

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
January 27, 2015**

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at the University of Florida, IFAS, CREC, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Tom Jerkins. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were: Mr. Bobby Barben; Mr. Larry Black; Dr. Lisa Conti; Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr.; Dr. Mary Duryea; Mr. Tom Jerkins; Dr. Joe Joyce; Mr. Ricke Kress; Mr. Jerry Newlin; Mr. Wayne Simmons; Mr. Bob Stambaugh; and Mr. Hugh Thompson (telephone). Mr. McLean was absent. Also participating were: Dr. Harold Browning; Ms. Brandi Goller; Dr. Susan Logue; Mr. Mike Sparks; Dr. Stephanie Slinski; Dr. Jim Syvertsen; and Dr. Tom Turpen (telephone).

Also in attendance were: Ms. Sarah Anderson; Dr. Tim Anglea; Mr. Ryan Armstrong; Dr. Calvin Arnold; Mr. Dennis Broadway; Dr. Jim Dukowitz (telephone); Ms. LeAnna Himrod; Mr. Sean McCoy; Dr. Michael Rogers; Ms. Shelley Rossetter; Dr. Brian Scully; Ms. Shannon Shepp; Ms. Callie Walker; Dr. Rosa Walsh; Mr. Mitch Willis; and Ms. Audrey Nowicki.

Mr. Kress moved to accept the Minutes of the December 9, 2014 Board of Directors meeting, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Barben. A correction was noted under Governance Committee that it was Florida Citrus Mutual that recommended the reappointment of Mr. Jerkins and Mr. Simmons. The motion to approve the minutes with this correction passed unanimously.

Finance and Audit Committee: Vice-Chairman Larry Black reported the committee reviewed the CRDF Form 990 at their meeting January 26th, and requested a few entries on Form 990 be reviewed with the accountant. Mr. Black recommended approval of the Form 990, seconded by Mr. Davis. Mr. Thompson stated that the CRDF Form 990 has been sent to the Board for review and welcomes any comments at this time. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Black asked Ms. Goller to review the December 2014 financial summary. Ms. Goller noted the cash balance is \$2.18 million, and including the Receivables and Payables is net \$2.07 million. Mr. Black and Ms. Goller further reviewed the Income and Expense Reports, noting reasons for variances. Mr. Thompson reminded the Board that the projected CRDF cash reserves decrease from \$4.5 million to \$1.5 million in this fiscal year, will require significant additional oversight of cash flow management.

Mr. Black also summarized the CRDF investment accounts. Dr. Browning summarized the status of the NIFA nuPssyllid Grant funding, noting that in this third year of the project, expenditures are tracking the budget. The nuPssyllid team will meet February 8th in Orlando prior to IRCHLB IV to review progress to date and to discuss the need for revisions to the original work plan and budget. Dr. Browning noted there is not a risk of losing the funding during the 5-year life of the grant, as resources can be re-directed within the project.

Long Term Research Funding and Legislative Matters: Mr. Sparks reported that last week citrus growers joined FCM for the fly-in to Tallahassee to discuss citrus issues before the legislative session. He

is comfortable that the Florida Legislature understands the issues and at present supports the \$8 million request for HLB research effort.

Dr. Browning reported that a press release is expected from USDA announcing the NIFA projects that have been approved and the current status of approved USDA MAC projects. Dr. Browning also reviewed the 28 MAC projects for early detection, sustainability, therapies and vector control. More than half of these arising out of the stakeholder suggestions. The current commitment to these projects is approximately 11.5 million dollars. Dr. Turpen added it would be helpful to have periodic summary progress reports from the projects so the Foundation could follow the research and be prepared to assist or supplement with additional projects where needed to get results to the field sooner.

Governance Committee: Chairman Bob Stambaugh reported the committee met January 13th. The committee recommended nomination of Mr. Jerkins for President, Mr. Kress for Vice President, Mr. Thompson for Treasurer and Mr. Newlin for Secretary for the coming year. Mr. Stambaugh offered the motion on the nominations. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jerkins reported that Dr. Joyce will vacate his seat on the Board this month, having served since the initial formation of the Foundation. Mr. Jerkins voiced his appreciation of Dr. Joyce's dedication and time since 2008. Dr. Jackie Burns has been named by the UF President to assume this board role as the President's appointee. Dr. Joyce thanked all of the members of the Board for their hard work, dedication and passion to their cause.

