

OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE PROGRAM BOARD

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the **OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE (OKSIR) PROGRAM BOARD** held in the Woodhaven Room of the Central Okanagan Regional District, Kelowna, BC, on Friday, FEB 6TH 2015.

Voting Members:

Director Duane Ophus, Chair	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Director Shirley Fowler, Vice-Chair	Regional District of North Okanagan
Director Terry Schafer (Alternate)	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Director Brad Sieben	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Director Chad Eliason	Regional District of Columbia Shuswap

Non-Voting Members:

Dr. Kenna Mackenzie	Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Susanna Acheampong	BC Ministry of Agriculture and Land

Guests:

Glen Lucas, General Manager	BC Fruit Growers Association
Fred Steele, President	BC Fruit Growers Association

Regrets:

Director George Bush	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Dave Dobernigg	Grower Representative – Zone 3
Billy Potash	Grower Representative – Zone 1 (Organic)
Amarjit Lalli	Grower Representative – Zone 2

Staff:

Cara Nelson	OKSIR General Manager
Melissa Tesche	OKSIR Communications Officer
Sherri Kimmie	OKSIR Compliance Officer
Scott Arthur	OKSIR Facility Manager
Carol Teschner	CORD Finance Manager
Hugh Philip	Contract IPM Specialist
Elysia Kostiuk	Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The OKSIR General Manager called the Inaugural meeting of the SIR Board to order at 9:01am and the members did a roundtable introduction.

a. Election of Chair

The OKSIR General Manager called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board.

Director Ophus was nominated by Director Fowler, seconded by Director Sieben.

The General Manager called three times for further nominations. There being none, Director Ophus was acclaimed Chair for the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board for 2015.

b. Election of Vice-Chair

It was suggested that a Grower Representative be nominated as Vice-Chair, but with all three Grower Representatives absent a Director was nominated. The position of Vice-Chair will be revisited at the next OKSIR Board meeting.

The General Manager called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board.

Director Fowler was nominated by Director Eliason, seconded by Director Ophus.

The General Manager called three times for further nominations. There being none, Director Fowler was acclaimed Vice-Chair for the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board for 2015.

The Chair suggested that a tour of the rearing facility be arranged for the new Board members in the next couple weeks. Dates will be selected and the Board will be advised for sign up.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Fowler

"THAT the February 6, 2015 meeting agenda be adopted as amended with the addition of Item 6.1.a Discussion on Portrayal of OAC in the External Review."

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Regular Board Meeting – October 10, 2015 – for adoption

Moved by: Director Fowler

Seconded by: Director Sieben

"THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2015 be adopted."

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising from Minutes

N/A

4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

4.1 Glen Lucas, General Manager BCFGa – Presentation on Tree Fruit Industry Strategy (DRAFT), Version 4.4, dated January 26, 2015

General Manager of the BCFGa provided a PowerPoint presentation on the BC Tree Fruit Industry Strategy. Topics covered included industry vision, strategic approaches through differentiation and specialization, and industry sustainability. In relation to this strategy, OKSIR:

- Gives industry advantage to accessing foreign markets (e.g., assisting getting cherries into Japan)
- Is supported by industry annually through motions of support
- Has infrastructure in place that is a good base to launch other pest monitoring
- Has made change for apple production

This Industry Strategy has been widely distributed to obtain input. When it has been finalized, all organizations with a role in the strategy will be requested to sign a memorandum of understanding to indicate support for the plan and their responsibilities as outlined (no legal obligation). Though roles may be listed in the strategy, it was requested that BCFGa send specific requests to OKSIR that clearly outline their expectations in each case.

5. CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION

5.1 Appointments to the SIR Board

- a. Central Okanagan RD – Letter dated January 19, 2015 appointing Director Duane Ophus and Director Brad Sieben as voting representatives and Director Luke Stack as alternate.
- b. Okanagan Similkameen RD – Letter dated January 8, 2015 appointing Director George Bush and Director Terry Schafer as alternate.
- c. North Okanagan RD – Letter dated January 13, 2015 appointing Director Shirley Fowler and Director Bob Fleming as alternate.
- d. Columbia Shuswap RD Board Appointment of January 19, 2012 - Director Debbie Cannon and Director Rene Talbot as alternate

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Sieben

“THAT the letters from the four regional district stakeholders regarding appointments to the SIR Board (Item 5.1.a-d) be received.”

