



BOARD REPORT: July 17, 2020

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2020 OKSIR Directors

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RDNO

Amarjit Lalli,
2020 Vice Chair
Fruit Grower, Central

James Baker
RDCO

George Bush
RDOS

Dave Dobernigg
Fruit Grower, North

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CSR D

Walter Makepeace
Fruit Grower, South,
Organic

Brad Sieben
RDCO

Non-voting Directors

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

Taras Pojasok
Agriculture and
Agri-food Canada

The next regular meeting of
the OKSIR Board will be
9:00 a.m. on **Friday,**
October 2, 2020 at RDCO.

Working Group Meets to Review Value Tax Formula

A working group, comprised of one Regional District representative and one senior staff member (CAO or CFO) from each of the program's participating Regional Districts met on July 17, 2020, following the Board meeting. Local Government Consultant, Mr. Allan Neilson, *Neilson Strategies Inc.*, facilitated the session that reviewed options for modernizing the value tax apportionment formula. The results from the working group meeting will be brought to the next OKSIR Board meeting, Oct 2, 2020, for review.

SIR Cashflow Management Approved by RD Partners

As operational program spending begins months in advance of when tax requisitions are received in August, the OKSIR program faced a cash flow timing challenge that is common among tax-funded organizations. The SIR Board requested resolutions of support from the program's Regional District partners to authorize, by bylaw, a cashflow management program that mirrors the revenue anticipation borrowing authority granted to local governments under the Local Government Act. Letters in support of this resolution have now been provided from each of our Regional District partners.

2020 Moth Sales to Washington Remain on Track

Sterile codling moth sales to Washington have resumed again this spring with M3 Consulting Group LLC, and have continued without interruption, despite Covid-19 related restrictions at the US border. Sales for the season are on track to meet the amounts budgeted for 2020, with this year's revenue estimated at over \$650k—by far the most significant non-tax revenue amount to date. The strong Washington market and continually increasing sales demands are promising indications for the potential of local program costs to be offset by the continued sales of excess sterile moths south of the border.

Apple Acreage Decreases from 2019

The final taxable acreage for 2020 was presented to the Board. This year saw a decrease in apple acreage in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys. The drop in acreage is attributed to the decreasing market value of apples, prompting growers to replace their orchards with higher value crops, including sweet cherries and grapes.