

## 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, March 1, 2019

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### Voting Members:

Director Shirley Fowler, Chair	Regional District of North Okanagan
Grower Amarjit Lalli, Vice Chair	Grower Representative Zone 2
Director Brad Sieben	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Director George Bush	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Grower Dave Dobernigg	Grower Representative – Zone 3
Grower Walter Makepeace	Grower Representative – Zone 1

### Non-Voting Members:

N/A

### Guests/Delegates:

Nathan Moses-Gonzales	M3 Consulting
Dustin Krompetz	M3 Consulting

### Regrets:

Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
Dr. Susanna Acheampong	BC Ministry of Agriculture and Land
Director Chad Eliason	Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Director James Baker	Regional District of Central Okanagan

### Staff:

Melissa Tesche	OKSIR General Manager
Carol Teschner	CORD Finance Manager
Paul Thiessen	OKSIR Operations Manager
Evan Esch	OKSIR Entomology Technician
Loren Scott	Recording Secretary

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Moved:** Director Sieben

**Seconded by:** Director Fowler

## **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

### **2.1 Adoption of Agenda**

The Chair requested the addition of agenda item 7.4.

**Moved by:** Director Sieben

**Seconded by:** Director Bush

*“THAT the March 1, 2019 meeting agenda be adopted.”*

**CARRIED**

## **3. MINUTES**

### **3.1 Regular Board Meeting – January 18, 2019 – for adoption**

**Moved by:** Director Bush

**Seconded by:** Director Makepeace

*“THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2019 be adopted.”*

**CARRIED**

### **3.2 Business Arising from Minutes**

Chair Fowler presented Ms. Tesche with an award certificate for Ms. Tesche’s special mention in the Emerging Leader category of the Real Estate Foundation’s Land Awards. The Board congratulated her on the achievement.

#### **4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION**

##### **4.1 Nathan Moses-Gonzalez and Dustin Krompetz from M3 Consulting Group LLC re: Advancements in UAS for SIT Programs and the Potential of SIT in Washington State**

The General Manager introduced Nathan Moses and Dustin Krompetz to the Board and provided background on the history of collaboration between OKSIR and M3 Consulting Group LLC (M3). The two organizations have partnered to develop the use of UAS for codling moth SIT research since 2016.

Mr. Moses-Gonzalez presented the Board with a PowerPoint presentation on the work M3 is doing on a wide variety of insect suppression and eradication programs, both domestically and internationally. Mr. Moses-Gonzalez shared with the Board how M3's background in SIT technology is well-matched to partner with SIR to work towards integrating the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into OKSIR operations and highlighted the need for codling moth SIT technology in Washington and other areas of the USA.

Following the presentation, Mr. Moses-Gonzalez and Mr. Krompetz answered questions from the Board.

As M3 is based in the United States, the Board asked how UAS regulations in the US are compared to Canada. Mr. Krompetz explained that the USA has tended to be more permissive in the past, but noted that Canada had recently updated their regulations. He was complimentary of his experience working with Transport Canada for the pilot programs in previous years, and he looks forward to working through the new regulations.

The Board thanked Mr. Moses-Gonzalez and Mr. Krompetz for their presentation.

#### **5. CORRESPONDENCE/ INFORMATION**

##### **5.1 BMSB Update from Dr. Susanna Acheampong, BC Ministry of Agriculture, dated December 6, 2018**

In the absence of Dr. Acheampong, the General Manager provided the Board with a brief update on the control and monitoring efforts of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB).

**Moved by:** Director Fowler

**Seconded by:** Director Sieben

*"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the BMSB Update"*

**CARRIED**

##### **5.2 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated February 25, 2019, re: Program Update**

The General Manager reviewed the Program Update in detail.

Spring is quickly approaching, and OKSIR Staff are working hard to prepare for the field season. The facility has started to hire their seasonal staff to prepare for increased moth production. Field Supervisors have returned to their field offices and are preparing for the season ahead.

The BCFGAs' Annual Convention was held on February 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. At the convention, growers expressed that they are happy with the work being done by the Program, and inquired if OKSIR would consider implementing control measures for other pests. The Board discussed the actions Staff could take to provide information to growers on the logistics involved with control of other pests.

This season will be the second year since the launch of the Decision Aid System (DAS). Since being introduced in the Okanagan last spring, over 200 growers have registered. To continue to encourage growers to register, it was suggested that lap tops will be available at Growers Supply and growers be given assistance registering.

