

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, June 22, 2018

Voting Members:

Director Shirley Fowler, Chair
Grower Amarjit Lalli, Vice Chair
Director James Baker
Director Brad Sieben
Director Chad Eliason
Director George Bush
Grower Dave Dobernigg
Grower Walter Makepeace

Regional District of North Okanagan
Grower Representative Zone 2
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Grower Representative Zone 3
Grower Representative Zone 1

Non-Voting Members:

Dr. Kenna Mackenzie

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

Guests/Delegates:

Glen Lucas
Allan Neilson
Evan Esch

Fruit Growers Association
Local Government Consultant
OKSIR Entomology Technician

Regrets:

Carol Teschner
Dr. Susanna Acheampong

CORD Finance Manager
BC Ministry of Agriculture

Staff:

Melissa Tesche
Cara Nelson (remotely)
Loren Scott

OKSIR Acting General Manager
OKSIR General Manager
Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 9:05am.

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

Moved by: Director Makepeace

Seconded by: Director Baker

"THAT the June 22, 2018 meeting agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

3. MINUTES**3.1 Regular Board Meeting – May 11, 2018 – for adoption**

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Director Baker

"THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2018 be adopted."

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising from Minutes

N/A

4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION**4.1 Allan Neilson, Local Government Consultant-Update on Request for Resolution and RD Concerns**

- a. Letter from RDNO, dated June 13, 2018, re: Tax Requisition Apportionment Across RDs

Mr. Neilson reviewed the meeting that was held on April 13th with the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) of the four participating Regional Districts. The RDNO CAO had verbally brought forward concerns about the governance of the program, particularly, the intra-regional cost sharing for the tax burden.

Mr. Neilson then spoke to the concerns outlined in the letter that was sent to OKSIR from RDNO's General Manager of Finance, which was focused on inter-regional apportionment. He provided background on the decisions that led to the Program's current tax requisition allocation and then outlined some possible next steps.

Staff provided the Board with additional background on how OKSIR came to establish the current tax allocation over a decade ago, explaining that in response to concerns from some Regional District partners that the requisition was increasing at an unfair rate due to rising assessments, the agreement was to set a fixed requisition based on 2006 assessed values.

Staff were directed to work with the Regional Districts and report back to the Board.

Grower Dobernigg arrived at 9:13am

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the Letter from RDNO, dated June 13, 2018, re: Tax Requisition Apportionment Across RDs and directs Staff to provide an appropriate response and report back to the Board at the next Regular Board Meeting."

CARRIED

Mr. Neilson left the meeting at 9:30am

4.2 Evan Esch, OKSIR Entomology Technician-Presentation on Collaborative Research Opportunity

- a. Staff report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated June 18, 2018, re: Opportunity to Develop OKSIR Risk Modelling and Resource Allocation Tool.

The Acting General Manager introduced the Program's Entomology Technician, Evan Esch. Mr. Esch presented on how OKSIR could benefit from the development of computer programming tools that would allow the Program to detect and respond, in real-time, to changes in moth infestation levels. Reviewing the daily operations of the Program, Mr. Esch highlighted current challenges and areas where advanced analytics of data would allow for improved decision making as to where to distribute sterile moths. Since this sort of software is not available for purchase, staff recommend that the development of these tools be done through an interdisciplinary PhD program, in collaboration with the Summerland Research and Development Centre and UBCO-Okanagan.

The Board thanked Mr. Esch for his presentation, and expressed enthusiasm for the project, the value it would bring to the Program, and the local partnerships it would build. The Board raised the question of intellectual property rights to a product once it is complete. Staff advised the Board that OKSIR would work with the partners to ensure that OKSIR's interests are protected. Completion of the tools could take three to four years.

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Director Lalli

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated June 18, 2018, re: Opportunity to Develop OKSIR Risk Modelling and Resource Allocation tool."

"AND THAT OKSIR participate in a collaborative project with UBC-Okanagan and Summerland Research and Development Centre to develop a computer program that would assess real-time codling moth risk, aid in determining adaptive management strategies, and optimize resource allocation; as long as intellectual property is protected by OKSIR."

"AND FURTHER THAT OKSIR sponsor the tuition of one PhD student to develop and operationalize a risk modelling/resource allocation tool."

