



## BOARD REPORT: January 18, 2019

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### 2019 OKSIR Directors

#### Voting Directors

**Shirley Fowler,**  
2019 Chair  
RDNO

**Amarjit Lalli,**  
2019 Vice Chair  
Fruit Grower, Central

**James Baker**  
RDCO

**George Bush**  
RDOS

**Dave Dobernigg**  
Fruit Grower, North

**Chad Eliason**  
CSRD

**Walter Makepeace**  
Fruit Grower, South,  
Organic

**Brad Sieben**  
RDCO

#### Non-voting Directors

**Dr. Susanna  
Acheampong**  
BC Ministry of  
Agriculture

The next regular meeting of the OKSIR Board will be 9:00 a.m. on **Friday, March 1, 2019** at RDCO.

#### **OKSIR Board Chair and Vice Chair Elected**

The OKSIR Board is pleased to announce that Director Shirley Fowler, RDNO (City of Armstrong) and Director Amarjit Lalli (Grower Representative, Central) were elected on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as OKSIR Board Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. Director Brad Sieben, RDCO (City of Kelowna), Director James Baker, RDCO (District of Lake Country), Director Chad Eliason, CSRD (City of Salmon Arm), and Director George Bush, RDOS (Electoral Area "B" Cawston) were reappointed to the Board for the 2019 term. Directors Walter Makepeace (South, Organic) and Dave Dobernigg (North) will continue as Grower Representatives in 2019.

#### **OKSIR Board 2019 Financial Plan Adopted**

The OKSIR Board adopted the 2019 Budget and five-year financial plan (Bylaw No. 34, SIR 2019-2023), which outlines the Board's operational budget. For the ninth year in a row, there is no increase in tax requisition to the Regional Districts and the parcel tax remains at \$139.26 per acre of planted codling moth host trees. The last increase to these rates was in 2010.

#### **Washington Growers Ready for OKSIR's Sterile Moths**

After just the first season of Washington State University's research trial using OKSIR sterile moths in organic orchards south of the border, growers are asking OKSIR to make their moths available for purchase commercially. Codling moth control is becoming increasingly challenging, especially for organic growers who are no longer getting good control with their current management tools. OKSIR will make a small number of moths available for Washington growers for the upcoming growing season as OKSIR tests a model for commercial production and distribution. Okanagan growers will always come first, of course, and the Board is cautiously optimistic that profits from sales of the OKSIR facility's excess capacity could help offset program costs.

#### **OKSIR Formalizes General Manager Appointment**

The Board is pleased to announce that Melissa Tesche has accepted the role of General Manager for the OKSIR program. Melissa has been working at the local government level for nearly a decade, with OKSIR since 2014, and has been Acting General Manager for the program since 2015. She is passionate about programs that span communities to address environmental challenges at the scale that makes the most sense for the problem at hand—for OKSIR, the challenge is controlling codling moth and reducing pesticide use in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys. The program requires collaborative governance from four partnering regional districts and works closely with the apple industry and the scientific community. Melissa's drive for helping people work together to solve problems, combined with her background in biology and science communication made her well-suited to lead the program. The Directors formally acknowledged her successes as Acting General Manager, and the Board looks forward to many more years with Melissa at the helm.

