

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, October 13, 2023

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
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Guests/Delegates:

Kellie Garcia Bunting	Agriculture Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project
Parm Dhaliwal	BC Fruit Growers Association

Regrets:

Dr. Susanna Acheampong	BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Lori White	RDCO Financial Manager

Staff:

Melissa Tesche	OKSIR General Manager
Michelle Cook	OKSIR Operations Manager
Evan Esch	OKSIR Entomologist
Shelby Austen	OKSIR Office Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 10:30 am.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

Seconded by: Grower Goraya

“THAT the October 13, 2023, meeting agenda be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Regular Board Meeting – July 21, 2023 – for adoption

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"THAT the SIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2023, be adopted as presented."

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising from Minutes

4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

4.1 Kellie Garcia, Project Director, Agriculture Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project, RE: Project Kick-off

a. Building a New Approach to Industry Collaboration, October 13, 2023

The General Manager formally introduced Ms. Garcia to the Board. Ms. Garcia will be spearheading efforts to transition the recent industry stabilization initiatives from a Ministry-guided endeavor to an industry-led process. The Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project is a two-year pilot project, and its primary objectives will revolve around bolstering capacity across various agencies and commodities with a focus on challenges faced across multiple commodities, including labour, local government bylaws, and extension among others.

Ms. Garcia gave her presentation in detail. The Board extended their gratitude to Ms. Garcia and eagerly anticipates her helping industry by taking action to address these challenges.

Moved by: Director Singh

Seconded by: Director Lovegrove

"THAT the presentation by Ms. Garcia be received."

CARRIED

4.2 Evan Esch, Entomologist, RE: 2023 Season – Preliminary Summary of Results

a. 2023 Preliminary Season Results, October 13, 2023

Mr. Esch presented the 2023 Preliminary Season Results in detail.

Mr. Esch informed the Board that the very hot and dry weather experienced this season led to many challenges. He shared data showing that the 2023 season accumulated more heat than the past 10 growing seasons, causing an additional whole generation of codling moth to appear. Despite the challenges of the season, including multiple evacuation orders and rockslides closing the highways, the program met its operational target with 91% of orchards having 0.2% of damage or less from codling moth at time of harvest.

Moved by: Director Lavery

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"THAT the 2023 Preliminary Season Results as presented by Mr. Esch be received."

CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION

5.1 Staff Report from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated October 10, 2023, re: Program Update

The General Manager gave the staff report in detail.

The General Manager informed the Board that during the season, the Rearing Facility was put on evacuation order due to the Eagle Bluff wildfire that started South of the Canadian border. With assistance from Director Bush, the General Manager and Facility Manager were able to work with the RDOS Emergency Operations Centre to gain Temporary Access Permits that were renewed daily. With these permits in place, staff were able to enter the property to complete essential work and only two half-days of facility work were lost to complications. SIR staff will be reviewing the situation this winter to incorporate lessons learned and better prepare for future emergencies.

The installation of the new Trane chiller will begin the week of October 23. The replacement was purchased in 2022 and manufacturing delays resulted in a lead time of almost double what was anticipated. The process will take approximately two weeks and should not impact colony production.

The General Manager informed the Board that SIR Entomologist, Evan Esch, has been invited by the International Atomic Energy Agency to take on a short consulting contract. The two-week mission to China has been endorsed by Global Affairs Canada. Mr. Esch will take unpaid leave from OKSIR to participate in the mission.

OKSIR has partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and the local fire departments to pilot the use of air curtain burners as a suitable alternative for the disposal of orchard and vineyard waste. The technology uses an enclosed unit to contain the burning and a curtain of air to prevent smoke from escaping. OKSIR, the Ministry, and local fire officials plan to hold a demonstration at an orchard in Penticton.

Cascadia Partners is still investigating potential sustainable financial models. Their findings will be presented to the steering committee in the next couple of weeks, with their final report and recommendations coming to the Board in November.

Moved by: Director Singh

Seconded by: Grower Dhand

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

CARRIED

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**7. NEW BUSINESS****7.1 Memo from Melissa Tesche, General Manager, dated October 10, 2023, re: 2024 Tax Increases**

The General Manager presented the tax increase in detail.

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"That OKSIR increase the total amount requisitioned from the value tax in 2023 by 4%, for a total requisition of \$1,924,345."

CARRIED

7.2 Interim Financials to September 30, 2023

The General Manager presented the financials in detail.

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

"THAT the interim financial statements be received."

Seconded by: Director Bush

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

9. OTHER BUSINESS

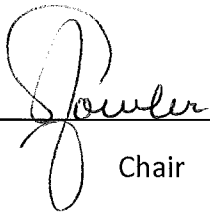
10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Director Singh

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 1:18pm."

Seconded by: Director Lovegrove

CARRIED



Chair



Corporate Officer