

## **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, July 17, 2020

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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 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, organic

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

Dr. Susanna Archaempong	BC Ministry of Agriculture
Taras Pojasok	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

### **Guests/Delegates:**

Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
Adrian Arts	

### **Regrets:**

Director Chad Eliason	Regional District Columbia Shuswap
Director Brad Sieben	Regional District of Central Okanagan

### **Staff:**

Melissa Tesche	OKSIR General Manager
Carol Teschner	CORD Finance Manager
Michelle Cook	OKSIR Project Manager
Evan Esch	OKSIR Entomologist
Paul Thiessen	OKSIR Operations Manager
Shelby Legebokoff	Recording Secretary
Loren Scott	Recording Secretary

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 9:05 am.

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

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

**Moved by:** Grower Makepeace

**Seconded by:** Grower Dobernigg

*“THAT the July 17, 2020 meeting agenda be adopted.”*

**CARRIED**

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **3.1 Regular Board Meeting – May 22, 2020 – for adoption**

Chair Fowler noted a correction on the minutes from the May 22, 2020 meeting, as the meeting adjourned at 11am not 12 pm. The minutes were amended accordingly.

**Moved by:** Director Baker

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2020 be adopted."*

**CARRIED**

**3.2 Business Arising from Minutes**

N/A

**4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION**

**4.1** N/A

**5. CORRESPONDENCE/ INFORMATION**

**5.1 Resolutions of Support for OKSIR Revenue Anticipation Borrowing**

- a. Central Okanagan RD-Letter dated June 12, 2020
- b. Columbia Shuswap RD-Letter dated June 18, 2020
- c. Okanagan Similkameen RD-Letter dated June 23, 2020
- d. North Okanagan RD-Letter dated June 24, 2020

**Moved by:** Director Baker

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the letters confirming resolution of support be received."*

**CARRIED**

**5.2 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, July 10, 2020, re: Program Update**

The General Manager reviewed the staff report in detail.

The General Manager informed the Board that SIR is currently looking for a new location for one of the program's field offices in the Kelowna area. For the last five years, the program has leased an industrial building on Acland Road; the lease expires this October and in renewal negotiations the program has been informed that the rent will be increasing substantially to meet market value.

The General Manager asked the Program Entomologist, Mr. Evan Esch, to provide the Board with a brief update on current codling moth activity. Mr. Esch explained to the Board that there has been less codling moth activity so far this season than in previous seasons; this could be attributed to cooler weather as colder temperatures result in fewer moth flights. Mr. Esch noted that another factor in the decrease of wild moth activity may be the increased control efforts from growers, including more efficient spray programs. The Chair thanked Mr. Esch for the update.

The General Manager informed the Board that this season, the program has recruited a small team of workers to remove cardboard banding in the orchards mid-season in an effort to collect sufficient larvae to supplement the colony with new genetics. The program would usually collect banding in the fall, and the data is used as metric for infestation levels (in combination with trap captures and damage sampling).

The General Manager updated the Board on the program's Covid-19 protocols and assured the Board that all precautions have been taken and adhered to by staff. The Board inquired whether staffing and recruitment have been affected by Covid-19; the Board was advised that the program is adequately staffed for seasonal workers.

Chair Fowler took a moment to ask the SIR Board's grower representatives for an update on the state of the apple industry and whether there have been improvements since the meeting on May 22, 2020. Grower Lalli informed the Board that so far in the season there have been challenges with securing on-farm labour due to Covid-19 restrictions,

as well as some impact to fruit due to colder temperatures. Mr. Lalli shared that despite these challenges, apple production does look promising but pricing and returns will not be known until the fall.

The Board inquired about the status of the drone program, as the introduction of drones had been put on hold this past spring due to Covid-19 restrictions. The General Manager explained that training for the drone program has been tentatively rescheduled until October and depends on the status of Covid-19 restrictions at the US border, though licensing has been approved.

The General Manager updated the Board on the status of the cost apportionment process. The working group, comprised of representatives from each Regional District, were scheduled to meet in the afternoon following the Board meeting on July 17, 2020. In preparation for the cost apportionment meeting, the general manager explained, local government consultant Allan Neilson had interviewed each regional district's representatives separately to gather their input on what should be included in potential new apportionment methods. The focus of the first working group meeting will be to present and examine alternative cost apportionment formulas and work towards finding a formula that is accepted by all Regional Districts.

The Board was informed that sterile codling moth sales to Washington have continued without interruptions, despite Covid-19 border restrictions. The General Manager noted to the Board that the program's sales relationships will continue to bring in sizable revenue that would potentially offset the need to raise taxes.

*Carol Teschner left the meeting at 9:26am.*

**Moved by:** Grower Makepeace

**Seconded by:** Grower Dobernigg

*"THAT the OKSIR Board receives the Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, Acting General Manager, dated July 10, 2020, re: Program Update."*

**CARRIED**

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

N/A

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Staff report from Loren Scott, Administrative Assistant, dated June 17, 2020, re: 2020 OKSIR Parcel Taxable Acreage-Final**

Ms. Scott presented to the Board the final total taxable acreage for 2020. After processing administrative rebates, the total taxable acreage for the area is 7,777.84 acres. It was noted that a reason for decreasing may be growers choosing to plant higher value crops, such as grapes and cherries.

**Moved by:** Director Baker

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the staff report re: 2020 OKSIR Parcel Taxable Acreage-Final be received."*

**CARRIED**

Ms. Teschner noted that the higher postage amount is related to the international shipment of sterile codling moths. The Chair asked for clarification regarding the decision this season by the program to pre-buy and stock up on diet ingredients. The General Manager clarified that due to Covid-19 restrictions on international shipping, the program chose to purchase a large amount of diet ingredients to ensure enough inventory was on hand for the season.

**Moved by:** Director Bush

**Seconded by:** Grower Makepeace

*THAT* the OKSIR Board accepts the Interim Financial Statements 2020.

**CARRIED**

**8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA**

Adjourned to in camera at 10:45 am

**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:** Director Bush

**Seconded by:** Grower Lalli

*"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 12:10 pm."*

**CARRIED**

  
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Chair

  
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Corporate Officer