

Prior to proceeding with the agenda, Chair Fowler read a memo announcing the passing of two former OKSIR Board Members, Greg Norton and Pierre Calissi, and recognizing their significant contributions to the OKSIR Program throughout the years. Heartfelt condolences were offered to the friends and family of Mr. Norton and Mr. Calissi.

4. **DELEGATION/PRESENTATION**

N/A

5. **CORRESPONDENCE/ INFORMATION**

5.1 **Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, March 13, 2018, re: Program Update**

The Acting General Manager reviewed the Program Update in detail.

Ms. Tesche noted that spring is the busiest time of the year for OKSIR Staff. With the field season quickly approaching, seasonal staff have started to return to the field offices and the facility is steadily increasing moth production. She noted that seasonal staffing is again proving to be a challenge for both the field and facility operations.

Ms. Tesche also highlighted the enthusiastic reception to the BC Decision Aid System (BC DAS) rollout, and stated that since the system was launched in February, over 80 users have now registered—most of whom are growers. The Acting General Manager asked if there would be interest from the Board in a short demonstration of BC DAS now that the tool was operational, and the board thought that a demonstration would be a good idea.

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Director Baker

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the staff report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated March 13, 2018, re: Program Update."

CARRIED

5.2 **Staff Report from Cara Nelson, General Manager/Director of Business Development, March 10, 2018, re: Business Development Activities Update**

Staff continue to investigate shipping and import regulations. Although OKSIR has had success shipping live insects to New Zealand and South Africa, there have been challenges with shipping into the United States through FedEx. Live insects shipped by FedEx into the US, must first go through an internal shipping process, and then meet regulation requirements at ports of entry before being received at their destination. Staff has recently met with freight forwarders, couriers and regulators in Ontario and Washington to discuss shipping regulations and logistics. Due to the importance of timeliness in shipping live moths, reducing the travel time of shipment is a priority, to ensure moths arrive to their destination in optimal condition. Staff has been advised to have a secondary shipment strategy in place, in case there is a road block in the original shipping plan or route.

In recent meetings in Washington with US Fish and Wildlife Service Staff and US Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection, staff discussed the possibilities for reinterpretation of the import regulations that would have OKSIR sterile codling moths reclassified as farm raised. This request would need to be approved by the USFWS Head Office. Receiving the re-interpretation of sterile insects as farm raised, would allow for less processing time and less import costs.

OKSIR Staff recently met with US collaborators in Osoyoos to discuss trial design and import plans. This visit provided the collaborators an opportunity to tour the rearing facility and see first-

hand where our sterile insects are produced. During this meeting, the M3 consulting group expressed interest in handling the cross-border hand carrying of our live insects. This relationship will be further explored in 2018.

Staff have also met with several organizations in Ottawa to further investigate options for navigating shipping regulations and logistics. The Canadian Nuclear Association expressed interest in supporting the Program's pursuit of funding for market development and shipping trials.

The Board discussed the communication plan between the Program and Regional Districts, as continued efforts to improve shipping strategies involves seeking funding from the federal government for trials. Staff will be requesting to present a Program update at each of the partnering Regional Districts this spring.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Sieben

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the staff report from Cara Nelson, General Manager/Director of Business Development, dated March 10, 2018, re: Business Development Activities Update."

CARRIED

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, March 12, 2018, re: UAS Research Collaborators

The Acting General Manager presented a brief video to the Board, which provided an overview of the OKSIR trials that have taken place in previous seasons, testing the use of an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) in the release and distribution of sterile moths.

She spoke to the results from previous two years of UAS testing, done in collaboration with M3 Consulting and New Zealand Plant and Food, that demonstrated the UAS is capable of distributing high quality sterile moths over large distribution areas. She noted that the next step for OKSIR is to determine how to make this technology work for the Program as part of standard operations and to explore the financial and logistical feasibility of operationalizing the technology.

The Board discussed how to best manage public perception if and when the Program introducing UAS into regular operations. Ms. Tesche noted that for each of the previous trials, staff obtained land owner permission for everyone whose orchards would be part of the flight paths, and there seemed to be wide support for the project.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

"THAT OKSIR continue to collaborate in the Unmanned Aerial Systems Research Project for the third year, with a season-long trial to investigate the logistical and economic feasibility of incorporating release by UAS into the OKSIR program"

CARRIED

7.2 Staff Report, February 21, 2018, re: 2018 OKSIR Parcel Tax Acreage-Tax Roll Values-Final

The Acting General Manager presented the 2018 OKSIR Parcel Tax Roll Memo to the Board. The 2018 tax roll calculations show an increase in pome fruit acreage throughout the valley.

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the staff report dated February 21, 2018 re: 2018 OKSIR Parcel Tax Acreage-Tax Roll Values-Final"

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Director Eliason

"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

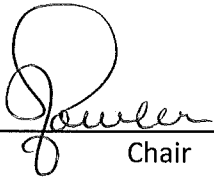
10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Director Eliason

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

CARRIED



Chair



Corporate Officer