

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, January 31, 2020

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 George Bush	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Director Chad Eliason	Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Grower Walt Makepeace	Grower Representative – Zone 1

Non-Voting Members:

Guests/Delegates:

Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
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Regrets:

Director Brad Sieben	Regional District Central Okanagan
Grower Dave Dobernigg	Grower Representative – Zone 3
Taras Pojasok	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Dr. Susanna Achaempong	BC Ministry of Agriculture

Staff:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Moved: Director Baker

Seconded by: Director Eliason

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the January 31, 2020 meeting agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Regular Board Meeting – December 6, 2019 – for adoption

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2019 be adopted."

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising from Minutes

N/A

4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

N/A

5. CORRESPONDENCE/ INFORMATION**5.1 Appointments to the OKSIR Board**

- a. North Okanagan RD-Letter dated December 18, 2019 appointing Director Shirley Fowler, with Director Victor Cumming as alternate.
- b. Columbia Shuswap RD- Letter dated December 17, 2019 appointing Director Chad Eliason, with Chair Kevin Flynn as alternate.
- c. Central Okanagan RD-Letter dated January 27, 2020 appointing Directors James Baker and Brad Sieben, with Director Charlie Hodge as first alternate and Charlie Hodge as second alternate.
- d. Okanagan Similkameen-appointed Director George Bush with Director Rick Knodel as alternate.

Moved by: Grower Makepeace**Seconded by:** Director Eliason*"THAT the letters of appointment be received."***CARRIED****5.2 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated January 28, 2020, re: Program Update**

The General Manager reviewed the program update in detail.

The facility has started to increase production in preparation for the upcoming field season. Maintenance and inspections have been completed, and upgrades to the climate control system are now being installed. Field supervisors have now returned from their winter holidays and have also started their preparations for field season.

In early January, the program's General Manager, Entomologist, and private consultant Hank Markgraff, attended the Orchard Pest and Disease Management Conference (OPDMC) in Portland. The North American SIT working group held a meeting that was well attended. The discussions and ideas presented at the meeting were welcomed by program Staff, as they felt encouraged that other professionals in the field were working on solving similar challenges.

At the working group meeting, Dr. Lisa Nevin, Research Leader with the US Department of Agriculture, presented the group with ideas on implementing private/public models in SIT. The General Manager clarified for the Board that a private/public model would not change SIR's current structure or moth sales, but would benefit M3, our collaborators.

The SIT working group was also attended by Dr. Gordon Alton, representing Agragene. Dr. Alton presented to the group on his company's work on SIT for spotted wing drosophila; his company has been developing genetic techniques to produce sterile males. The Chair noted that staying informed on Dr. Alton's research would be beneficial for the Board, and she requested that Staff advise the Board when they are made aware of dates that Dr. Alton will be in the Okanagan presenting his research.

Also while in Portland, SIR and M3 held a joint meeting for field reps who had sterile moths released on their properties last season. The meeting included a presentation by Mr. Markgraff, who shared his experiences with the initial rollout of codling moth SIT as a grower and as a horticultural advisor. With interest in SIT growing south of the border, M3 has requested an increase in moths from SIR for the 2020 season. The General Manager informed the Board that the program could provide some increase to the level of sales but not as much as they would prefer to order. She recommended a cautious approach to increasing

production, citing facility capacity and staffing levels and the need to protect moth quality when increasing production levels.

The Board raised a question regarding international sales and whether the program would be taking on any new sales relationships this year. The General Manager explained that our New Zealand sales have continued this year. There have been inquiries from other countries including Australia, but at this time, SIR has a full plate in terms of sales.

The General Manager introduced Michelle Cook to the Board. Ms. Cook is SIR's Project Manager, who has started to shadow certain aspects of the General Manager's role to ensure that a succession plan is in place and there is someone to fill-in at future meetings, should Ms. Tesche be absent.

The Board was provided with an update on the Decision Aid System (DAS) and were advised that the industry has been keen to continue with the tool. Letters of support for the tool have been coming in. Mr. Lucas advised that the BCFGa has come up with some funding to partner with the Ministry of Agriculture to add some additional models based on SRDC science that could benefit Okanagan growers. The Board commented that training for growers on DAS would be very beneficial and would be an effective way to recruit new users and make sure existing users are getting the most out of the tool.

Upcoming meetings and conferences were reviewed. The BCFGa will be taking place on February 12th and the BC Horticultural Symposium will be taking place on February 25th.

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"THAT staff report from the General Manager be received."

CARRIED

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Working Group on Apportionment-Terms of Reference

Following up on decisions made at the Governance Review Workshop in the fall, the General Manager discussed the next steps of putting together a Working Group of the Regional District representatives that will be responsible for determining what changes are to be made to the program's cost apportionment structure. The Chair commented that the perspectives of alternate board appointees may be beneficial. The Board further discussed the ideal composition of the Working Group. The Chair closed the discussion by stating that the Regional Districts will ultimately be making the decision of which representative to include in the Working Group.

Moved by: Grower Lalli

Seconded by: Director Baker

"THAT the OKSIR Board approve the Working Group on Apportionment-Terms of Reference as presented."

"THAT the OKSIR Chair send a letter to each of the participating Regional Districts requesting them to appoint a representative to the Working Group on Apportionment."

CARRIED

Ms. Teschner joined the meeting at 10:13am

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Annual Adoption of Safety Policy

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

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

CARRIED

7.2 Bylaw 34-SIR 2020-2024 Five Year Financial Plan-Three Readings and Adoption

The Financial Manager reviewed the budget in detail.

It was noted that in 2019, the program had more moth sales than expected and that led to slightly higher expenses at the facility, but they were more than offset by the additional revenue. The General Manager provided an explanation to the Board on the conservative budgeting for 2020.

The General Manager noted that although the program is a corporation and not a local government, the program follows local government accounting standards and financial practices. As the program continues along the business development path, there may be a need to develop financial policies related to business development. The Board discussed potential new guidelines, citing the Economic Development Commission as an organization that could provide some guidance. The Board directed staff to draft a set of guidelines for review.

The Board asked if provincial minimum wage increases were considered in the 2020 budget, the General Manager confirmed that the program has worked to stay a step ahead of minimum wage increases. She also noted that all wages are subject to a 2% employer health tax that has replaced the former MSP premiums that were paid on extended employees only.

The General Manager also noted for the Board that the 2020 budget includes an increase to the research and program development budget to reflect the roll-out of this season's UAV program. Launching this program will involve hiring consultants and organizing required training for staff to make sure we meet and exceed all safety and operational requirements.

Moved by: Director Eliason

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

THAT the SIR 2020-2024 Five Year Financial Plan, Bylaw No. 35, 2020, be adopted."

CARRIED

Ms. Teschner and Mr. Lucas left the meeting at 10:40am

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

8.1 In-camera session to discuss matters related to personnel.

Moved by: Director Bush

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: Grower Makepeace

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

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

CARRIED



Chair



Corporate Officer

