

## **OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE PROGRAM BOARD**

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the **OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE (SIR) PROGRAM BOARD** held in the Okanagan Room of the Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna, BC, on Friday, Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 2016.

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### **Voting Members:**

Director Shirley Fowler, Vice-Chair	Regional District of North Okanagan
Director Brad Sieben	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Director George Bush	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Director Chad Eliason	Regional District of Columbia Shuswap
Billy Potash	Grower Representative – Zone 1 (Organic)
Amarjit Lalli	Grower Representative – Zone 2
Dave Dobernigg	Grower Representative – Zone 3

### **Non-Voting Members:**

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

### **Guests:**

Glen Lucas, General Manager	BC Fruit Growers Association
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### **Regrets:**

Director Duane Ophus, Chair	Regional District of Central Okanagan
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### **Staff:**

Cara Nelson (remotely)	OKSIR GM/Director of Business Development
Melissa Tesche	OKSIR Acting General Manager
Carol Teschner	CORD Finance Manager
Paul Thiessen	OKSIR Operations Manager/Compliance Officer
Hugh Philip	Contract IPM Specialist
Elysia Zimmer	Recording Secretary

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Vice-Chair called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 9:07am.

It was noted that due to a change of representation on the RDCO Board from the District of West Kelowna, Director Ophus will not be attending this meeting. A new representative will be appointed to the OKSIR Board at an RDCO Board meeting in early 2017. Director Fowler will act as Chair for this meeting, and a new Chair/Vice Chair will be elected at the first 2017 meeting.

## **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

### **2.1 Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Director Bush

*“THAT the November 25, 2016 meeting agenda be adopted with the addition of Item 7.5 - 2017 Land Tax Requisition – Requisition Rate Approval.”*

**CARRIED**

Ms. Acheampong and Dr. Mackenzie clarified details in Item 5.1 regarding the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB). The report notes that it has been found for a second time, but technically that is not accurate. It is considered to be only a single detection in the same area in Penticton at two different times – adults in May, and nymphs in August.

### 3. MINUTES

#### 3.1 Regular Board Meeting – September 16, 2016 – for adoption

**Moved by:** Grower Lalli

**Seconded by:** Grower Dobernigg

*“THAT the OKSIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2016 be adopted as amended:*

- *Page 1 – Remove “and Lands” after BC Ministry of Agriculture”*

**CARRIED**

#### 3.2 Business Arising from Minutes

N/A

### 4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

### 5. CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION

#### 5.1 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 17, 2016 re: Program Update

The Board discussed the importance of a capital replacement plan at the rearing facility when considering increasing production.

Ms. Tesche presented field results through graphs to depict moth captures for 2016. Three neighbourhoods in the South – Naramata, Summerland, and Penticton were responsible for 95% of all moth increases. Most of these are small, non-commercial properties, and captures are still well below the treatment threshold for Taiwan access (3 moths/trap/week). Compliance efforts have increased in these areas, and staff are requesting an amendment to expand on compliance abilities.

*Mr. Lucas left the meeting at 9:47am*

Ms. Tesche shared a short video on BMSB that clearly showed the damage potential of this pan-agricultural, major nuisance pest. BMSB was found this year along the Penticton channel. Ministry of Agriculture staff were granted permission from the Penticton Indian Band to remove the infested bush, but spraying was not allowed.

BMSB will be an important pest to SIR—reports from the eastern USA show a four-fold increase in sprays with harsher chemicals and growers still incurring losses. Growers in the hardest hit areas reported total crop losses. Reducing sprays is a large part of SIR’s mission, and the pesticides savings gained by SIR will not be relevant if growers have to return to heavy chemical use for BMSB.

The Board discussed the potential consequences to the SIR program if BMSB establishes in the Okanagan and directed staff to support efforts to slow the spread. The Board asked that staff bring an update and report on an action plan to the next meeting.

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*“THAT the SIR Program provide assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture in coordinating a region-wide response to the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug.”*

**CARRIED**

**Moved by:** Grower Lalli

**Seconded by:** Director Sieben

*"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the staff report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 17, 2016 re: Program Update."*

**CARRIED**

**5.2 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 17, 2016 re: DAS Update**

The project is on target and on budget. Beta testing will begin in Summer 2017 and then be made available to growers in 2018.

