

## **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, Oct. 4, 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
Alt. Director Kevin Flynn	Columbia Shuswap Regional District

### **Non-Voting Members:**

Taras Pojasok	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
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### **Guests/Delegates:**

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

Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Chad Eliason	Columbia Shuswap Regional District

### **Staff:**

Melissa Tesche	OKSIR General Manager
Carol Teschner	CORD Finance Manager
Loren Scott	Recording Secretary

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 9:15 am.

**Moved:** Director Sieben

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

**CARRIED**

## **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

### **2.1 Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved by:** Director Sieben

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*“THAT the October 4, 2019 meeting agenda be adopted.”*

**CARRIED**

## **3. MINUTES**

### **3.1 Regular Board Meeting – May 24, 2019 – for adoption**

**Moved by:** Grower Makepeace

**Seconded by:** Director Sieben

*“THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2019 be adopted.”*

**CARRIED**

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

N/A

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

##### **4.1 Mr. Allan Neilson, Neilson Strategies Inc., re: Update on Governance Review Process**

In anticipation of the second Governance Review Workshop, Mr. Neilson provided the Board with a review of the discussion from the previous workshop on June 14<sup>th</sup> and spoke to possible outcomes that could arise from the October 4<sup>th</sup> workshop.

Mr. Nielson shared two prepared briefings note for the upcoming workshop. The first paper outlines six different methods for cost apportionment and the pros and cons of each method. He also prepared a discussion paper that explores the fundamental question concerning decision making authority over key elements of the program's structure. Mr. Neilson closed his presentation by stating to the Board that the goal for the second workshop is to have meaningful discussion regarding the questions of how taxes should be apportioned for 2020 and beyond and who should have the authority to 'decide' these sorts of issues for OKSIR.

The Board discussed the potential legislative changes, and cautioned that structural changes be made without disrupting the operation of the program. The Chair assured the Board, that while there are governance issues to be addressed, the Regional Districts recognize the value of the program and support its existence.

The Board raised a question as to whether or not solutions proposed at the workshop, and agreed upon by all partners, could be formalized. Mr. Neilson explained that while a consensus on the issues could influence decisions made in 2020, they would not automatically override MEVA—legislative change is key to formalizing any decisions.

The Chair thanked Mr. Neilson for his presentation and for preparing the cost apportionment and legislative documents for the workshop. The chair stated that her intention for the workshop is to foster collaboration between all Regional Districts and to come to a favourable outcome for all.

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

##### **5.1 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated October 4, 2019, re: Program Update**

The General Manager reviewed the Program Update in detail.

Moth releases have ended for the season, and the facility has wrapped up production. Annual facility maintenance is now taking place. Seasonal field staff has left for the season and Field Supervisors are wrapping up work in their field offices and removing the last of the cardboard banding from trees. Best efforts have been made again this year to collect wild materials from banding and use it to refresh colonies in the facility. The wet weather has made this more challenging, but the program is hopeful there will be success supplementing genetics this year. An in depth analysis of results from the 2019 season is currently being prepared by the program's Entomologist, and will be presented to the Board at the next regular board meeting in December.

In early July, Dr. Houston Wilson, a researcher from The University of California Riverside and Dr. Josette Lewis, Director of Research for the Almond Board of California (ABC), travelled to the Okanagan to visit the OKSIR facility and learn about the SIR Program. The ABC is currently sponsoring research into the possibility of using SIT to control methods for the navel orangeworm, a major pest of nuts grown in California. SIR's General Manager has been invited to California to participate in a panel on SIT at the ABC Annual conference in December, at the expense of the ABC. The Chair noted that the interest from the very successful almond industry reminds us that SIR is a one-of-a-kind program, at the forefront of SIT.

Over his years working with the program, IPM Consultant Hugh Philip worked with BCTF field service personnel to estimate the decrease in pesticide use as a result of the SIR program. Having this information validates the efforts

of the program and effectiveness of SIT technology. With the retirement of Mr. Philip, the analyses has been passed on to Hank Markgraf, a long-time Okanagan Field Consultant. He has prepared a report for the Board that provides an update for pesticide reduction in 2018.

While using sales data allows the program to reach an estimate of the annual reduction in pesticide application, having access to spray records would be beneficial and help to provide a more accurate analysis. As there currently is not a legislative basis on which to request spray records, the study relies on volunteers to provide their records. The Board discussed options for incentivizing or encouraging growers to share their spray records, and the value this information could potentially add to the program.

The General Manager reviewed for the various meetings and speaking engagements that both she and the program Entomologist will be attending this fall. The Chair expressed her delight that SIR Staff is accepting speaking invitations and opportunities to engage with industry professionals both locally and abroad.

**Moved by:** Director Bush

**Seconded by:** Grower Dobernigg

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

**CARRIED**

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

N/A

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Staff Report from Loren Scott, Administrative Assistant, dated June 17, 2019, re: 2019 OKSIR Parcel Taxable Acreage-Final**

Ms. Scott presented the Board with 2019's final taxable acreage. After processing administrative rebates, the total taxable acreage for the program area is 8,135.42 acres.

**Moved by:** Grower Makepeace

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the staff report re: 2019 final parcel tax acreage be received."*

**CARRIED**

**7.2 Interim Financial Statements**

The RDCO Financial Manager reviewed the financial statements in detail. It was noted that this year the program has slightly exceeded the budgeted amount for diet, as an increase in commercial sales has required an increase in moth production.

**Moved by:** Director Sieben

**Seconded by:** Director Bush

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

**CARRIED**

**8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA**

**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."*

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

N/A

**10. ADJOURNMENT**


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**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

*"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 12:05pm."*

**CARRIED**

  
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Chair

  
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Corporate Officer