



2020 OKSIR Directors

Voting Directors

Shirley Fowler,
2020 Chair
RDNO

Amarjit Lalli,
2020 Vice Chair
Fruit Grower, Central

James Baker
RDNO

George Bush
RDOS

Dave Dobernigg
Fruit Grower, North

Chad Eliason
CSR

Walter Makepeace
Fruit Grower, South,
Organic

Brad Sieben
RDNO

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, November 27, 2020** in Kelowna (location to be determined).

OKSIR Endorses Recommended New Method of Value Tax Apportionment, Will Look to Regional Districts for Approval

The OKSIR Board reviewed and endorsed the recommendations of the Apportionment Working Group. The working group was made up of one elected official and the CAO or designate from each of the four partnering regional districts. The working group had been tasked with reviewing and recommending a modernized and fair approach to dividing the value tax burden between the RD partners. OKSIR's current approach has been in place since 2010, and because OKSIR has not increased taxes over the last decade, the RD partners have paid the same dollar amount towards the program every year since then.

The recommended, and now endorsed, approach would divide the burden based primarily on converted assessment amounts (land and improvements) (weighted at 75%) while also incorporating a measure of planted acreage in each RD (weighted at 25%). The new blended formula recognizes the value of the program to the valleys as a whole, while also reflecting the inter-regional differences in amount of service provided to each area, based on where the orchards are planted.

The OKSIR Board also endorsed the recommendation of phasing-in the new formula over a period of four years. OKSIR management will work with RD staff to iron out the details of a phase in period before bringing the recommended approach to the partnering Regional Districts for their approval. If the Regional Districts agree, OKSIR would begin using the new apportionment method for the 2021 year.

Second Successful Year of Commercial Sales to Washington, SIR Projecting Increased Sales Next Year

The Board received a virtual presentation from Mr. Dustin Krompetz, Partner and Chief of UAS Operations with M3 Consulting LLC, the company distributing OKSIR moths in Washington. Mr. Krompetz reported that M3 and their clients view the 2020 season as a great success, especially in light of the restrictions posed by covid-19. He shared the story of a grower who has been using SIR sterile moths for the last two years—the grower went from thinning infested fruit by bins before SIR, to thinning with buckets after his first season with the moths, to barely any infested fruit at the end of this year. Mr. Krompetz expects that demand for sterile moths in 2021 will increase as word of success spreads throughout the state, where many growers are becoming desperate for help with codling moth.

2020 Season in Review:

OKSIR's Program Entomologist presented the end of season results for the 2020 growing season. The program met its operational target of having 90% of the acreage with less than 0.2% damage at the end of the season. Wild moth captures were down 55% from the previous year. While the cool, wet weather at the beginning of the season would have played at least some role in reducing wild captures, sterile recapture rates actually increased over the previous year—a sign that the program continues to produce high quality sterile moths. The reduction in codling moth pressure will come as a relief to apple growers who have been struggling for the last several years with low returns and a destabilizing and shifting industry—troubles made worse by this year's covid-related labour challenges