

OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE PROGRAM BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the **OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE (SIR) BOARD**
held at the RDCO Woodhaven Boardroom April 10th, 2026

Voting Members:

Director George Bush	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Grower Steve Day	Grower Representative – Central
Director Shirley Fowler	Regional District of North Okanagan
Director Kevin Kraft	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Director Tim Lavery	Regional District Columbia Shuswap (virtual)
Director Rick Webber	Regional District of Central Okanagan

Non-Voting Members:

Dr. Susanna Acheampong	Entomologist, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
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Guests/Delegates:

Lindsay King	Industry Specialist Tree Fruit, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
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Regrets:

Grower Joginder Dhand	Grower Representative – North
Grower Walter Makepeace	Grower Representative – South, Organic
Andrea Kalischuk	AAFC Associate Director, Research, Development and Technology

Staff:

Michelle Cook	OKSIR General Manager
Evan Esch	OKSIR Entomologist
Tanya Littley	OKSIR Office Manager
Cody Troutman	RDCO Financial Services Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fowler called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the April 10, 2026, meeting of the OKSIR Board was adopted as presented.

Moved By: Grower Day

“THAT the April 10, 2026, meeting agenda be adopted as presented.”

Seconded by: Director Webber

CARRIED

3. MINTUES

3.1 Regular Board Meeting – February 6, 2026– For Adoption

The minutes of the February 6, 2026, regular meeting were adopted as presented.

Moved By: Director Kraft

“THAT the OKSIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2026, be adopted as presented.”

Seconded by: Director Lavery

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising from Minutes

No business arose from the minutes.

4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

There were no delegations or presentations before the Board.

5. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION

5.1 Staff Report from Michelle Cook, General Manager, dated April 2, 2026, re: Program Update

Ms. Cook provided a comprehensive program update, noting that the Program is fully staffed for the season and will be producing 9M sterile moths per week to service 6,800 acres of apples and pears across 1,450 properties. She outlined the service levels, trap monitoring volumes, and equipment requirements for the upcoming season. Ms. Cook reviewed field staffing noting that trap installation and moth release route preparation are underway. This year’s field team includes 31 staff. She also reported that the facility is producing an additional 4.4M moths per week for external sales and that the new condenser equipment has been successfully installed.

The Board discussed the newly hired facility manager-in-training, Tharshinidevy Nagalingam, who brings extensive entomology and insect-rearing expertise to the organization. WorkSafe inspections earlier in the year resulted in facility improvements including new shelving in the diet storage room and new venting. Board members were reminded that facility tours remain available upon request.

The Board received an update on the CanadaGAP program, an addendum for pollinator health, in relation to Walmart’s new requirements. It introduces additional audit and food-safety requirements for growers supplying fruit to Walmart. Mr. Esch explained that SIR’s monitoring activities, degree-day modelling, and non-chemical pest-management practices support growers in meeting these new standards. SIR has prepared template letters and checklists for growers and is planning outreach closer to harvest to assist with necessary documentation. Board members discussed the administrative and financial burden these audits place on smaller growers and the advantages SIR’s services provide, helping them meet retailer regulations.

Ms. Cook then informed the Board that Biocentis, a European company developing sterile insect technology for spotted wing drosophila, has requested an opportunity to present to the Board. She outlined the potential long-term relevance of this work, noting that SIR has historically considered the possibility of expanding its

scope to include other pests should viable technology emerge. She also emphasized that any future consideration would require extensive regulatory review and engagement with the cherry and other BC fruit industries. The Board agreed to invite Biocentis to present at a future meeting, with the BCFGa and the BC Cherry Association also to be invited to attend.

Moved By: Director Kraft

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

Seconded By: Director Bush

CARRIED

Moved By: Director Bush

"THAT the SIR Board invite a delegation from Biocentis to present at the June 12, 2026, SIR Board Meeting."

Seconded By: Grower Day

CARRIED

5.2 Memo from Tanya Littley, Office Manager, dated Feb 17, 2026, re: 2026 OKSIR Parcel Tax Acreage – Tax Roll Values - Preliminary

Ms. Cook presented the 2026 parcel tax acreage value, noting that staff had completed the annual review in collaboration with RDCO Finance. She explained that the parcel tax memo is issued to all regional district finance departments each February and outlines the parcels, acreages, and corresponding tax amounts for SIR's service areas.

Ms. Cook reported that the number of serviced parcels and acres remains similar to that 2025 service area. She confirmed that all regional district finance departments had reviewed and accepted the parcel tax roll in late February. She explained that administrative adjustments to the parcel tax roll will reflect orchard removals and decreases in acreage reported or observed by SIR between 17 February and 15 April 2026. Once staff have completed orchard GPS verifications, rebates will be issued where applicable. Newly planted acreage will not be taxed until the next year.

Moved By: Director Webber

"THAT the 2026 Preliminary Tax Roll Memo be received."

Seconded By: Grower Day

CARRIED

5.3 Cross Commodity Leadership Support Project 2025 Annual Review

The Board accepted the written report without a presentation from CCLSP, having received the presentation on February 6, 2026.

Moved By: Director Bush

"THAT the 2025 Annual Review Report from CCLSP be received."

Seconded By: Director Kraft

CARRIED

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was noted.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Interim Financials to Feb 28, 2026

Mr. Troutman reported the financial results for the period ending February 28, 2026. He noted that sterile moth sales beginning in April and the purchase of the new condensers in March will be show in the next interim report.

He highlighted higher than usual expenditures for diet ingredients, explaining these purchases occur early in the year due to the cyclical nature of SIR operations. He also noted an increase in general overhead for the month, attributable to annual insurance invoices paid in February. Aside from these expected variances, revenues and expenditures remain aligned with the approved budget and forecast.

In response to a question regarding the potential impacts of US to Canada exchange rate changes, staff confirmed that fluctuations have not resulted in any significant concerns to date and will continue to be monitored throughout the year.

Ms. Cook acknowledged the extensive work completed by the finance team during the recent audit, noting that the auditors had been on-site over the past month and that the 2025 results will be presented at the next meeting.

Moved By: Director Webber

"That the interim financial statements be received."

Seconded by: Grower Day

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

The meeting was adjourned to in-camera at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Board voted unanimously that regular meeting be adjourned at 11:42 am, prior to moving forward with the in-camera meeting.

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 11:42 am:"

CARRIED



Chair



Corporate Officer