

## **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, May 24, 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 Chad Eliason	Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Director James Baker	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:**

Dr. Susana Acheampong	BC Ministry of Agriculture
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### **Guests/Delegates:**

Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
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### **Staff:**

Melissa Tesche	OKSIR General Manager
Carol Teschner	CORD Finance Manager
Evan Esch	OKSIR Entomologist
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 9:05 am.

**Moved:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

#### **2.1 Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the May 24, 2019 meeting agenda be adopted."*

**CARRIED**

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **3.1 Regular Board Meeting – March 1, 2019 – for adoption**

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2019 be adopted."*

**CARRIED**

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

N/A

**4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION****4.1 Markus Schrott, CPA, CA Partner, BDO Canada LLP, Presentation of the 2018 Audit Results**

- a. Audit letter dated May 24, 2018
- b. 2018 Audited Financial Statements

Mr. Schrott provided an overview of the 2018 audited financial statements.

The Board thanked Mr. Schrott and his associate, Brennen Giroux, for their work on the audit and their presentation.

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Director Sieben

*THAT the SIR Board accept the Audit Letter dated May 24, 2019 from Markus Schrott, BBC, CPA, CA, Partner BDO and accept and approve the 2018 Financial Statements as presented."*

**CARRIED**

**4.2 Mr. Allan Neilson, Neilson Strategies Inc., re: Preparation for the Upcoming Governance Review Workshop and presentation of the Draft OKSIR Governance Manual**

- a. DRAFT OKSIR Governance Manual

Mr. Neilson presented to the Board the newly drafted governance manual. In preparation for the upcoming Governance Review Workshop on June 14<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Neilson provided the Board with a copy of the governance manual. He pointed out that the manual is a draft that will continue to be modified based on feedback from the Board following the governance workshops.

Mr. Neilson reviewed the structure of the manual and the audiences the manual was intended for. The manual describes the changes that have taken place in the program's structure since it began, explains the program as it exists today, and highlights some issues that may require changes in the future.

Mr. Neilson reviewed the events and discussions that have taken place since OKSIR received the letter from RDNO requesting review of the program's tax apportionment. The Board was reminded that the CAO committee agreed to a streamlined review of cost apportionment, but stated they would also want to see OKSIR revisit additional elements of the program's governance that are important to the long term success of the program. At the OKSIR Board meeting on March 1, 2019, the Board passed a resolution for the OKSIR Board to lead a formal and collaborative, but focused, process to address tax apportionment and other legislative concerns.

Mr. Neilson stated the first Governance Review workshop would provide the Board, additional RD reps, and CAO Committee with an opportunity to identify concerns and have an opening discussion on tax apportionment. Following the first workshop, the intent is to assess the information gathered in the meeting and begin to develop proposals for change. At the second Governance Review workshop on October 4, 2019, the goal will be to review the proposals for change and hopefully reach some consensus. The proposals would then be presented to the Regional Districts for resolutions of support.

The Chair thanked Mr. Neilson for drafting the governance manual and complimented the manual's straight forward layout.

Mr. Nielson then took questions from the Board.

Mr. Neilson provided clarification on the decision making authority of the OKSIR Board and the partnering Regional Districts. There was discussion among the Board on the topic of program scope, specifically regarding the authority the program would need in order to address the monitoring and control of other noxious pests in the Okanagan.

*Director Sieben briefly left the meeting at 9:30am.*

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Director Baker

*"THAT the OKSIR Board receive the draft OKSIR Governance Manual in preparation for the upcoming governance workshop."*

**CARRIED**

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE/ INFORMATION**

### **5.1 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated May 15, 2019, re: Program Update (page 27)**

The General Manager reviewed the Program Update in detail.

The General Manager noted the facility had difficulty filling seasonal positions this year and is still understaffed by two positions. The hourly wage for seasonal positions had been raised several dollars above the current provincial minimum wage in order to stay competitive, but recruitment remains a problem. The Board discussed future recruitment and staffing strategies. Management will look into the possibility of hiring temporary foreign workers seasonal work, noting that the program would not likely qualify for the seasonal agricultural workers program that the growers are able to access.

The General Manager noted that emergence of overwintering moths had begun and moth pressure continues to increase with new infestations in areas that had previously been moth free. She said field staff have identified movement of infested wood removed through the replant program as the source of numerous new infestations in 2019.

She noted that a trend of increasing moth pressure was also being seen in Washington and that the last six years have seen seasonal degree accumulations well above the long-term average, creating ideal conditions for insect growth. Grower Lalli noted that projected low returns on apples this year may deter growers from applying supplemental sprays, which will not help with control efforts.

The Board discussed ways to assist growers with technical support, including training on the Decision Aid Program (DAS) program. The Board discussed the use of the DAS program by Okanagan growers and recommended that a Youtube tutorial be posted to assist with instructions on how to use it as an effective tool.

The Board requested an update on control efforts for the Black Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB). Dr. Acheampong, provided the Board with an update on the monitoring efforts and staffing levels of the BMSB project.

*Director Bush arrived at 9:55am*

*Ms. Teschner left the meeting at 10am*

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Director Baker

*"THAT the Staff Report from the General Manager be received"*

**CARRIED**

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

N/A

**7. NEW BUSINESS****7.1 Staff report from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated May 17, 2019, re: Technical Support for OKSIR**

The General Manager reviewed for the Board the background on the program's succession planning for key positions and announced the promotion of Mr. Evan Esch to the position of program Entomologist.

Mr. Esch was hired by OKSIR as an Entomological Technician in 2015 to mentor under then consulting entomologist, Mr. Hugh Philip. Since 2015, Mr. Esch has represented OKSIR at local, national, and international meetings and has built meaningful relationships within the local agriculture community. Mr. Esch will be working towards his doctoral degree that is focused on the program, and he recently received his Professional Agrologist designation.

The Board congratulated Mr. Esch on his promotion and recognized his valuable contributions over the last 4+ years.

The General Manager explained to the Board the need to create a technical advisory committee for the program. She noted the technical advisory committee's role would be to provide a breadth of technical opinions and advice, rather than to make operational decisions. The General Manager explained that she would like to compensate the committee members for their contributions. The Board discussed the possible compensation structure for the committee.

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Grower Makepeace

*"THAT the OKSIR Board acknowledge Mr. Esch's new role as Program Entomologist, congratulate him on receiving his designation as a Professional Agrologist, and thank him for his continued hard work and contributions to the Program.*

**CARRIED**

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the OKSIR Board send a letter of thanks to Mr. Hugh Philip for his years of service to the OKSIR Program with specific recognition of the time and energy spent mentoring Mr. Esch to ensure the continued success of the Program.*

**CARRIED**

**Moved by:** Director Eliason

**Seconded by:** Director Bush

*"THAT the OKSIR Board support the creation of a new staff-level Technical Advisory Committee."*

**CARRIED**

**7.3 Interim Financials to April 30, 2019**

The General Manager reviewed the financial statements and provided clarification on the program's reserves.

*Director Eliason left the meeting at 10:55am*

**Moved by:** Director Bush

**Seconded by:** Director Baker

*THAT the OKSIR Board accepts the Interim Financial Statements to April 30, 2019.*

**CARRIED**

**8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA**

There were no items to be discussed in-camera.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

N/A

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

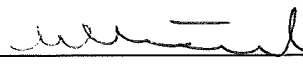
**Moved by:** Director Bush

**Seconded by:** Director Baker

*"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 11:00am."*

**CARRIED**

  
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Chair

  
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Corporate Officer

