

OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE PROGRAM BOARD

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE (SIR) PROGRAM BOARD
held at Osoyoos Town Hall in Osoyoos, BC on Friday, May 10th, 2024

Voting Members:

Director George Bush	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Director Tim Lavery	Regional District Columbia Shuswap (virtual)
Director Mohini Singh	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Director Gordon Lovegrove	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Grower Walter Makepeace	Grower Representative – Zone 1, organic
Grower Tarsem Goraya	Grower Representative – Zone 2

Non-Voting Members:

Taras Pojasok	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (virtual)
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Guests/Delegates:

Lindsay King	BCMAF/SIR 3.0 Steering Committee (virtual)
Madison Attwood	BDO (virtual)
Tania McCabe	RDCO Director of Financial Services
Andrew Farmer	RDCO Financial Analyst

Regrets:

Director Shirley Fowler	Regional District of North Okanagan
Grower Joginder Dhand	Grower Representative – Zone 3
Dr. Susanna Acheampong	BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Staff:

Michelle Cook	OKSIR General Manager
Evan Esch	OKSIR Entomologist
Tanya Littley	OKSIR Office Manager
Lori White	RDCO Financial Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Singh called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 12:57 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

“THAT the April 12, 2024, meeting agenda be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Regular Board Meeting – April 12, 2024 – for adoption

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"THAT the OKSIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2024, be adopted as presented."

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

4.1 Madison Attwood, CPA, Manager, A&A, BDO Canada LLP, Presentation of the 2023 Audit Results

- a) Audit letter dated May 10, 2024
- b) Audited Financial Statements, Year Ending December 31, 2023
- c) Presentation slides, May 10, 2024

Ms. Attwood presented the 2023 audited financial statements in detail. Ms. Attwood informed the Board that revenue and expenditures were consistent with budgeted amounts, and the program ended 2023 in a stronger cash position than the beginning of the year. She thanked the finance staff on their work and record keeping.

Director Lovegrove asked Ms. Attwood about the Environment and Social Governance Criteria (ESG) standards and regulations that are now part of accounting standards. Ms. Attwood explained that public companies will be required to report on these standards however there is currently no set date for public companies to begin reporting on ESG. The audit showed the cost of waste management increased significantly in 2023. The Board agreed to investigate ways to reduce the cost of waste management for OKSIR.

The Chair thanked Ms. Attwood for her presentation.

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"THAT the OKSIR Board accept the Audit Letter dated May 10, 2024 and accept and approve the 2024 Audited Financial Statements as presented."

CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE/ INFORMATION

5.1 Staff Report from Michelle Cook, General Manager, dated May 6, 2024, re: Program Update

The General Manager of OKSIR presented a staff report as included in the agenda package. The General Manager informed the Board that operations are in full swing in the field and that the facility is currently fully staffed and is now at producing at 2024's target level.

The Board was informed that Grower Makepeace has agreed to serve on the CCLSP Advisory Council on SIR's behalf.

During the meeting, the Board discussed the benefits of having an SIR representative attend some EDC (Economic Development Council) meetings in the future to highlight the OKSIR program and promote apples as a hardy crop alternative to grapes. This discussion was prompted by the recent report of a 99% crop loss by wine grape growers. The GM and the Project Manager for the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project will look into this.

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

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

CARRIED

5.2 Staff Report from Michelle Cook, General Manager, dated May 6, 2024, re: Appointment of Michelle Cook as General Manager.

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"THAT the appointment of Melissa Tesche as the General Manager be rescinded, effective Feb 29, 2024;"

"AND THAT Michelle Cook be appointed as General Manager, effective March 1, 2024 to assume the powers, duties, and functions of the general manager position at OKSIR."

CARRIED

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to report.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Interim Financials to April 30, 2024

The RDCO Financial Manager presented a detailed report of SIR's interim financials. In comparison to 2023, there was a slight decrease in sales so far this year. Expenditures are consistent with 2023.

Capital Purchases planned for 2024 include the replacement of a commercial dishwasher for the facility and the replacement of aging vehicles and ATVs in the fleet. These will occur later in the year.

The Financial Manager expects to begin using our line of credit in mid-June to cover expenses until our parcel tax payments are received from the Regional Districts in August.

Moved by: Director Bush

Seconded by: Grower Goraya

"THAT the interim financial statements be received."

CARRIED

7.2 Staff Report from Michelle Cook, General Manager, dated May 6, 2024, re: City of Kelowna changes to municipal appointees to the RDCO effective May 15, 2024.

The GM shared the recent news that changes of RDCO Directors effective May 15, 2024 will result in upcoming changes to the Directors of the OKSIR Board. Chair Singh and Director Lovegrove will not longer be the municipal appointees from RDCO. The GM informed the Board that OKSIR will receive a letter announcing the new RDCO board appointees. It was confirmed by the GM that Vice-Chair Fowler will be the acting Board Chair until a new one is elected at the next OKSIR Board Meeting.

The GM proposed, and Board agreed, to the cancellation of the meeting scheduled for June 7th, 2024.

Directors Singh and Lovegrove expressed that it was an honour and a pleasure to serve on the SIR Board. They expressed their gratitude to their colleagues and the staff.

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

"THAT OKSIR thank Chair Singh and Director Lovegrove for their time served on the OKSIR board."

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

Seconded by: Director Singh

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 1:43 pm"

CARRIED

Shirley Fowler
Shirley.fowler@oksi.com

Chair


Corporate Officer