CARRIED

Glen Lucas and Mr. Esch left at 10:10am

5 CORRESPONDENCE/ INFORMATION

5.1 Obituary for Maurice Desmond Proverbs ("Dr. Jinx Proverbs" of SRDC, founding researcher of OKSIR)

The Board took a moment to recognize Dr. Proverbs and his monumental contributions to OKSIR and environmentally friendly pest control in the valley and around the world, noting that the OKSIR Program would not exist if not for Dr. Proverb's work.

5.2 Regional District Resolutions (authority for OKSIR to enter into multi-year sale of contracts):

- a. Regional District Central Okanagan, dated May 14, 2018
- b. Columbia Shuswap regional District, dated May 23, 2018
- c. Regional District North Okanagan, dated June 13, 2018

Staff have visited each of the participating Regional Districts and presented the request for a resolution to allow OKSIR to enter into incur potential liabilities inherent in multi-year contracts. The presentation was well received by all Regional Districts. OKSIR now has the authority to move forward with entering into multi-year contracts.

Moved by: Grower Lalli

Seconded by: Director Baker

5.3 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated June 18, 2018 re: Program Update

Staff reviewed the positive feedback that has been received from industry on the Decision Aid System (DAS)

that was launched earlier this year. The Board asked what strategies could be used to make sure that all growers in the Okanagan are aware of DAS and how to use it, so they too can experience the benefits that it offers. Staff advised the Board that there are videos available on how to use the program, and workshops on the program have been taking place. Growers can also call the OKSIR office for assistance registering and for information on how to use the features.

Grower representatives informed the Board that there has been some concern amongst growers on the new WorkSafeBC procedures that OKSIR has rolled out this year, protecting field monitors from pesticide exposure when entering orchards. Growers have expressed concern that they miss a week of moths if they do advise their supervisor that they're spraying. Staff is aware of the concerns and is making an effort to have a flex monitor available to deliver moths to the orchards that were missed due to spraying. Staff explained to the Board that the growers concerns are being heard, and that there is a plan to hold a workshop at the end of the season to discuss how the procedures could be adapted to better fit the operations of the Program while still keeping workers safe.

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Director Baker

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated June 18, 2018, re: Program Update."

CARRIED

5.4 Staff Report from Cara Nelson, General Manager/Director of Business Development, June 15, 2018, re: Business Development Update

The General Manager/Director of Business Development reviewed the Business Development Update in detail and answered several questions from the Board.

The Board asked for a copy of the letter that had been given to the local MPs at meetings in May in requesting their support. The Board asked that future requests to senior politicians be brought to the Board for approval and signature from the Chair. The General Manager acknowledged this request, and apologized for the rushed nature of the meetings, explaining that the representatives had showed great enthusiasm at the in-person meetings and time was of the essence to capitalize on their support.

The Board discussed the prospect of having BioEnterprise Corporation develop an operational feasibility plan, which would be a beneficial resource during the Program's next Strategic Planning Workshop. The Board was advised by Staff that a price for this service is not yet known.

Director Bush left at 11:03am returned at 11:05am

Moved by: Grower Dobernigg

Seconded by: Director Baker

"THAT the OKSIR Board directs Staff to request BioEnterprise to provide a proposal for developing a commercialization and feasibility plan for the OKSIR Board to consider."

CARRIED

Moved by: Grower Dobernigg

Seconded by: Director Makepeace

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the Staff Report from Cara Nelson, General Manager/Director of Business Development dated June 15, 2018, re: Program Update."

"AND THAT the OKSIR Board directs Staff to facilitate a date for a Strategic Planning Workshop"

CARRIED

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Staff Report from Loren Scott, Administrative Assistant, dated June 1, 2018, re: 2018OKSIR Parcel Tax-

Taxable \$ Values-Preliminary

The final taxable acreage for 2018 when compared to the final acreage for 2017, shows a decrease of 6.39 acres, or \$889.87 parcel tax dollars. It was noted that the changes in acreage is likely due removals related to the replant program.

Moved by: Grower Dobernigg

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the staff reported dated June 1, 2017 re: 2018 OKSIR Parcel Tax-Taxable \$ Values-Preliminary."

CARRIED

7.2 Interim Financial Statements to April 30, 2018

Moved by: Grower Dobernigg

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the Interim Financial Statements to April 30, 2018."

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

Adjourned to in camera at 11:15am

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Director Bush

"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

N/A

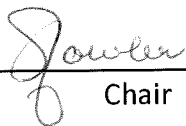
10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Director Sieben

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 12:20pm."

CARRIED



Chair



Corporate Officer