

## **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 Woodhaven Room of the Regional District of Central Okanagan, Kelowna, BC, on Friday, FEB 10<sup>th</sup> 2017.

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### **Voting Members:**

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Director Shirley Fowler, Chair        | Regional District of North Okanagan       |
| Grower Rep. Amarjit Lalli, Vice-Chair | Grower Representative – Zone 2            |
| Director James Baker                  | Regional District of Central Okanagan     |
| Director Brad Sieben                  | Regional District of Central Okanagan     |
| Director Terry Schafer (alternate)    | Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen |
| Director Chad Eliason                 | Columbia Shuswap Regional District        |
| Grower Rep. Dave Dobernigg            | Grower Representative – Zone 3            |

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

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

### **Guests:**

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Allan Neilson               | Neilson-Welch Consulting Inc. |
| Glen Lucas, General Manager | BC Fruit Growers Association  |

### **Regrets:**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Director George Bush     | Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen |
| Grower Rep. Billy Potash | Grower Representative – Zone 1 (Organic)  |

### **Staff:**

|                        |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Melissa Tesche         | OKSIR Acting General Manager          |
| Cara Nelson (remotely) | OKSIR General Manager                 |
| Carol Teschner         | CORD Finance Manager                  |
| Paul Thiessen          | Operations Manager/Compliance Officer |
| Sherri Kimmie          | Operations Manager/Compliance Officer |
| Hugh Philip            | Contract IPM Specialist               |
| Elysia Zimmer          | Recording Secretary                   |

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The OKSIR Acting General Manager called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 9:06 am.

### **a. Election of Chair**

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

Director Fowler was nominated by Director Sieben.

There being no further nominations, Director Fowler was acclaimed Chair for the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board for 2017.



- d. Columbia Shuswap RD – Letter dated January 25, 2017 appointing Director Chad Eliason, with Director Rene Talbot as alternate.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

*“THAT the letters of appointment to the OKSIR Board for 2017 from the RDCO, RDOS, RDNO, and CSRD (Items 5.1a-d) be received.”*

CARRIED

## 5.2 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated February 1, 2017 re: Program Update

The Acting General Manager reviewed the Program Update.

At the BCFGAs Annual General Meeting, the following Crop Protection resolutions were carried:

### IPM Funding (South Okanagan Region)

*Whereas new invasive pests such as Apple Maggot, Spotted Wing Drosophila, Apple Clearwing Moth, and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug have been detected in recent years in the Okanagan, and Whereas Integrated Pest Management (IPM) solutions have not yet been found for these new pests, and Whereas IPM has a public benefit by reducing pesticide use, Therefore **Be It Resolved that federal and provincial governments increase funding to enhance Integrated Pest Management for tree fruits.***

### Expand the Role of SIR (South Okanagan Region)

*Whereas the SIR program has developed expertise and infrastructure for monitoring, clean-up of host trees, and control measures (i.e. sterile insect release and pheromone distribution), and Whereas these services could lead to an economic improvement in control costs and damage caused by pests other than Codling Moth, and Whereas the use of SIR to apply an area-wide IPM to other pests could realize significant economy of scope by making better use of SIR infrastructure and expertise, Therefore **Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs urgently investigate expanding the legal mandate of SIR to monitor and have bylaws on pests other than Codling Moth - such as Apple Maggot, Spotted Wing Drosophila, Apple Clearwing Moth, and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug.***

### Invasive Pest Funding (South Okanagan Region)

*Whereas Apple Maggot, Spotted Wing Drosophila, Apple Clearwing Moth, and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug have been detected in recent years in the Okanagan, and Whereas invasive insect pests are an economic and horticultural threat to the viability of the Okanagan tree fruit sector Therefore **Be It Resolved that the federal and provincial governments properly fund the monitoring and control of invasive pests.***

### Okanagan Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program – efficiency and communication (North Okanagan Region)

*Whereas growers appreciate the cost control that the OKSIR program has been able to implement, and Whereas SIR rates have not increased for 7 years due to the efficient and effective operation of the program, Therefore **Be It Resolved that the SIR management continue to seek program efficiencies to keep cost to growers as low as possible, and Further Be It Resolved that the OKSIR program continue to demonstrate how the funding is spent, and quantify the benefits for***

*growers.*

One Crop Protection resolution pertaining to SIR was NOT carried:

Okanagan Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program – Extra Spray Costs (North Okanagan Region)

*Whereas many farms have achieved <0.2% end-of-season Codling Moth damage to fruit, but a few continue to spray insecticides due to higher Codling Moth populations, and Whereas the program is mature, but needs to gain control of occasional Codling Moth outbreaks at particular sites, and Whereas such growers pay for the Sterile Insect Release Program through a property tax and also have an additional spray cost, Therefore **Be It Resolved that the BCFGa request OK SIR to consider reintroducing a compliance grant, for growers who still need to spray and comply with instruction on the control of codling moth.***

Ms. Tesche had given a presentation at the BCFGa AGM that was well received and helped to diffuse some grower anxiety about the Program. The Board asked how the resolutions move forward. The BCFGa executive reviews the resolutions that are carried and then decides on what actions to take, whether that's writing a letter or helping with lobbying.

Since the November Board meeting, a positive find of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) occurred in downtown Kelowna. It is assumed that the pest is in the Okanagan at very low levels, but there are no immediate answers for it. Two committees have been set up, and one is scheduled to meet in March to plan for how SIR can support efforts to prepare for BMSB, as per the direction of the Board.

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Director Schafer

*"THAT the staff report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated February 1, 2017 re: Program Update be received."*

**CARRIED**

**5.3 Staff Report from Cara Nelson, Director of Business Development, dated January 20, 2017 re: Business Development Activities Update**

The General Manager reviewed the Business Development Activities Update. It was agreed that the next stage is to develop a business case, which was included in the 2017 budget. The next step would be to work with the regional districts to develop a delegation bylaw to allow the OKSIR Board to enter into contractual agreements for the sales of sterile moths.

**Moved by:** Director Sieben

**Seconded by:** Director Eliason

*"THAT the Staff Report from Cara Nelson, Director of Business Development, dated January 20, 2017 re: Business Development Activities Update be received."*

**CARRIED**

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Bylaw 32 – SIR 2017 – 2021 Five Year Financial Plan – Three Readings and Adoption**

**a. Schedule A to Bylaw 32 (2017-2021 Financial Plan)**

The final budget for 2017 was presented by the CORD Finance Manager, Financial Analyst for OKSIR. The Board discussed the budget in detail.

**Moved by:** Director Schafer

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the SIR 2017-2021 Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 32, 2017 be adopted."*

**CARRIED**

**8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**


**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 11:30 am."*

**CARRIED**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

  
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Corporate Officer