**Moved by:** Grower Lalli

**Seconded by:** Director Sieben

*"THAT OKSIR Board receives the staff report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 17, 2016 re: DAS Update."*

**CARRIED**

**5.3 Staff Report from Cara Nelson, Director of Business Development, dated November 13, 2016 re: Business Development Activities Update**

Ms. Nelson reviewed the Business Development Activities Update outlining the work being done to help increase the scope and/or scale of the Program. Business Development travel and meeting expenses are 12.6% of revenue to October 31 for 2016.

The Board was advised that with each importing country, there continues to be challenges as the use of sterile insects is not yet a common practice. The process for using the technology is not familiar to the authorities in many countries. Although there are international standards, each importing country has their own import approval requirements. Management is continuing to work with national and international authorities on opening and streamlining access to foreign markets.

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the staff report from Cara Nelson, Director of Business Development, dated November 13, 2016 re: Business Development Activities Update."*

**CARRIED**

*There was a break at 10:52am.*

*The meeting resumed at 11:01am.*

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated October 26, 2016 re: Ratify Email Poll for Award of External Auditor Contract**

**Moved by:** Director Bush

**Seconded by:** Director Eliason

*"That the SIR Board ratify an email poll of October 27, 2016 awarding a new 5 year contract for external auditing services to BDO."*

**CARRIED**

**7.2 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 17, 2016 re: Updating Policy & Procedure 2.4.3 Schedule C Codling Moth Control Measures**

While staff prefer to work towards voluntary compliance when codling moth infestation is found, this year it became clear that when enforcement is necessary it would be beneficial to have an option between removing all fruit and removing the tree entirely. Aggressively pruning, or "hard pruning", was selected as an effective tool that would be particularly successful with old, large trees.

Staff advised that any owners not able to do the work themselves, or that can't find help, would need to hire someone to do the work. Alternately, SIR will hire someone on their behalf and then invoice them for the work. A document will be provided to tree owners outlining the requirements of hard pruning.

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the OKSIR board update Policy & Procedure 2.4.2 Schedule C Codling Moth Control Order to include the following option:*

- *Hard Prune, to no fruit, \_\_\_\_\_ apple tree(s), \_\_\_\_\_ pear tree(s) and/or \_\_\_\_\_ crabapple tree(s). All pruned branches, fruit, and windfalls from under the tree(s) must be removed and destroyed. Sale or distribution of resulting host tree wood is prohibited. This wood must be chipped, burned, or hauled to an approved landfill."*

### **7.3 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 17, 2016 re: Proposed Board Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Tesche noted that there will also be a strategic planning workshop where Allan Neilson will present his next report on the exploration of structural options to capture revenue opportunities. It is expected to be ready in late February/early March 2017.

**Moved by:** Director Sieben

**Seconded by:** Director Bush

*"THAT the meeting schedule for 2017 for the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board be approved as follows:*

- Friday, February 10*
- Friday, April 7*
- Friday, May 5*
- Friday, June 16*
- Friday, August 11*
- Friday, October 6*
- Friday, November 24."*

**CARRIED**

### **7.4 Interim Financial Statement to October 31, 2016**

The CORD Financial Manager reviewed the Interim Financial Statements ending October 31, 2016. The Board discussed the statements as presented.

**Moved by:** Director Bush

**Seconded by:** Grower Potash

*"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the Interim Financial Statement ending October 31, 2016."*

**CARRIED**

### **7.5 2017 Land Tax Requisition – Requisition Rate Approval**

It was noted that this will be the seventh consecutive year the OKSIR Program has been able to operate without the need to increase requisition rates.

**Moved by:** Grower Potash

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the SIR Board approve the 2017 requisition rate reflecting no increase over the 2016 requisition for the Regional District Land Only Value Tax and no increase to the parcel tax rate of \$139.26 per acre."*

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

*"THAT pursuant to Section 90 of the Community Charter the SIR Board adjourns and convenes to an 'In-Camera' session to discuss legal and personnel issues."*

CARRIED

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. ADJOURNMENT

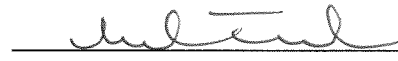
Moved by: Grower Dobernigg

Seconded by: Grower Potash

*"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 11:26am."*

CARRIED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

  
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Corporate Officer

