application for funding from the Research Committee of the FGLT. This \$50,000 project is a partnership with Scion to do a field assessment at Pipiwai in Northland on the 2017 500 series hybrid trials that are based there. Scion had no funding allocated to maintain research in this area, so partnering with CDG has allowed this and similar work to continue. FGR is managing the contract on behalf of the Scion-CDG partnership. A report will be prepared for the CDG on completion of the fieldwork.

The 300 series trees are the Cricketers and an idea was put forward to start stool beds for this series as Scion's stool beds for these trees are being removed. Vaughan put forward the idea of taking the best 60 trees of the 300 series and setting up 2 stool beds in each Island to protect the good work already done by the parties involved. This may be an agenda item for our next meeting to progress it further.

A verbal report was given on Macrocarpa seed collection at Rangitoto farm, this was done back in May 2024 with over a ton of cones being collected over 3 days. CDG now has a good quantity of seed from these superior trees available. There was an article in the November 2024 Tree Grower Magazine on this topic.

Kees Weytmans is now the Newsletter editor, and would like anything worthy or not of a place in a newsletter passed on to him please.

AGM date to be advised

We have 137 members currently.

Available funds of approx. \$34,000 in bank

Meeting finished on time for afternoon tea.