

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 in Kelowna BC, on Friday, January 18, 2019

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:

Glen Lucas
Dr. Susanna Acheampong

BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Ministry of Agriculture

Guests/Delegates:

N/A

Regrets

Dr. Kenna Mackenzie

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

Staff:

Melissa Tesche
Carol Teschner
Loren Scott

OKSIR Acting General Manager
RDCO Financial Manager
Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The OKSIR General Manager called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 9:00am.

a. Election of Chair

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

Director Fowler was nominated by Director Eliason.

There being no further nominations, Director Fowler was acclaimed Chair for the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board for 2019.

b. Election of Vice Chair

The OKSIR General Manager called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board for 2019.

Grower Lalli was nominated by Director Baker.

There being no further nominations, Grower Lalli was acclaimed Vice-Chair for the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board for 2019.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"THAT the January 18, 2019 meeting agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Regular Board Meeting-October 5, 2018-for adoption

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Director Eliason

"THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2018 be adopted."

CARRIED

4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

4.1 Dr. Amritpal Singh and Chris Pagliocchini, Summerland Research and Development Centre, re : Tree Fruit Breeding Program

a.) Memo from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated November 20, 2018 re: Cooperation with SRDC on Tree Fruit Variation Breeding

Dr. Singh presented to the Board on the Summerland Research and Development Centre's Tree Fruit Breeding Program, providing a brief overview of the history of the program and the stages involved in the breeding process. Dr. Singh explained SRDC's interest in irradiating dormant buds of apples and sweet cherries.

Dr. Singh and Mr. Pagliocchini answered questions from the Board.

The Board asked Staff to determine whether a contract should be put in place with SRDC to cover any potential liabilities of providing use of SIR's irradiation facility, as the activities of their program would be out of the scope of SIR's regular operations.

The Chair commented that the Board looks forward to working with SRDC on this project.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the memo from the General Manager describing the request of SRDC be received."

"AND THAT staff at OKSIR provide in-kind support to the Summerland Research and Development Centre's Tree Fruit Variation Breeding Program by treating the sweet cherry and apple cutting with radiation."

CARRIED

4.2 Mr. Allan Neilson, Local Government Consultant, re: Status of Apportionment Inquiry from RDNO

a.) Record of Discussion, CAOs Committee Conference Call, dated December 10, 2018

Mr. Neilson provided the Board with an update on discussions that have taken place regarding a review of the Program's tax apportionment among regional districts, including a call with the CAO Committee on December 10, 2018. He summarized the call, noting that each of the CAOs would support a streamlined review of cost apportionment, but they would also want to revisit additional elements of the Program's governance that are important to the long term success of the program. He highlighted the CAOs' recognition that the current funding formula was a political agreement between the RD partners that reflected the situation at the time, and that changes to the funding formula should also be made at the political level.

Mr. Nielsen identified the key next step as RDNO's CAO confirming that the RDNO Board holds the position set out in the staff letter received last year.

The Board thanked Mr. Nielsen for his report.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Sieben

"THAT the Record Discussion from the CAOs Committee be received."

CARRIED

Grower Dobernigg arrived at 9:27am

5. CORRESPONDENCE/ INFORMATION

5.1 Appointments to the OKSIR Board

- A. North Okanagan RD-Letter dated November 23, 2018 appointing Director Shirley Fowler, with Director Victor Cumming as alternate.
- B. Okanagan Similkameen RD-Letter dated December 7, 2018 appointing Director George Bush, with Director Rick Nodel as alternate.
- C. Central Okanagan RD-Letter dated December 12, 2018 appointing Director James Baker and Director Brad Sieben, with Director Charlie Hodge as first alternate, and Chair Gail Given as second alternate.
- D. Columbia Shuswap RD-Letter dated December 13, 2018 appointing Director Chad Eliason, with Director Kevin Flynn as alternate.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the letters of appointment to the OKSIR Board for 2019 from the RDCO, RDOS, RDNO, and CSRD (Items 5.1 a-d) be received."

5.2 Staff Report Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated November 20, 2018 re: Program Update

The General Manager reviewed the Program Update in detail.

In preparation for the upcoming season, all annual maintenance has now been completed in the facility and staff is preparing to ramp up moth production. In field operations, all field supervisors will be returning this season and are currently planning their delivery routes.

The Board inquired as to whether the Program would be prepared for earlier moth release, should the season start earlier due to warmer weather this year. The General Manager assured the Board that the Program prepares itself based on the earliest known start and will be ready to release should moths start emerging earlier this spring.

The General Manager shared updates from the annual Orchard Pest and Disease Management Conference in Portland

Oregon, which she attended in early January, along with the Program's Entomological Technician. At this year's conference, codling moth control was of great interest among American growers, particularly organic growers, who are struggling with codling moth damage. There were several presentations on SIT, and growers expressed extreme interest in purchasing sterile moths to add to their codling moth control efforts.

Dr. Betsy Beers, of WSU, presented the Washington SIT drone trials and she and the participating growers were encouraged by the results. As a result of the increasing appetite among growers for sterile codling moths, this is the first year SIR would consider doing a trial of commercial sales in Washington. The commercial trials would be an opportunity to test if there is a commercial market for sterile codling moths; the enthusiastic discussions at the OPDM conference indicate that a viable market certainly does exist.

The Board raised the question as to whether the pricing of sterile codling moth sales will continue to be based on cost recovery. The General Manager explained that there will be changes to the pricing structure, and current collaborators have been advised.

The General Manager shared with the Board that new national UAV regulations were released recently that prohibit the release of live organisms from drones. Staff is looking forward to working with Transport Canada on this issue.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Bush

THAT the Staff Report from the General Manager be received.

CARRIED

Carol Teschner joined the meeting at 9:50am

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2019

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

"THAT the meeting schedule for 2019 for the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board be approved as presented."

CARRIED

7.2 Annual Adoption of Safety Policy

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Director Baker

"THAT the Board adopt 'OKSIR's Occupational Health and Safety Policy' as presented."

CARRIED

7.3 Bylaw 34-SIR 2019-2023 Five Year Financial Plan-Three Readings and Adoption

The final budget for 2019 was presented by the CORD Financial Manager, and the projected final year end for 2018 was reviewed. The board discussed the budget in detail.

The new employer health tax was highlighted as a notable change for the 2019 budget. In previous years, the program covered the MSP cost for year-round employees, this year the employer health tax will be paid to all employees, including seasonal staff, which amounts to a nearly 2% payroll increase.

The Board raised a few questions regarding the financial plan for asset replacement. The General Manager addressed their questions, and confirmed to the Board that the Program is in a good position for asset

replacement.

The OKSIR General Manager thanked the RDCO Financial Manager for preparing the financial plan in advance for the Board meeting.

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

"THAT the SIR 2019-2023 Five Year Financial Plan, Bylaw No. 34, be adopted."

CARRIED

Prior to adjourning to in-camera session, Chair Fowler shared with the Board that OKSIR's General Manager, Melissa Tesche, had been nominated for an Emerging Leader Award through the Real Estate Foundation. The Board congratulated Ms. Tesche on her nomination.

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

Adjourned to in camera at 10:15am

Moved by: Director Sieben

Seconded by: Director Baker

"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:


Seconded by:

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 11:20pm."

CARRIED



Chair



Corporate Officer