OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE PROGRAM BOARD

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the **OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY STERILE INSECT RELEASE (SIR) PROGRAM BOARD**held in the RDCO Woodhaven Boardroom, Kelowna BC, on Friday, April 12th, 2024

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 (virtual)

Director Mohini Singh

Director Gordon Lovegrove

Grower Walter Makepeace

Regional District of Central Okanagan

Regional District of Central Okanagan

Grower Representative – Zone 1, organic

Grower Joginder Dhand Grower Representative – Zone 3
Grower Tarsem Goraya Grower Representative – Zone 2

Non-Voting Members:

Taras Pojasok Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Guests/Delegates:

Melissa Tesche BC Fruit Growers' Association

Regrets:

Susana Achaempong BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Staff:

Michelle Cook OKSIR General Manager
Peter Rotheisler OKSIR Operations Manager

Evan Esch OKSIR Entomologist
Tanya Littley OKSIR Office Manager

Kellie Garcia Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project

Lori White RDCO Financial Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting of the OKSIR Board to order at 10:34 am.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

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

Seconded by: Grower Makepeace

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Regular Board Meeting – February 9th, 2024 – for adoption

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

Seconded by: Director Fowler

"THAT the OKSIR Regular Board Meeting Minutes from February 9th, 2024, be adopted as presented."

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising from Minutes

4. **DELEGATION/PRESENTATION**

5. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION

5.1 Staff Report from Michelle Cook, General Manager, dated April 5, 2025, re: Program Update (page 8).

The SIR staff report was presented in detail as outlined in the agenda package.

The Program Entomologist, Evan Esche, provided detailed information to board members regarding the current weather conditions and impact on the codling moth's emergence from dormancy and the potential for the season to be hot, dry, and long enough to produce a third generation of codling moth. The Board was reassured that the SIR program is aware and prepared for the early emergence of coding moth and a potential third generation. Both the facility operation and the budget have accounted for these conditions.

The extreme winter cold snap that resulted in major damage to wine grape and cherry buds in 2024 was discussed. Apples showed very little mortality from the cold snap and the board wondered if an increase in apple plantings over the next few years might occur.

An update was provided regarding a Salmon Arm property identified as the most-infested orchard in 2023. The board was informed that compliance action was not taken against the property owner, as the property was recently sold. The Program is working with the new owners on cleaning up the infestation and using extra measures to control the infestation including the release of four times the typical number of moths and the use of mating disruption.

The OKSIR GM provided detailed information regarding SIR's attendance at various industry events in the first three months of the year.

The Board was updated regarding the change of location for a IAE conference by the Program Entomologist. The conference was to be hosted in the Okanagan by OKSIR, however due to undisclosed diplomatic reasons, Global Affairs Canada has denied the request.

The CCLSP Project Director presented the details of the CCLSP.

The OKSIR GM discussed sending educational materials to Washington state. She also proposed the 10 May Board Meeting be held in Osoyoos with a tour of the facility to proceed the meeting. The Board was informed of potential meeting cancellations due to the abundance of scheduled meetings for 2024 in comparison to previous years.

Moved by: Grower Makepeace

Seconded by: Gower Goraya

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

CARRIED

5.2. Memo from Tanya Littley, Office Manager, dated February 15th, 2024, re: 2024 Preliminary Parcel Tax Roll Values (page 11)

The Office Manager presented the memo in detail as attached in the agenda package.

Moved by: Grower Makepeace

Seconded by: Director Lovegrove

"THAT the 2024 Preliminary Tax Roll Memo be received."

CARRIED

Under Correspondence Director Bush brought forward that he received a call from Osoyoos Orchard Owner Gerald Hesketh. In February 2024, the GM and Chair had reviewed a letter sent by Mr. Hesketh to the Board. Mr. Hesketh property had a bad codling moth infestation in 2023. The SIR Program hopes that the new South Okanagan field supervisor and Mr. Hesketh will be able to work together to lower the level of infestation on his property in 2024.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Interim Financials to February 28th, 2024 (page 13)

The RDCO Financial Manager presented the financials in detail as attached in the agenda package. The Board was informed the first quarter financial statement will be finalized shortly and presented at the next meeting.

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

Seconded by: Director Fowler

"That the interim financial statements be received."

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA

The Board adjourned to an in-camera meeting at 11:24 am.

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(2) (b) of the Community Charter for the OKSIR Board to deal with matters related to:

(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public."

CARRIED

The general meeting of the OKSIR Board resumed at 11:50 pm.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Moved: Director Lovegrove Recommended Motion

Seconded: Grower Makepeace

"THAT the Board raise the report to open meeting that OKSIR will issue an RFEOI to investigate securing a strategic partner to further moth sales in the future."

CARRIED

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Director Lovegrove

Seconded by: Director Bush

"THAT the SIR Board meeting be adjourned at 12:00PM

CARRIED