Ms. Tesche noted that new regulations from Transport Canada go in to effect on June 1, 2019, and the new regulations currently prohibit drones from carrying live creatures. In working with Transport Canada staff, OKSIR has been advised to apply for an Aviation Exemption to allow the Program to release moths from drones this year. The Board inquired as to whether Provincial and Federal government bodies are aware of the Program's initiatives. The Board and Staff agreed that the Program's initiatives need to be communicated effectively to both government bodies, however at this time, Staff will continue to work through the Aviation Exemption.

OKSIR's Field Supervisors were at the BC Tree Fruits Horticultural Symposium on February 20<sup>th</sup>. PAC points were provided to growers who stopped by to sign up for the Pesticide Exposure Program. The Board inquired as to whether growers would miss a day of moth releases if field staff's visit coincides with a day that pesticide is being sprayed. It was suggested that this fear might prevent growers from letting field staff know that they will be spraying. Staff explained that the Program follows WorkSafe regulations first and foremost, but that moths can still be released around the perimeter of a sprayed orchard, and that staff make every effort to revisit any properties that could not be entered earlier in the week.

**Moved by:** Grower Makepeace

**Seconded by:** Grower Dobernigg

### 5.3 Staff Report from Loren Scott, Administrative Assistant, re: 2019 Commercial Moth Sales

Staff presented the 2019 OKSIR Parcel Tax Roll Memo to the Board.

**Moved by:** Grower Makepeace

**Seconded by:** Director Sieben

*"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the Staff Report detailing the 2019 OKSIR parcel tax adjustment."*

**CARRIED**

### 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

### 7. NEW BUSINESS

#### 7.1 Memo from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated February 25, 2019, re: 2019 Commercial Moth Sales

M3 Consulting LLC (M3) has requested 1200 dishes per week for commercial resale into the Washington. The success of the Washington drone trials in 2018, solidified grower demand in Washington for additional codling moth control tools. The trial work in 2018 established a system for hand carrying moths across the US border, overcoming the barrier of trying to use a shipping company. Ms. Tesche said that the moths would be sold as a delivered product, with releases performed by M3 using UAS, and she noted that this approach was preferred over selling directly to growers because moth quality could be controlled during transport and release. She recommended that the Board enter into a single-year supply agreement to trial commercial sales.

The Board unanimously supported entering into a single-year supply agreement with M3 and were in agreement that the one year trial will offer a chance to evaluate the benefits and address any issues.

**Moved by:** Director Fowler

**Seconded by:** Director Sieben

*"THAT the OKSIR enter into a single year supply agreement with M3 Consulting LLC to supply sterilized codling moths for commercial resale and release into Washington State for the 2019 growing season."*

**CARRIED**

## 7.2 Memo from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated February 22, 2019 re: Apportionment and Governance Review

### a) Letter from David Sewell, RDNO CAO, dated February 5, 2019, re: Tax Requisition Apportionment

The General Manager confirmed to the OKSIR Board that the RDNO Board has requested the Program revisit the tax apportionment arrangement between the Regional District partners. Additionally, the CAO of the participating regional districts have requested that the Program also review key governance concerns.

The next step in the process is for the OKSIR Board to lead a formal and collaborative but focused process to address tax apportionment concerns and legislative concerns.

The Board agreed that the timing is right for these conversations to be taking place. Despite the request to review the Program's legislative framework, the Regional District representatives assured staff that their Boards are pleased with the Program.

**Moved by:** Director Sieben

**Seconded by:** Grower Dobernigg

*"THAT the OKSIR Board lead a formal, collaborative, and focused governance review process to address tax apportionment and other concerns, with the intent to submit the results to the Ministry with request for legislative changes."*

**CARRIED**

## 7.3 Interim Financial Statements

### Interim Financial Statements to January 31, 2019

The RDCO Financial manager reviewed the financial statements in detail.

**Moved by:** Grower Makepeace

**Seconded by:** Director Fowler

*THAT the OKSIR Board accepts the Interim Financial Statements to January 31, 2019.*

## 7.4 Director Item: Grower Complaint from Ms. Moyra Armstrong, Naramata

Chair Fowler brought forward the letters of complaint sent in by Ms. Moyra Armstrong of Naramata. Chair Fowler invited Board input and discussion on the complaints detailed in the letter. The General Manager provided the Board with the property details and compliance history for Ms. Armstrong's properties. The Board asked Chair Fowler to provide a written response to Ms. Armstrong, correcting some of her assertions and thanking her for her concerns.

**CARRIED**

## 8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

There were no items to be discussed in-camera.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by:** Director Bush

**Seconded by:** Director Sieben

*"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 10:50am."*

**CARRIED**




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Chair

Corporate Officer