



2019 OKSIR Directors

Voting Directors

Shirley Fowler,
2019 Chair
RDNO

Amarjit Lalli,
2019 Vice Chair
Fruit Grower, Central

James Baker
RDCO

George Bush
RDOS

Dave Dobernigg
Fruit Grower, North

Chad Eliason
CSRD

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, May 24, 2019** at RDCO.

OKSIR Program to Lead Governance Review

Following a request from RDNO to review the tax apportionment agreement made by the regional district partners in 2007, the OKSIR Program will be leading a formal, collaborative, and focused governance review in 2019. OKSIR will work with its CAO Committee, Regional District partners and their representatives, and staff the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, with the intent to submit the results of the process to the Ministry with request for legislative reform. The Program has been through similar reviews, notably in 2006 and 2010. Although both processes resulted in requests for legislative reform, progress stalled at the provincial level—the Board hopes that emphasis on collaborative governance will garner the provincial support needed for a legislative update.

Drone Collaborators Impress with Experience and Technology

The Board received a presentation from M3 Consulting Group LLC. The company has focused on technologies in pest management, especially drones, since 2010. The presentation highlighted the depth and breadth of the company's experience with everything from releases of sterilized cotton pests and sterilized mosquitos, to the development of advanced drone-based camera systems for detecting economically-devastating forestry pests. OKSIR has been collaborating with M3 and New Zealand Plant and Food for the last number of years to develop and test release of sterile codling moths by drone, and in 2018, M3 completed all of the trial releases for the Washington State University pilot project that used OKSIR moths in Washington orchards. The company has positioned themselves as a potential commercial distributor for OKSIR moths in Washington, with the ability to provide the moths as well as a release service that ensures the moths stay in top condition—a critical component of successful sterile insect technique.

Sterile Moths Approved for First Trial of Commercial Sales

The OKSIR Board approved a single-year supply contract with M3, supplying sterilized moths for commercial resale in Washington. After receiving the unanimous support of the Regional District partners in 2018 to sell excess capacity moths, the OKSIR Program is one step closer to realizing its potential to offset local program costs through commercial sales.

Apple Acreage Decreases from 2018 for Crop Replants

The number of pome fruit acres in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys has dropped since spring 2018. Industry leaders attribute the drop to participation in the provincial government's replant program. The replant program provides growers with financial support to replace older and less-profitable fruit trees with new varieties that will meet consumer demands for high-value, high-quality fruit.

OKSIR GM Receives Special Mention as Emerging Leader

Chair Fowler presented OKSIR General Manager, Melissa Tesche, with a certificate commemorating Ms. Tesche's special mention in the BC Real Estate's Foundation's Emerging Leader Award. The award recognizes early career professionals who demonstrate outstanding leadership, innovation, and collaboration in sustainable land use. The nomination for the award came from the OKSIR Board for Ms. Tesche's work as Acting General Manager for the Program.

