

**CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.**

**Commercial Product Delivery Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 25, 2014**

A meeting of the Commercial Product Delivery Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at the Ben Hill Griffin Citrus Hall, Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by Chairman Ben McLean. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were: Dr. Tim Anglea (phone); Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr.; Dr. Mary Duryea; Mr. David Howard; Mr. Ricke Kress; Mr. Peter McClure; Mr. Ben McLean; Mr. Jerry Newlin; Mr. Andy Rackley; Ms. Shannon Shepp; Mr. Tom Stopyra and Mr. Hugh Thompson. Also participating were: Dr. Calvin Arnold; Mr. Bobby Barben; Mr. Dan Botts; Dr. Harold Browning; Dr. Jackie Burns; Ms. Barbara Carlton; Mr. Greg Carlton; Mr. Peter Chaires; Dr. Jim Dukowitz; Mr. Tom Jerkins; Ms. Diane Johnson; Dr. Joe Joyce; Ms. Audrey Nowicki; Mr. Taw Richardson; Dr. Jim Syvertsen; and Dr. Tom Turpen.

Prior to the noticed meeting (9:00 am) a closed meeting was held during which a presentation was made to the committee regarding CLas antimicrobial research and how it was moving forward within a company structure.

Mr. Kress moved to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and passed unanimously.

Mr. Botts reported on the Section 18 SLN label for Belay® which has been submitted as a result of efforts by CRDF, the industry, and the registrant, Valent U.S.A. Mr. Botts is working on behalf of CRDF and the industry through the agreement with FFVA and Third Party Registrations. The Section 18 application has been submitted to EPA through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and a reviewer has been assigned. The label requests opportunity to apply the soil pesticide twice during each season to 5' to 9' trees (aged 3 – 5 years). This would expand upon the current label which allows soil application to non-bearing trees. Dr. Browning thanked Mr. Botts for his hard work in developing and submitting this package to FDACS and EPA.

Mr. Botts also reported that the insecticide Cyazypyr® is now available by conditional approval with formulations for foliar or soil application. Mr. Newlin thanked Mr. Rackley and FDACS for the hard work and dedication of the entire staff that were involved.

Dr. Browning presented a revision to the Third Party Registration contract which requests an increase of \$15,000 for the remainder of FY 2013-14. This amendment will cover costs incurred for the additional effort by Dan Botts in regards to pollinator issues with neonicotinoids, which complicated all efforts on ACP label changes. Mr. Botts has assisted in making contacts for the discussion of antimicrobials with the US EPA. Mr. Davis made a motion to present to the Board of Director's an increase in the TPR budget of \$15,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kress and passed unanimously.

Dr. Turpen presented a brief overview and update of antimicrobial strategies. His presentation included candidates that might be available for inclusion in a field trial this spring.

Dr. Syvertsen gave an overview of field trials on naturally occurring microbes. These field trials are planned for 3 locations in Florida (Ridge, Indian River and in the SW Flatwoods). Trials will show whether applications have an impact on CLas bacteria and/or on tree health. Cooperators are needed in trials which may range from 2 to 24 acres. The trees need to be healthy enough to live for 3 years, the duration of the trials.

Dr. Syvertsen also presented an overview of ongoing and planned plant growth regulators field trials. There are many field trials being conducted to evaluate the role of PGRs on phloem health and to minimize pre-harvest fruit drop. Dr. Syvertsen presented some preliminary data that will be analyzed and reported later from a field trial that was completed with the 2013 Hamlin orange harvest.

The candidate tolerant rootstock first phase field trial has been organized and trees are being budded in the nursery. Collaborators are being sought to host the 28 to 35 acre trial at each site. The field trials will be planted in early 2014.

A thermal therapy field day is planned for the last week in April in Fort Pierce. There will be presentations and demonstrations at the USDA, ARS laboratory, followed by a visit to a grower site where thermal therapy has been used. More details of this field day will be available soon.

The budget details for the trial administrator were shared with the committee. The budget of year one of this project falls within the budget approved earlier in the year for this effort. Total funding is \$331,466 for the 18-month period, with \$118,716 budgeted for the remainder of the current fiscal year. The first year includes purchase of a vehicle for use in travel to field sites. Mr. Davis made a motion to recommend to the Board approval for a budget of \$331,466 for the trial administrator position. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kress and passed unanimously.

Dr. Dukowitz reported on the US EPA Scientific Advisory Panel meeting held in Washington DC in January to consider potential regulation for RNAi technologies. There currently are no regulations that govern this technology, and the meeting was held to allow discussion and testimony to guide evolution of oversight.

Dr. Browning reported on the Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC) established to provide oversight of the new Congressional appropriation to support HLB solution delivery. The MAC group is currently developing ideas that are most readily implemented in the short term, and this includes antimicrobials and thermal therapy.

Dr. Browning reported on a solutions page on the CRDF web site. This page is for those who have ideas that they believe will aid in the fight against HLB to submit their information and suggest how CRDF can

help them. The page is a pathway for CRDF program managers to follow up on all ideas, and we encourage the use of this utility for anyone who has HLB ideas to share.

**Other Business:** Mr. Newlin suggested hiring a scientist or a group of scientists to gather data from citrus growers on groves that appear to be succeeding in the presence of HLB. Mr. Stopyra made a motion for Dr. Arnold and Dr. Burns put together a proposal for the gathering of data from growers and bring back to this committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newlin and passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm

Minutes submitted by Diane Johnson