



BOARD REPORT: May 24, 2019

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2019 OKSIR Directors

Voting Directors

Shirley Fowler,
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RDNO

Amarjit Lalli,
2019 Vice Chair
Fruit Grower, Central

James Baker
RDCO

George Bush
RDOS

Dave Dobernigg
Fruit Grower, North

Chad Eliason
CSR/D

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, July 12, 2019** at RDCO.

OKSIR Prepares for Upcoming Governance Workshop

The OKSIR Board received a draft version of a new Governance Manual in preparation for the upcoming workshop on June 14. Mr. Allan Neilson, *Neilson Strategies Inc.*, presented the draft document to the Board. The Governance Manual lays out the OKSIR Program as it exists today, with the program having changed significantly since its inception nearly 30 years ago. Throughout the document, special callouts highlight legislative and structural issues that have been previously identified as needing reform.

In this first of two workshops, invited participants will have an opportunity to review these issues, many of which have re-emerged in recent discussions. Participants will also have the opportunity to identify new challenges and will collectively identify the most important elements in need of change. Based on the results of the upcoming workshop, staff will develop formal, detailed proposals for potential legislative reform, consulting with participants, other stakeholders, and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff as required. Proposals will be presented for the consideration by the workshop group at a second workshop in October 2019.

New Program Entomologist

The OKSIR Board congratulated Mr. Evan Esch on his new role as Program Entomologist, with Mr. Esch having recently received his designation as a Professional Agrologist. Entering his fifth season with OKSIR, Mr. Esch has represented the program at local, national, and international meetings—building out and strengthening the Program's technical network. Evan brings a Master's degree in entomology to the position and, in addition to his responsibilities as Program Entomologist, he will be working towards a doctoral degree aimed at advancing the predictive and responsive capabilities of the OKSIR Program.

The Board also expressed their deep appreciation for Mr. Hugh Philip, who in addition to many years of direct service to the OKSIR Program, went above and beyond to mentor Mr. Esch over the last 4+ years. Mr. Philip provided training and guidance, serving formally as the mentoring agrologist during Mr. Esch's articling period, ensuring continuity and easing the succession process for what is a very challenging role in our one-of-a-kind program.

2018 Audited Financial Statements Approved

The Board approved the 2018 Audited Financial Statements as presented by Markus Schrott, CPA, CA, Partner BDO. Both the Auditor and OKSIR Board commended the RDCO Finance Manager and her staff for their impressive work in maintaining and preparing first-rate financial statements.

New Technical Advisory Committee

A new technical advisory committee is in the works for the OKSIR Program. A draft Terms of Reference document for the committee was presented to the Board, who put their support behind the formation of the new advisory body. To be chaired by the Program Entomologist, the staff-level committee will be comprised of local and international specialists in sterile insect technique, area-wide pest management, and codling moth. The committee is proposed to meet twice annually via teleconference, with the goal of the inaugural meeting in fall 2019.

