A telephonic meeting of the Commercial Product Delivery Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2015. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ben McLean at 1:30 pm. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were: Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr.; Mr. David Howard; Mr. Ricke Kress; Mr. Peter McClure; Mr. Ben McLean; Mr. Jerry Newlin; Mr. Andy Rackley; Ms. Shannon Shepp and Mr. Hugh Thompson. Committee members Dr. Tim Anglea; Dr. Mary Duryea and Mr. Tom Stopyra did not participate. Other participants in the meeting were Mr. Larry Black; Mr. Dan Botts; Mr. Kevin Bouffard; Dr. Harold Browning; Dr. Jackie Burns; Dr. Lisa Conti; Dr. Jim Dukowitz; Ms. Audrey Nowicki; Mr. Taw Richardson; Dr. Jim Syvertsen and Dr. Tom Turpen.

Mr. Kress moved to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and passed unanimously.

Mr. McLean asked Mr. Botts to introduce the discussion of the feasibility of a label modification of Firewall® to add oranges to the current grapefruit application. Mr. Botts reviewed the rigid requirements including specifics on losses and other issues relative to getting appropriate support level on the efficacy of Firewall® and concluded that current data does not adequately support the label change. The possibility was raised for applying for only a particular area of the state or specific orange cultivars, where growers need to operate under lower Ph, resulting in higher copper activity. Dr. Browning has met with three researchers to determine what if any information is available to support the efficacy of Firewall® on oranges. Considering the interaction between canker and HLB on tree health and the percentage of fruit drop needed to substantiate the request for a label change for canker use, the future economic justification for fruit drop related to HLB and other diseases on other labels might be weakened. After considerable discussion, the committee recommended this issue be followed up with EPA, FDACS and Mr. Botts; in addition, Dr. Browning will meet with researchers to learn what support is available moving forward with current data and include data on Hamlins that Mr. Newlin offered to provide.

Mr. McLean asked Dr. Syvertsen to present the topic of naturally occurring microbes field trials. Dr. Syvertsen presented the proposals from manufacturers who recommended two to three years of treatments with their products for maximum effectiveness, with total costs of $220,000 over three years at each site, recommending three sites for a total of $660,000, which is much higher than the previously approved estimate. Mr. Davis moved to increase this year’s commitment to $220,000 and re-evaluate at the end of the first year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson. After discussion questioning the accuracy of the budget included for the crop consultant, the motion passed unanimously.
An enhancement proposal for $20,000 from Dr. Etxeberria for the delivery of antibiotics into plants as a supplement to Dr. Schumann’s current project was introduced. Mr. Davis made the motion to approve funding the additional $20,000 for Dr. Etxeberria’s proposal; seconded by Mr. Newlin, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Browning brought up the Third Party Registration contract. At the last meeting, an increase of $15,000 was approved for the additional efforts toward label changes and registration of neonicotinoids. Due to an even greater level of activity an additional $25,000 is being requested to cover TPR activities supporting CRDF-directed activities. Mr. Kress moved to approve the $25,000 increase to the TPR budget for this fiscal year; seconded by Mr. Newlin, the motion passes unanimously.

Dr. Browning reported that he is currently working with MAC and should have more details on federal funding available to help move research to solutions.

The thermal therapy field day will take place on April 30th at USDA-ARS, Fort Pierce, and will include lunch and a field tour. Additional details are being worked out by the extension agent, Mr. Parker Platt, who is coordinating the field day.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm

Minutes submitted by Audrey Nowicki