

OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE PROGRAM BOARD

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE (SIR) PROGRAM BOARD
held virtually via Zoom, on Friday, January 29, 2021

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 |
| Director Tim Lavery | Regional District Columbia Shuswap |

Non-Voting Members:

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

Guests/Delegates:

| | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| Glen Lucas | BC Fruit Growers Association |
|------------|------------------------------|

Regrets:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Grower Walter Makepeace | Grower Representative – Zone 1, organic |
| 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 Austen | Recording Secretary |

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 11:07 am.

a. Election of Chair

The OKSIR General Manager called for nominations for the positions of Chair of the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board. Director Fowler was nominated by Director Bush. There being no further nominations, Director Fowler was acclaimed the 2021 Chair.

b. Election of Vice Chair

The OKSIR General Manager called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Grower Lalli was nominated by Director Baker. There being no further nominations, Grower Lalli was acclaimed the 2021 Vice Chair.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the January 29, 2021 meeting agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Regular Board Meeting – November 27, 2020 – for adoption

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

"THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 27, 2020 be adopted."

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising from Minutes

N/A

4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

N/A

5. CORRESPONDENCE/ INFORMATION

5.1 Requested Resolutions the OKSIR Board

- a. North Okanagan RD – Letter dated December 18, 2020 appointing Director Shirley Fowler, with Director Victor Cumming as alternate
- b. Central Okanagan RD – Letter dated December 8, 2020 appointing Director James Baker and Director Brad Sieben, with Director Charlie Hodge as first alternate, and Chair Gail Given as second alternate
- c. Columbia Shuswap RD – Letter dated January 22, 2020 appointing Director Tim Lavery, with Director Kevin Flynn as alternate

The General Manager informed the Board that 3 out of 4 regional district appointment letters have been received, and that she had confirmed with RDOS that Director Bush and Alternate Director Knodel were once again appointed, with the RDOS letter enroute.

The Chair took a moment to introduce Director Lavery as the new appointment to the Board from CSRD.

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Director Lavery

"THAT the appointment letters from the three partnering regional districts be received."

CARRIED

5.2 Letter from Georgina Beyers, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, dated January 25, 2021 re: Tree Fruit Stakeholders

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Director Lavery

"THAT the letter from Georgina Beyers, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, dated January 25, 2021 be received."

CARRIED

5.3 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated January 29, 2021 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. All maintenance and inspections have almost been completed, the remaining being a service visit for the irradiator. The Board was reminded of the difficulty surrounding irradiator servicing, due to covid-19 travel restrictions. Staff are urgently trying to make this visit happen prior to the field season.

All other targets are on track, and facility staff are ahead regarding procurement. Most diet ingredients have already been ordered and/or are on their way.

Field staff will continue with an electronic grower mail-out this season in order to follow covid-19 safety protocols.

The General Manager informed the Board that she was invited to speak at a virtual forum on SIT, hosted by the Almond Board of California (ABC). The ABC represent ~2 million acres of almonds and they are looking to implement SIT for the navel orangework. They are eager to hear from OKSIR due to the program's long-running SIT experience.

She noted that the Orchard Pest and Disease Management Conference, held annually in Portland, did not take place this year.

Staff are currently working with the staff at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to pursue and order in council to legislate the new apportionment formula.

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Director Bush

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

CARRIED

5.4 BC Decision Aid System: A Review of the BCDAS Pilot Program, dated January, 2021 re: Program Update

The General Manager began by noting the retirement of long-time DAS Director, Dr. Vince Jones. Dr. Jones retired in January 2021 and was instrumental in making the tool available to OKSIR and British Columbia growers. A long-time codling-moth researcher himself, Dr. Jones has been very generous with his time and expertise in helping OKSIR management and staff better understand codling moth phenology and behaviour.

The General Manager noted that, with the recent industry changes to field service, the BCDAS system is now the de facto extension tool in the valley. There was some discussion on the potential future paths for the tool. The General Manager noted that the success of the tool depends on the strength of the local weather station network, which requires some review, but also on the availability and cooperation of local experts.

The Board commented on the potential role of senior government grants for the possible future expansion and maintenance of the tool.

Moved by: Grower Lalli

Seconded by: Director Baker

"THAT the BC Decision Aid System Report be received."

CARRIED

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Staff Service Awards

The General Manager reviewed the year's service awards for the Board, and the Chair and Board thanked all staff for their hard work and determination demonstrated over the years.

Moved by: Grower Lalli

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the Board express their appreciation to the staff recognized for service awards in 2020."

CARRIED

7.2 Annual Adoption of Safety Policy

The General Manager read and introduced the 2021 Safety Policy to the Board.

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

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

CARRIED

7.3 Bylaw 37 – SIR 2021-2025 Five Year Financial Plan – Three Readings and Adoption

a. Schedule A to Bylaw 37 (2021-2025 Financial Plan)

The Chair introduced Bylaw 37 – SIR 2021-2025 Five Year Financial Plan for three readings and adoption, to the Board.

The Board raised a question regarding the state of reserves and noted that an increase will be required in the near future. The Board discussed the need for a clear communications strategy around any potential increases.

Moved by: Grower Lalli

Seconded by: Director Lavery

"THAT the SIR 2021-2025 Five Year Financial Plan, Bylaw No.37, 2021, be adopted."

CARRIED

7.4 Bylaw 38 – 2021 OKSIR Board Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw No. 38, 2021 – Three Readings and Adoption

The Chair introduced Bylaw 38 – 2021 OKSIR Board Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw for three readings and adoption, to the Board.

Moved by: Director Baker

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the 2021 OKSIR Board Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw No. 38, 2021, be adopted."

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

N/A

9. OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

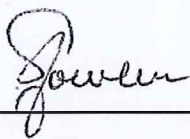
10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Grower Lalli

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 11:33am."

CARRIED



Chair



Corporate Officer