A field tour meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at the Florida Research Center for Agricultural Sustainability, Inc. in Vero Beach. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded.

The Committee met at 11:00 a.m. at the Vero Beach Grove Field Trial Site and a quorum was not present. Committee members participating were: Mr. Bobby Barben; Mr. Tim Dooley; Mr. Steve Farr; Mr. David Howard; Mr. Joby Sherrod and Mr. Jim Snively. Committee members Mr. Bill Barber, Mr. Larry Davis, Mr. Tom Jerkins, Mr. Peter McClure, Mr. Wayne Simmons and Mr. Mike Stewart did not participate. Also participating were Mr. Robert C. Adair, Jr., and Dr. Phil Stansly.

The main objective of the meeting was to observe and discuss the ongoing field research experiments associated with Dr. Stansly’s CRDF-funded project #447. This project was initiated in early 2012 to evaluate individual and combined treatments of vector control and foliar nutrients to bring a solid planting of round orange into profitable production. In the second year of the project, funding was extended to replicate the experiment in the Indian River Region with a new planting of grapefruit trees located at the Florida Research Center for Agricultural Sustainability in Vero Beach. A third planting related to this research was established at SWFREC to continue evaluation of various treatments on ‘Ray Ruby’ grapefruit. A grower cooperator planting located in Hendry County with A. Duda cooperators also is associated with this project.

Dr. Stansly submitted a proposal to continue and expand this project, enhancing current trials and incorporating new treatments of organic acids and organic compost treatments to existing trials. In addition, the proposal includes overlaying several of these treatment combinations on a new cooperator planting to integrate treatments at time of planting. The Research Management Committee tabled the proposal pending an opportunity to visit the field sites and validate progress that could be expanded with additional investment.

Mr. Bob Adair and Dr. Stansly provided an overview of the 7 to 8 month-old grapefruit planting at the Vero Beach location. Participants were able to discuss the treatments that are currently included in this experiment, and the plans to add the treatments outlined in the proposed addition to the project. The group also discussed the progress, evaluated the general status of the plantings and how the treatments were affecting tree growth and disease development.

No actions were scheduled and none were taken during this meeting. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Robert H. Barben