

# CRDF: Who makes the decisions?

By Harold Browning



From the beginning, Florida citrus growers envisioned a mechanism that would allow them to invest grower funds in developing and delivering solutions to HLB and canker. Equally important, grower representation was vital to guarantee that the funds were invested to meet their needs and growers were directly involved in the process. With formation of CRDF, growers have a structure, method for prioritizing research, and the ability to decide how the funds are spent. CRDF is now in its third year and is managing a large portfolio of projects which address short-term management of Asian citrus psyllid and HLB, while also addressing intermediate and long-term goals of sustainable citrus production in the presence of HLB.

From financial and budget issues to selection of research projects to be funded, the board approves all actions, generally after hearing recommendations from CRDF committees. The board is composed of 13 members representing the regionally diverse and complex citrus industry. Ten members are appointed by Florida Citrus Mutual and Florida Department of Citrus, two by the University of Florida, and one by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. These appointees serve 3-year terms, and are listed below.

## Board Members

Mr. Walter T. (Tom) Jerkins Jr. Blue Goose Growers	Mr. Joe L. Davis Jr. Davis Citrus Management, Inc.	William B. (Ben) McLean III Uncle Matt's Organic
Mr. Ricke A. Kress, Southern Gardens Citrus	Dr. Mary L. Duryea University of Florida, IFAS	Ms. Shannon R. Shepp Florida Dept. Ag & Cons. Serv.
Mr. Hugh W. Thompson III Cutrale Citrus Juices USA, Inc.	Dr. Joseph C. Joyce University of Florida, IFAS	Mr. Wayne H. Simmons LaBelle Fruit Co. LLC
Mr. Jerome M. (Jerry) Newlin Orange -Co., LP	Mr. Marty McKenna McKenna & Associates Citrus, Inc.	Mr. Robert J. (Bob) Stambaugh Sharit, Bunn & Chilton, PA
Mr. Robert H. (Bobby) Barden Barben Fruit Co., Inc.		

Similarly, committee structure allows growers to study and make recommendations to the board on a range of issues, from governance to research project review. Listed here are the current members of several committees of CRDF which directly address issues of interest to growers.

**Research Management:** This committee is charged with overseeing the research program including CRDF funding application and review processes that lead to approval of projects.

## Board Members

Robert H. (Bobby) Barben	Walter T. (Tom) Jerkins Jr.	Wayne H. Simmons
--------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------

## Non-Board Members

William H. (Bill) Barber	Larry Davis	Steve Farr
David Howard	Peter McClure	John Merritt
Andrew B. Pike	James A. (Jim) Snively	George Walker

**CHMA Subcommittee:** Interfaces with growers and agencies involved in Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMAs).

Jerome M. (Jerry) Newlin	Walter T. (Tom) Jerkins Jr.	Wayne H. Simmons
Robert H. (Bobby) Barben	William B. (Ben) McLean III	

**Commercial Product Development:** Considers opportunities for moving research results to the grove, evaluating how best to involve partners in regulatory, product development and delivery of solutions.

## Board Members

William B. (Ben) McLean III	Mary L. Duryea, Ph.D.	Ricke A. Kress
Jerome M. (Jerry) Newlin	Shannon R. Shepp	Robert J. (Bob) Stambaugh

## Non-Board Members

Timothy A. Anglea, Ph.D.	Mark D. Colbert	Peter McClure
Anderson H. (Andy) Rackley		

These committees are necessary for the specific mission of the Foundation. Additional information on CRDF board and committee functions, including the Governance and Audit committees, can be found at [www.citrusrdf.org](http://www.citrusrdf.org)

*Harold Browning is Chief Operations Officer of CRDF. The foundation is charged with funding citrus research and getting the results of that research to use in the grove.*

