

OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE PROGRAM BOARD

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the **OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE (SIR) PROGRAM BOARD**
held hybrid in the RDCO Woodhaven Boardroom, Kelowna BC, and online via Microsoft Teams on Friday, March 10, 2023

Voting Members:

Director Shirley Fowler
Director George Bush
Director Tim Lavery
Director Gord Lovegrove
Director Mohini Singh
Grower Tarsem Goraya

Regional District of North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Regional District Columbia Shuswap
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Grower Representative – Zone 2

Non-Voting Members:

Guests/Delegates:

Glen Lucas

BC Fruit Growers Association

Regrets:

Grower Walter Makepeace
Taras Pojasok
Dr. Susanna Acheampong
Grower Joginder Dhand

Grower Representative – Zone 1, organic
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Grower Representative – Zone 3

Staff:

Melissa Tesche
Evan Esch
Michelle Cook
Shelby Austen
Lori White

OKSIR General Manager
OKSIR Entomologist
OKSIR Operations Manager
OKSIR Office Manager
RDCO Financial Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 12:06 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

Seconded by: Director Bush

“THAT the March 10, 2023, meeting agenda be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Regular Board Meeting – Feb. 3, 2022 – for adoption

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Director Singh

“THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2023, be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising from Minutes**4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION****5. CORRESPONDENCE/ INFORMATION****5.1 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated March 8, 2023, re: Program Update**

The General Manager gave her report in detail.

Facility operations are ramping up, and all ingredients and supplies have arrived without issue. Seasonal hiring is underway.

Field Supervisors are back for the season and the interview process is underway for seasonal field staff that will start next month.

The BCFGGA had their AGM and a standing resolution was passed asking for federal funding to be directed to SIR. There was also a resolution passed thanking local governments for their support of agriculture and agricultural programs, including SIR and starling control. Mr. Glen Lucas noted the BCFGGA has recently hired a Member Engagement Manager who will be sending copies of the appreciation resolutions out to the local governments.

The General Manager reported on attending the Sterile Insect Release Forum in Omak hosted by the Colville Confederated Tribes. Ms. Tesche and Mr. Esch were in attendance at the hybrid meeting, with about 30 representatives from a variety of public and private North American organizations, including the US Department of Agriculture, Universities from Washington, Oregon, and California, Chemical Supply and Crop Advising Companies, drone and x-ray companies. The General Manager gave a presentation on SIR's experience with a focus on internal and external communications in sterile insect technique. The group expressed interest in meeting regularly, and they would like to meet again this fall in Osoyoos to tour the facility.

The General Manager recently presented an Orientation to SIR at RDOS and will be presenting a similar presentation to RDCO soon. She has not received any new invites from CSRD or RDNO.

The recent all-expenses paid conference for folks in the tree fruit and grapes extension world was a big success. The conference was cost-shared by BC MAF internal funding and Stabilization funds and was a first step towards increasing coordination and collaboration in extension. The week following the conference, BC MAF held an Apple Day grower event in Peachland, with about 150 people in attendance, which is a very strong turnout for events in the apple sector.

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Director Lovegrove

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

CARRIED

5.2 Memo from Shelby Austen, Office Manager, dated Feb 23, 2023, re: 2023 Preliminary Tax Roll Values

Ms. Austen presented the preliminary tax roll memo in detail.

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Director Lovegrove

"THAT the 2023 Preliminary Tax Roll Memo be received."

CARRIED

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Amendment to Schedule A to Bylaw 41 – SIR 2023-2027 Five Year Financial Plan

The General Manager presented the amendment in detail—the inclusion of a one-time contribution from the BCFGAs towards revenues of the program to reduce the size of the increase to the parcel tax in 2023.

Moved by: Director Lavery

Seconded by: Grower Goraya

"THAT the Schedule A to Bylaw 41 – SIR 2022-2027 Five Year Financial Plan be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

7.2 Interim Financials to February 28, 2023

Ms. White presented the financials in detail.

Moved by: Director Singh

Seconded by: Director Lovegrove

"THAT the interim financial statements be received."

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

9. OTHER BUSINESS

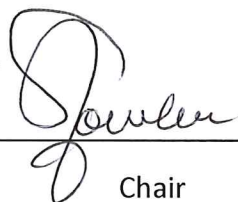
10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Director Singh

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 12:42 pm."

CARRIED


Chair


Corporate Officer

