

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 View Room at Manteo Resort in Kelowna BC, on Friday, October 5, 2018

Voting Members:

Director Shirley Fowler, Chair	Regional District of North Okanagan
Grower 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
Grower Dave Dobernigg	Grower Representative, Zone 3

Non-Voting Members:

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

N/A

Regrets:

Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
Dr. Susanna Acheampong	BC Ministry of Agriculture
Grower Walter Makepeace	Grower Representative, Zone 1

Staff:

Melissa Tesche	OKSIR Acting General Manager
Carol Teschner	RDCO Financial Manager
Paul Thiessen	OKSIR Operations Manager
Loren Scott	Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 9:03am.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

"THAT the October 5, 2018 meeting agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Regular Board Meeting – June 22, 2018 – for adoption

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2018 be adopted."

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising from Minutes

N/A

Director Sieben, Grower Dobernigg, and Paul Thiessen arrived at 9:25am.

4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

4.1 Review of Program's 2018 Results

The Acting General Manager presented the 2018 field season results. While 50% of the acreage had zero moth captures for the season, codling moth pressure was on the rise throughout the valley. The Program fell short of its operational target, with just 86% of program acreage having less than .2% (target is 90%). The general increase in codling moth pressure matches trends reported in Washington, and the Acting General Manager presented a breakdown of pressure changes by operational areas. The increase in codling moth pressure was particularly noticeable in the Summerland/Penticton/Naramata areas.

The Acting General Manager highlighted several other key points from the 2018 data. When considering moth captures, the worst 10% of orchards accounted for 75% of all captures, with the worst 1% of orchards having 25% of all captures. She cautioned about relying solely on trap captures, however, and explained the importance of in-season scouting and damage sampling.

The Board asked for clarification on the process ahead for orchards with the highest counts of wild codling moth and what actions are being taken to correct poor orchard maintenance. The Acting General Manager explained the Program's approach to work *with* growers, providing increased moth releases to the maximum level prescribed (4x the standard rate), providing guidance to growers on best practices, supplementary measures, and advice on when to spray—she also noted that when efforts to work with a grower fail or pressure is extreme, the compliance process is triggered. The compliance program includes the ability to require growers strip infested fruit, comply with spray programs, hard prune trees, with tree/orchard removal as a last resort.

The Acting General Manager closed the presentation with an assurance that the Program remains focused on continuing to work with growers and where necessary, moving to compliance actions, to work on reducing codling moth pressure. She reminded the Board that many fruit growing regions are seeing increases in wild codling moth populations, both south of the border and around the world. The Okanagan and its sterile insect release program remain the envy of other apple growing regions, but staff is committed to continually reviewing and improving program components to keep supplementary pesticide use for codling moth at lowest levels possible.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

THAT the OKSIR Board receives the Review of the Program's 2018 results.

CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE/ INFORMATION

5.1 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated October 1, 2018 re: Program Update

The Acting General Manager reviewed the Program Update in detail.

As discussed in the opening presentation, data from the 2018 season shows an increase in wild codling moth populations, particularly in Penticton and Summerland areas. Staff will continue to analyze this data and work with growers ahead of the 2019 season to develop individualized control plans. Ideas on how best to collaborate with growers to address and correct problem areas were discussed.

Staff provided the Board with an update on the request from RDNO to review the program's current tax apportionment method. The four participating Regional Districts have been asked to provide OKSIR with their 2018 converted assessed values, the financial impacts of changing the apportionment will be calculated. The Acting General Manager reminded the Board that the decision to follow the current funding formula was a political decision made with agreement from all of the regional districts. The Board agreed that revisiting and/or revamping that decision should be done at the political level.

Several potential collaboration opportunities with international researchers were reviewed by Staff. The potential collaborations include trails with Ctifl from France, as detailed in section 5.2, and possible codling moth supply agreements with New Zealand. Additionally, M3 has completed a successful collaboration with WSU, releasing sterile codling moths by UAV and is interested in moving forward with OKSIR on drone releases.

Before committing to these opportunities, Staff and the Board recognize the need for assessing the Program's financial due diligence for business development. To fulfill this requirement, OKSIR has entered into a six month agreement with Bioenterprise, a national non-profit commercialization accelerator that supports the growth of Canada's agri-tech industries. Bioenterprise will assist OKSIR with investigating the Program's financial feasibility, by providing a market analysis of codling moth programs, along with connecting the Program to several other beneficial resources.

5.2 b) Letter from Mr. Jacques Rouchasse, President of CTIFL, dated September 27, 2018, re: Request for Collaboration

Staff reviewed highlights from the French delegations visit in late August, and shared with the Board, the enthusiasm that the delegates expressed during their field and facility tour. The delegation followed up their visit with a letter expressing their interest in collaborating on pilot trials next spring. The Board agreed that this is a good opportunity, but questions were raised regarding the long term benefits of the collaboration. Before suggesting the Board enter into this, or any other multi-year agreement, Staff will wait to receive the feasibility study with Bioenterprise and provide the Board with a business plan and situational analysis.

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated October 1, 2018, re: Program Update."

CARRIED

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

A coffee break was taken at 10:30am and the meeting resumed at 10:45am

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Interim Financial Statements

The Financial Manager reviewed the financial statements in detail. It was noted that this year, the Program had less revenue than expected from parcel taxes, as more acreage than anticipated was removed in 2018, likely for replant as the provincially supported replant program continues.

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Director Eliason

"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the interim Financial Statements to August 31, 2018"

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

Adjourned to in camera at 11:00am

Moved by: Grower Lalli

Seconded by: Director Sieben

"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

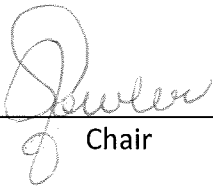
10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 12:00pm."

CARRIED



Chair



Corporate Officer