CARRIED

5.2 Staff report from Cara Nelson, General Manager, dated January 30, 2015 re: Program Update

The General Manager reviewed the Program Update.

A new Board member inquired if international bodies, such as the World Food Programme or Warren G. Buffett Foundation, have been contacted for sponsorship or grants, or if changing the Board model to private partnership has been considered in order to increase revenue. While progress has been made in building the market and recognition for the Program, it was noted that there are significant legislative restraints on the Program’s ability to do anything outside of its mandate. Expansion of scale or scope may require changes to legislation if those changes will involve tax revenues.

Five minute break at 10:46 a.m.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Fowler

“THAT the Staff report from Cara Nelson, General Manager, dated January 30, 2015 re: Program Update be received.”

CARRIED

5.3 Letter from Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, dated January 23, 2015 re: Directorate of Nuclear Substance Regulation Licence

CNSC advised they will now be requiring a guarantee from organizations that have a radiation source that is Category 1/2 risk. A letter will be received later this month advising if OKSIR is required to pay an annual fee and how much, or if it will be exempt as a government organization.

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Director Eliason

“THAT the letter from Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, dated January 23, 2015 re: Directorate of Nuclear Substance Regulation Licence be received.”

CARRIED

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Status Update on External Review Recommendations as of January 29, 2015

The General Manager reviewed key highlights of the Status Updates on the Recommendations from the External Review.

In realizing how difficult it would be to find a Technical Director that would meet Program needs, it was suggested the Board may get a better return by investing those budgeted funds in developing collaborative relationships with research institutes that could lead to product improvements and opportunities for expanding scale and scope. Staff is currently in discussion with Western University on studying thermal biology which could address current operation details and the possibility for expansion of scale. For a post-doctorate, equipment, and travel for training at our facility, the cost would be approximately \$100,000 per year for two years. Western University is working with OKSIR to locate eligible funding sources.

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Alternate Director Schafer

"THAT the Status Update on External Review Recommendations as of January 29, 2015 be received."

CARRIED

The Board also discussed that the benefit our Program brings to local industry needs to be better communicated to growers and the general public so that they will better understand what they could lose with the arrival of apple maggot. Its arrival could result in the pest being deregulated which could mean not only a loss of the Program's achievements and the export market but increased cost to growers as sprays increase. Though some proactive measures have been taken, funding for a critical pest plan will be key in assuring that when it is detected there are protocols to deal with it swiftly before it can become established in the last region of North America that is currently free of apple maggot. The Province needs to follow the example set by Washington State and take responsibility in protecting their farmers and their investment in the OKSIR Program. It was also suggested that funding be found for research on SIT for apple maggot.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Alternate Director Schafer

"THAT staff send a letter to the Minister of Agriculture advising the Ministry to protect their investment in the OKSIR Program through proactive measures towards the apple maggot threat such as by funding the implementation of a critical pest control plan."

CARRIED

a. Discussion on the Portrayal of OAC in the External Review

The Board discussed the concerns brought forward by Dr. McKenzie, Manager of the Pacific Agriculture Research Centre (PARC), Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada about the second paragraph on Page 10 of The OKSIR: Report of an External Review 9-13 June 2014 which was found by some researchers at PARC to be inaccurate and unfair, and that accepting this Report by the OKSIR Board was further viewed as hurtful. The Board appreciated this concern being brought forward, and while acknowledging the researchers' interpretation of the authors' words noted that they did not read it in that way. After some discussion, it was decided that staff would write a letter of appreciation to PARC that would then be accepted by Board motion at the next meeting.

6.2 Bylaw 30 – SIR 2015 – 2019 Five Year Financial Plan – Three Readings and Adoption
a. Schedule A to Bylaw 30 (2015-2019 Financial Plan)

The final budget for 2015 was circulated and presented by the CORD Finance Manager, Financial Analyst for OKSIR. The Board discussed the budget in detail.

The OKSIR Facility Manager provided background information on replacement of the gamma cell and the intricacies of purchasing and decommissioning. The new unit is expected to be in operation for the 2016 season. A complete report on the replacement will be prepared and presented to the Board at a later date.

