

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 9, 2018.

Voting Members:

Director Shirley Fowler, Chair	Regional District of North Okanagan
Director 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 Chad Eliason	Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Director George Bush	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Director Dave Dobernigg	Grower Representative – Zone 3

Non-Voting Members:

Dr. Kenna Mackenzie	Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
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Guests:

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

Regrets:

Director Walter Makepeace	Grower Representative – Zone 1
Dr. Susanna Acheampong	BC Ministry of Agriculture

Staff:

Melissa Tesche	OKSIR Acting General Manager
Cara Nelson (remotely)	OKSIR General Manager
Carol Teschner	CORD Finance Manager
Loren Scott	Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The OKSIR Acting General Manager called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 9:05 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 Lalli.

There being no further nominations, Director Fowler was acclaimed Chair for the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board for 2018.

b. Election of Vice-Chair

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

Grower Lalli was nominated by Director Sieben.

There being no further nominations, Grower Lalli was acclaimed Vice-Chair for the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board for 2018.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**2.1 Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the February 9, 2018 meeting agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

3. MINUTES**3.1 Regular Board Meeting – November 24, 2017 – for adoption**

Moved by: Grower Lalli

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 24, 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: Next Steps: Request for Resolution from Regional Districts****a. Report on "Request for Resolution"**

Mr. Neilson began his presentation by reviewing key points of discussion from the October 27th Strategic Planning Session and November 24th Regular Board meeting. He identified current challenges and opportunities in the OKSIR program and the legislative steps needed to open revenue streams through the sales of excess product. Mr. Neilson confirmed that the Board does have the capacity to sell excess product, but cannot enter into multi-year supply contracts without approval from all Regional Districts to incur those liabilities.

Mr. Neilson presented the report "Request for Resolution" with a recommended resolution to be presented to Regional District Boards that would seek authorization for the OKSIR program to enter into multi-year supply agreements that may incur liabilities. A copy of the report had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. The report clarified that the sale of excess product would be produced using the current facility and equipment and that the program would not incur new costs or expand production capacity.

The Board was advised that Staff have initiated discussions with Regional District CAOs. The next step in the process is to present the proposed resolution to Regional District Boards.

The Chair thanked Mr. Neilson for his presentation.

The Board reviewed the recommendations made by Mr. Neilson and discussed potential liabilities as well as

the intended use of revenues from sale of excess product. The Board passed the following amended resolution.

Motion by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Bush

“THAT the OKSIR Board requests the Regional District Boards to pass the following resolution:

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

THAT the revenues from the sales of product be used to offset the costs to provide the OKSIR Program; and,

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

CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDANCE/ INFORMATION

5.1 Appointments to the OKSIR Board

- a. Central Okanagan RD- Letter dated January 29, 2018 appointing Director James Baker and Director Brad Sieben, with Director Luke Stack as first alternate, and Chair Gail Given as second alternate.
- b. Okanagan Similkameen RD-Letter dated November 17, 2017 appointing Director George Bush, with Terry Schafer as alternate
- c. North Okanagan RD- Letter dated January 18, 2018 appointing Director Shirley Fowler, with Director Bob Fleming as alternate.
- d. Columbia Shushwap RD-Letter dated January 23, 2018 appointing Director Chad Eliason, with Director Rene Talbot as alternate.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Bush

“THAT the letters of appointment to the OKSIR Board for 2018 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 in detail.

In order to comply with regulations from WorkSafe BC and Health Canada’s Pest Management and Regulatory Agency, OKSIR field supervisors have launched a new pesticide exposure program. In advance of the season, field supervisors have been communicating with orchard owners on when they will be visiting orchard properties, in an effort to reduce potential staff exposures to pesticides. This initiative has been well-received by most growers thus far.

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug has been detected in Kelowna. A petition to import and release a stink bug bio-control agent has been prepared by Agriculture and Agrifood Canada and is awaiting contributions from USDA collaborators. The Board asked for information on the best course of action for controlling stink bug populations, and what action growers should be taking. Management will continue to bring updates to the Board.

The Decision Aid System (DAS) was launched at the Horticultural Symposium on February 8, 2018. The release of the program received a positive reception from growers; many growers have now registered on the site.

The Board was informed that the province has moved the deadline for the annual tax roll ahead. Staff began working on the 2018 parcel tax requisitions this month, and final requisitions will be sent to each of the Regional Districts once complete.

Moved By: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Sieben

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

CARRIED

There was a 10 minute break at 10:50am

5.3 Staff Report from Cara Nelson, Director of Business Development, dated February 1, 2017 re: Business Development Activities Update

The Director of Business Development provided an update on Business Development Activities.

The Board was advised that Fruit Growers Tasmania recently expressed interest in collaborating with OKSIR to begin a SIT trial to control codling moth for their apple industry. With the potential for increased sales in 2018, shipping regulations remains an area of concern. The OKSIR program is currently working with different couriers to overcome shipping challenges into the United States and Europe. The program is hoping to begin shipping trials to European collaborators in March. OKSIR management is in discussion with US officials about the possibility of having OKSIR mass-reared sterile codling moth reclassified as farm raised. This reclassification would negate the requirement for a USFWS import permit and reduce import/shipping costs and time frames.

Moved By: Grower Lalli

Seconded By: Grower Dobernigg

"THAT the Staff Report from Cara Nelson, Director of Business Development, dated February 1, 2017 re: Business Development Activities Update be received."

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Bylaw 33-SIR 2018-2022 Five Year Financial Plan-Three Readings and Adoption

a. Schedule A to Bylaw 33 (2018-2022 Financial Plan)

The final budget for 2018 was presented by the CORD Finance Manager, Financial Analyst for OKSIR. The board discussed the budget in detail.

In preparation for the possibility of selling excess products produced at the OKSIR facility, the 2018 budget included projected revenue.

It was noted that the provincial government just announced that they will be raising the province's minimum wage to \$15.20 by 2021, with the current minimum wage increasing to \$ 12.65 on June 1st of this year. Management pointed out that the announcement was made after completion of the OKSIR budget, so the required increase is not reflected in the current plan.

Dr. Kenna MacKenzie left the meeting at 11:26am.

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Director Sieben

"THAT the SIR 2018-2022 Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No.33, 2018 be adopted."

CARRIED

7.2 Annual Adoption of Safety Policy

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Baker

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

Moved by: Director Fowler

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."

9. OTHER BUSINESS

N/A


10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Director Fowler

Seconded by: Director Sieben

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 12:15 pm."

CARRIED



Chair



Corporate Officer