

## OKSIR BOARD REPORT:

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MAY 9, 2014

#### OKSIR Board

##### Voting Members:

**Duane Ophus (Chair)**  
Regional District of  
Central Okanagan

**Allan Patton (Vice)**  
Regional District of  
Okanagan Similkameen

**Colin Basran**  
Regional District of  
Central Okanagan

**Shirley Fowler**  
Regional District of North  
Okanagan

**Debbie Cannon**  
Regional District of  
Columbia Shuswap

**Billy Potash**  
Grower Rep - Zone 1  
(Organic)

**Amarjit Lalli**  
Grower Rep - Zone 2

**Dave Dobernigg**  
Grower Rep - Zone 3

##### Non-voting Members:

**Kenna MacKenzie**  
Agriculture & Agri-Food  
Canada

**Susanna Acheampong**  
BC Ministry of Agriculture  
and Lands

The next regular  
meeting of the OKSIR  
Board is scheduled for  
9:00 a.m. on June 20,  
2014 at 1450 KLO Rd ,  
Kelowna, BC

For more information  
visit [www.oksir.org](http://www.oksir.org)

#### ***Operations Update:***

Production at the Osoyoos rearing facility is now ready for the season release of sterile codling moth. The first releases began the week of April 28, 2014 in Zone 1. Field staff have begun hanging traps, applying banding, flagging routes. In Zones 2 and 3 Isomate CM/LR Mating Disruption has been installed in orchards as the base control measure with some areas in Zone 2 also set to receive sterile moth release as a supplemental control. Control orders have been sent to those properties in the urban buffer zone that are required to strip fruit by June 1.

#### ***New Industry Representative for Zone 1:***

At the February 2014 meeting, Brian Mennell announced his retirement from the OKSIR Board as the (Organic) Grower Representative for Zone 1. Billy Potash, a prominent organic grower from Cawston, was officially nominated by the BCFGA as the replacement. The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen supported the nomination and appointed Mr. Potash to the OKSIR Board at their May 8 meeting.

#### ***Update on RCM & External Review Planning:***

OKSIR Management is working to maximize the Program's exposure while hosting the Research Coordination Meeting of the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization/International Atomic Energy Agency Division June 2-6 at the Coast Capri Hotel in Kelowna. The first two days (open to observers) will be devoted to presentations from international specialists in SIT, followed by a field trip to the rearing facility and local orchard mid-week, with the last two days being working group discussions of the invited participants. The following week the FAO/IAEA is sponsoring an external review of the SIR Program with the main goal being to identify potential areas of future innovation for the program.

#### ***Assessment of MD as an Area-Wide Tactic to Complement or Replace the SIR Tactic:***

IPM Specialist, Hugh Philip, presented a summary report based on the 'Statistical Analysis of Codling Moth Prevalence and Fruit Damage Data' prepared by Dr. Paramjit Gill of UBCO who was contracted to analyze CM trapping (2008-2013) and harvest damage (2010, 2011, and 2013) data using appropriate statistical tests to answer four questions identified by the Board to assist in making an informed decision on the use of mating disruption (MD) technology. The results showed that for the period of 2011 to 2013 compared to 2010, in Zone 1 there was a statistically significant decrease in the capture of CM, and in Zones 2/3 there was a statistically significant increase in captures (attributed to a more attractive lure used with MD); the number of traps with zero wild CM captures increased in Zone 1, stayed consistent in Zone 2, and decreased in Zone 3; in Zone 2/3 there was a decrease in the acreage that is classified as priority; prevalence of CM increases as orchard size decreases, and in all zones orchards greater than 2 hectares in size had a significantly higher proportion of clean traps; and overall orchard size does have impact on fruit damage at harvest by CM infestation. Though not conclusive, the data indicated that MD would be able to maintain the achievements to date fairly well if it continues to be applied area-wide. Whether SIT or MD is used, the key to effective control is consistency of area-wide management. A benefit cost analysis is currently underway to determine the economics of various elements of the Program.

#### ***NOW Water Award Nomination:***

OKSIR Representatives have met with the Chair of the Canadian Partnership Initiative in support of the United Nations Water for Life Decade. In this ninth year of the ten year program they are about to launch a national recognition program aimed at profiling exemplary water conservation and management initiatives across Canada. There is interest to understand how reduced pesticide use with OKSIR and the resulting positive impact on water could be quantified. More information is expected by September 2014.