



BOARD REPORT: May 12, 2023

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2023 OKSIR

Directors

Voting Directors

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CSRD

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RDNO

Dr. Gord Lovegrove
RDCO

Mohini Singh
RDCO

George Bush,
2023 Vice Chair
RDOS

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Fruit Grower, North

Tarsem Goraya,
Fruit Grower, Central

Walter Makepeace
Fruit Grower, South,
Organic

Non-voting Directors

Dr. Susanna Acheampong
BC Ministry of Agriculture

Taras Pojasok
Agriculture and
Agri-food Canada

OKSIR to Host Spring 2024 International Research Meeting

In spring of 2024, OKSIR will host up to 20 visiting sterile insect scientists from 11 different countries for a multi-day meeting including field tours of Okanagan orchards and OKSIR's facility in Osoyoos. The experts in SIT, including OKSIR's Program Entomologist, have been working together as part of a five-year coordinated research project to improve mass-rearing of moth pests for use in sterile insect release. The project is led by a joint effort of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization and International Atomic Energy Association (FAO/IAEA), with the mission to improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity, contribute to global economic growth and work together to support and promote the application of sterile insect technique. The majority of the costs of the meeting are covered by the FAO/IAEA. OKSIR last hosted a coordinated research meeting in 2014.

OKSIR Partners with Industry Associations for \$500k Grant to Increase Collaboration in Tree Fruit and Grape Sectors

The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Tree Fruit Industry Stabilization Plan (TFISP) has been working to steady the declining apple sector and strengthen the tree fruit and grape sectors in the southern interior. One of the central themes of the initiative has been the need for increased cross-commodity collaboration and communication. A team of five project partners, including all existing industry organizations and OKSIR, have submitted an application to the TFISP Fund for a two-year project that would support cross-commodity work on topics including local government engagement, labour shortages, and extension projects. The Board approved OKSIR to act as the applicant and administrator of the grant funds, with an administration fee payable to the program, and the project would be fully-funded by grant funds.

OKSIR Audited Financials Approved

The Board approved the 2022 Audited Financial Statements as presented by BDO Canada. The OKSIR program ended 2022 in a stronger cash position than the beginning of the year thanks to tight fiscal management, strong sales of product (~900k in 2022), and a grant from the provincial government in support of BCDAS. The auditors noted their opinion was clean. The Board thanked the finance team at RDCO for provision of financial services that helped make the audited process straight forward.

The next regular meeting of the OKSIR Board will be 10:30 a.m. on **Friday, July 21, 2023**, in the RDCO Woodhaven Boardroom, with option for online participation.

