

**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, July 21, 2023

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**Voting Members:**

Director Shirley Fowler	Regional District of North Okanagan
Director George Bush	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Director Tim Lavery	Regional District Columbia Shuswap
Director Gord Lovegrove	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Director Mohini Singh	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Grower Walter Makepeace	Grower Representative – Zone 1, organic
Grower Tarsem Goraya	Grower Representative – Zone 2
Grower Joginder Dhand	Grower Representative – Zone 3

**Non-Voting Members:**

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

**Guests/Delegates:**

Lindsay King	BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
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**Regrets:**

**Staff:**

Melissa Tesche	OKSIR General Manager
Michelle Cook	OKSIR Operations Manager
Evan Esch	OKSIR Entomologist
Shelby Austen	OKSIR Office Manager
Lori White	RDCO Financial Manager

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 12:54 pm.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**2.1 Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved by: Director Bush**

**Seconded by: Director Singh**

*“THAT the July 21, 2023, meeting agenda be adopted as presented.”*

**CARRIED**

**3. MINUTES**

**3.1 Regular Board Meeting – May 12, 2023 – for adoption**

**Moved by: Director Lovegrove**

**Seconded by: Grower Makepeace**

*“THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2023, be adopted as amended.”*

**CARRIED**

**3.2 Business Arising from Minutes**

**4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION**

**5.1 Memo from Evan Esch, Entomologist, and Michelle Cook, Operations Manager, dated July 11, 2023 RE: Summer Codling Moth Update**

Ms. Cook presented the memo in detail.

The hot weather experienced this season has increased codling moth growth and reproduction leading to more fruit damage. The first generation is complete, and the second generation is well underway. Development is about 3 weeks ahead compared to last year due to the season's cold start followed by consistent hot temperatures.

OKSIR Staff are continuing to monitor traps, inspect fruit damage, and provide direction to growers where needed.

**Moved by: Grower Makepeace**

**Seconded by: Director Lovegrove**

*"THAT the memo from Evan Esch, Entomologist, and Michelle Cook, Operations Manager, be received."*

**CARRIED**

**5.2 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated July 14, 2023, re: Program Update**

The General Manager gave her report in detail.

Field operations are in full swing, and production at the facility has met or exceeded targets. Sales are on track for the season and have reached high enough volumes to allow the facility to operate Monday to Friday.

The Honourable Pam Alexis, BC's Minister of Agriculture and Food, and Michelle Koski, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food, toured the facility during their recent visit to the Okanagan on June 27. The visit was a great chance to show off the facility and talk about both the challenges and opportunities ahead for the program.

After the RFP and selection process, Cascadia Partners has been contracted to complete the Financial Sustainability Study. The study will be led by Managing Partner, Jonathan Snoek, and Senior Associate, Nav Sidhu. The General Manager has provided Cascadia with detailed financials and sales data as well as participated in a series of initial discovery meetings. Mr. Snoek will lead a series of workshops with the SIR 3.0 Committee and the OKSIR Board to determine potential financial paths forward.

**Moved by: Director Bush**

**Seconded by: Director Lovegrove**

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

**CARRIED**

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Memo from Shelby Austen, Office Manager, dated May 25, 2023, RE: 2023 OKSIR Parcel Tax Values - Final**

Ms. Austen presented the 2023 Final Acreage values in detail.

**Moved by: Director Lovegrove**

**Seconded by: Grower Makepeace**

*"THAT the 2023 Parcel Tax Memo be received."*

**CARRIED**

**7.2 Interim Financials to June 30, 2023**

The General Manager presented the financials in detail.

**Moved by: Director Bush**

**Seconded by: Director Singh**

*"THAT the interim financial statements be received."*

**CARRIED**

**8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA**

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

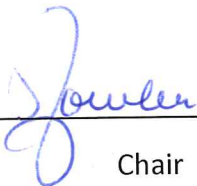
**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by: Director Lavery**

**Seconded by: Grower Dhand**

*"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 1:37 pm."*

**CARRIED**

  
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Chair

  
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Corporate Officer