Moved by: Alternate Director Schafer **Seconded by:** Director Eliason
"THAT the SIR 2015-2019 Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 30, 2015 be adopted."

CARRIED

6.3 Staff report from Cara Nelson, General Manager, dated January 30, 2015 re: Response to Engaging Growers through Participation in Program Operations

Monitoring is an essential part of the Program, and it is difficult to rely on individuals when you have no control over their actions. Also, in order to establish an Area of Low Pest Prevalence, a formalized surveillance system needs to be in place.

Moved by: Director Sieben **Seconded by:** Director Schafer
"THAT the Staff report from Cara Nelson, General Manager, dated January 30, 2015 re: Response to Engaging Growers through Participation in Program Operations be received."

CARRIED

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Staff report from Cara Nelson, General Manager dated January 29, 2015 re: Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2015

Moved by: Director Fowler **Seconded by:** Director Sieben
"THAT the meeting schedule for 2015 for the Okanagan Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board be approved."

CARRIED

7.2 Staff report from Cara Nelson, General Manager, dated January 29, 2015 re: Update Policy 3.3.6 Unpaid Leave

Moved by: Director Sieben **Seconded by:** Alternate Director Schafer
"THAT the SIR Board approve the revision of Policy 3.3.6 Unpaid Leave to maintain consistency with the Employment Standards Act."

CARRIED

7.3 Staff report from Cara Nelson, General Manager, dated January 29, 2015 re: Signing Authority

Moved by: Alternate Director Schafer **Seconded by:** Director Fowler

"WHEREAS it is desirable for the Okanagan Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board (hereinafter called the "Corporation") to authorize certain of its officers to, inter alia, sign cheques, approve electronic fund transfers, deposit promissory notes and cheques, receive paid cheques, obtain and deliver from the Corporation's bankers, copies of all or any stocks and bonds;

NOW THEREFORE, the Corporation hereby enacts as follows:

That all payments of the Corporation drawn on its Current Account be approved by way of signature on its behalf by Director Brad Sieben, Director Duane Ophus, Director Shirley Fowler, Brian Reardon, Chief Administrative Officer RDCO, Marilyn Rilkoff, Director of Finance and Administration RDCO, and Cara Nelson, SIR General Manager; (two to approve- one of: Director, and one of: Employee);

That Marilyn Rilkoff, Director of Finance and Administration RDCO; and/or Cara Nelson, SIR General Manager of the Corporation, be and are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation to negotiate with, deposit with or transfer to the Bank of Montreal (but for the credit of the said Corporation only) all or any Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Electronic Funds Transfers, and Cheques and Orders for the payment of money and other negotiable paper, and for the said purpose to endorse the same or any of them on behalf of the said Corporation, either in writing or by rubber stamp, and further that all cheques and electronic fund transfer requests under the sum of \$10,000.00 may be mechanically approved by any of the above officers;

That Marilyn Rilkoff, Director of Finance and Administration RDCO; and/or Cara Nelson, SIR General Manager of the Corporation, be and are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation from time to time to arrange, settle, balance, and certify all books and accounts between vouchers, unpaid and unaccepted bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments;

That Marilyn Rilkoff, Director of Finance and Administration RDCO; and/or Cara Nelson, SIR General Manager of the Corporation, be and are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation to obtain delivery from the said Bank of all or any stocks, bonds and other securities held by the said Bank in safe-keeping or otherwise for the account of the said Corporation and to give valid and binding receipts therefore;

That this resolution be communicated to the said Bank and remain in force until written notice to the contrary shall have been given to the Manager for the time being the Branch of the Bank at which the Account of the said Corporation is kept and receipt of such notice duly acknowledged in writing."

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

There was no In-Camera Meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Recognition of Staff Service 2014

The General Manager brought attention to three employees that were eligible for service awards in 2014. The recognition gifts are typically presented at the last meeting of the year.

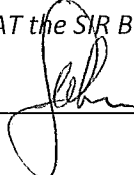
- Kelly Carmichael – Field Supervisor – 5 Years
- Woody Fellman – Maintenance Supervisor – 15 Years
- Mary Anne Laluk – Quality Control Technician – 15 Years

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Alternate Director Schafer

Seconded by: Director Fowler

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 12:16 p.m."



Chair



Corporate Officer

CARRIED