

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, Nov 24th 2017.

Voting Members:

Director Shirley Fowler, Chair
Amarjit Lalli, Vice-Chair
Director Luke Stack (alternate)
Director George Bush
Dave Dobernigg

Regional District of North Okanagan
Grower Representative – Zone 2
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Grower Representative – Zone 3

*Walter
Makepeace*

Non-Voting Members:

Dr. Kenna Mackenzie
Dr. Susanna Acheampong

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
BC Ministry of Agriculture

Guests/Delegates:

Glen Lucas, General Manager

BC Fruit Growers Association

Regrets:

Director Brad Sieben
Director James Baker
Director Chad Eliason
Walter Makepeace

Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Grower Representative/Organic – Zone 1

Staff:

Melissa Tesche
Cara Nelson (remotely)
Carol Teschner
Hugh Philip
Elysia Zimmer

OKSIR Acting General Manager
OKSIR General Manager
RDCO Financial Manager
IPM Consultant
Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fowler called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 9:06 am.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Grower Dobernigg

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

"THAT the November 24, 2017 meeting agenda be adopted with the addition of 4.1.a Strategic Planning Session Fall 2017 - Report on Session."

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Regular Board Meeting – August 11, 2017 – for adoption

Moved by: Grower Dobernigg

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2017 be adopted."

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising from Minutes

N/A

4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION**4.1 Presentation from Mr. Allan Neilson, Neilson-Welch Consulting Inc., re: Results of October 27 Strategic Planning Session****4.1.a Strategic Planning Session Fall 2017 - Report on Session**

Mr. Neilson reviewed in detail the report on the strategic planning session that took place on October 27, 2017.

The Board asked for clarification on what would be needed to change the mandate. Mr. Neilson explained that the current legislation dictates where the program operates, how it is funded, and what the program exists to do. Moving beyond taxation to generate revenues can be done under the current legislation. A resolution from the Regional Districts (RDs), would support SIR entering into contract liabilities in pursuit of revenue generation. In order to expand to other pests and technologies, there would need to be a legislative change to SIR's mandate made by the Province. Staff have been investigating contractual protections and commercial insurance possibilities and will provide further information to the Board at the next Board meeting. Staff will first meet with the CAO's of each of the RDs before the OKSIR Board formally presents the proposal to each Regional District Board.

Moved by: Grower Lalli**Seconded by:** Director Bush

"THAT the OKSIR Board approves that the following resolution be presented to the Regional District Boards:

"THAT the Regional District authorize the OKSIR Board to sell product that is developed at the OKSIR Rearing Facility, within the total production capacity of the Facility as it exists today, that is not required to control codling moth populations within the OKSIR Program service area;

"THAT the Regional District Board recognize the potential of the OKSIR Board to incur liabilities by entering into sale-of-product contracts, and authorize the OKSIR Board to incur any such liabilities; and,

"THAT the net revenues from the sales of product be used to offset the total net costs incurred by taxpayers to provide the OKSIR Program."

CARRIED**Moved by:** Grower Lalli**Seconded by:** Grower Dobernigg

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives Mr. Allan Neilson's report on Results of the October 27 Strategic Planning Session."

CARRIED**5. CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION****5.1 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 20, 2017 re: Program Update**

The Acting General Manager reviewed the Program Update in detail.

Moved by: Director Stack**Seconded by:** Director Bush

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the staff report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 20, 2017 re: Program Update."

CARRIED**5.2 Staff Report from Cara Nelson, General Manager/Director of Business Development, dated November 20, 2017 re: Business Development Activities Update**

The General Manager/Director of Business Development presented the Business Development Activities Update in detail.

The Board was advised that shipping internationally continues to be a challenge. Currently there are limited options with the largest couriers expressing reluctance to ship live insects if the shipping volume does not generate enough revenue for the company. Staff is working with regulatory agencies and the FAO/IAEA to apply political pressure using precedence to influence the courier companies. Sterile insects are being shipped by courier around the world but OKSIR does not carry the same influence as government regulatory agencies or FAO/IAEA. Shipping beneficial insects and living organisms is a general topic of discussion in the young biocontrol industry itself, and other companies have noted how they continually focus resources on maintaining relationships with shipping companies to ensure successful services.

It was noted that there is limited discussion on SIT in Canada, as highlighted by its absence in the latest Agriculture and AgriFood Canada report on biological control, "**Guide for the first-time importation and release of arthropod biological control agents in Canada.**" Although not considered a traditional form of biological control by many, sterile insects are continually being referred to at international meetings as a biological control agent or a beneficial insect according to phytosanitary measures. Staff will follow up with the author of the document.

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the staff report from Cara Nelson, General Manager/Director of Business Development, dated November 20, 2017, re: Business Development Activities Update"

CARRIED

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Interim Financial Statements to October 31, 2017

The RDCO Financial Manager presented the OKSIR Program Interim Financial Statements to October 31, 2017 in detail to the OKSIR Board.

Moved by: Grower Lalli

Seconded by: Director Stack

"THAT the OKSIR Board accepts the Interim Financial Statements to October 31, 2017."

CARRIED

7.2 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 20, 2017 re: 2018 Requisition Rate

Staff are currently planning the budget, which is to be presented to the OKSIR Board in early 2018.

Moved by: Grower Lalli

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the Board approve the 2018 requisition rate reflecting no increase over the 2017 requisition for the Regional District Land Only Value Tax and no increase to the parcel tax rate of \$139.26 per acre."

CARRIED

7.3 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 20, 2017 re: Bank of Montreal – Mastercard Credit Limit Increase

Moved by: Director Stack

Seconded by: Grower Dobernigg

"That the Board approve an increase for the Bank of Montreal Corporate Account MasterCard credit limit to a cumulative limit of \$50,000."

CARRIED

7.4 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 20, 2017 re: New Facility Positions

The Board considered the matter previously discussed at the strategic planning session on October 27, 2017.

Moved by: Grower Lalli

Seconded by: Grower Dobernigg

"That the Board approve, in advance of approving the 2018 budget, the hiring of two new positions at the facility, with combined salaries not to exceed \$140,000/year, to meet succession planning needs and aid with increasing production up to the facility's capacity."

CARRIED

7.5 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated November 20, 2017 re: Proposed Board Meeting Schedule for 2018

Moved by: Grower Lalli

Seconded by: Director Stack

"THAT the meeting schedule for 2018 for the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board be approved."

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

There was no in-camera meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

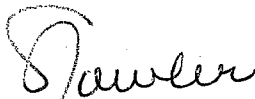
Grower Lalli expressed concern about the communication with growers about, and the slow response to, brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). Dr. Acheampong explained that public education has been conducted by the Province since 2010, in hopes that the general public could watch for initial detections—information for growers on BMSB monitoring and control products is available in the online production guide. She mentioned that the BMSB committee is diverse, and that feedback is welcome if anyone has ideas about how to present the information more effectively.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Grower Lalli

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 11:18 am"

CARRIED



Chair



Corporate Officer