Mr. Stambaugh requested Board members to return the completed COO Evaluation form as soon as possible.

Research Management Committee: Chairman Bobby Barben invited Dr. Susan Logue to give an update on the Knowledge Mapping process.

Dr. Logue's presentation included an outline of the key opportunities that resulted from this first session. Her full presentation can be found at the website citrusrdf.org. Dr. Logue also shared a list of gaps that resulted from the Knowledge Mapping session.

In the discussion that followed, board members discussed suggestions for best practices including coordination of quarterly topical meetings, seminars with researchers to discuss their specific projects, hiring an outreach person to coordinate and facilitate meetings which provides structure, and recruiting additional project managers to coordinate and deliver final results. It was noted that at present, staff and contracted managers are coordinating these processes. It was suggested that CRDF look at other organizations for models to enhance project management. It was suggested CRDF does not have enough investment in project management.

Other outcomes of the Knowledge Mapping session included identification of barriers to conduct of critical HLB research. This includes availability of uninfected and infected plants for experiments, as well as access to Asian citrus psyllid populations and infected psyllids for various research goals. Discussion of core capacity to provide these assets on-demand led to this area being identified as a potential bottleneck to progress in several research areas.

Mr. Barben reported that, at the Research Management Committee on January 21st, Dr. Stansly's project #447 was addressed, with the Research Management Committee recommending funding for an additional year. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve Dr. Stansly's project #447 for an additional year

in the amount of \$124,470 on existing sites. Seconded by Mr. Newlin, the motion passed 12-1 with one dissenting vote.

The Research Management Committee will meet prior to the next Board meeting to discuss projects that are terminating this fiscal year and to determine projects critical for continuation.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Dr. Browning reported on behalf of the chair and vice-chair that the committee met January 20th and discussed projects to recommend for Board approval.

Dr. Slinski summarized two field proposals from NuFarm Americas, Inc. to evaluate commercial antibiotics against HLB in citrus. The first is to determine the efficacy, rates and application methods for oxy-tetracycline (Mycoshield™). This project is proposed for one year in the amount of \$50,000 to support the contracted field trial applications and data collection at two sites.

The second and related project proposed to conduct 23 field trials in Florida, Texas and California to establish residue data following oxy-tetracycline application. This would contribute towards establishment of residue tolerances across the citrus crop grouping, and the request was in the amount of \$291,270 over two years.

Following discussion, NuFarm representatives were requested to provide additional information along with a revised proposal and will follow up with Dr. Slinski and Dr. Browning. Mr. Black moved to approve funding to NuFarm for proposals in the amounts of \$50,000 and \$291,370 for a total of \$341,370, subject to staff's resolution of the open items described in Dr. Slinski's presentation and acceptable contract negotiations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Duryea. Mr. Jerkins suggested the Foundation take an aggressive stand if any issues remain unresolved, convening the Executive Committee if necessary. The deliverables for project 1 are the field efficacy data for oxy-tetracycline and streptomycin against HLB. Project 2 deliverables include residue data obtained from the 23 field trials. Ultimately, a use label for oxy-tetracycline is eventually expected. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Slinski gave an update on the organization of the antimicrobial matrix. Dr. Slinski explained the structure of the matrix and highlighted how the dynamic matrix will be used to summarize bactericidal information as it is derived. Various uses were suggested, including prioritization of candidates for advancement and communication to committees and board of the current status of individual candidates and the collective groups of varying chemistries.

Dr. Slinski reported that the CPDC approved a motion to recommend Board approval for the addition of up to 30 assays in the amount of up to \$101,958.75 through December 2015 to Dr. Claudio Gonzalez's Research Service Agreement #13-09. Mr. Newlin moved approval of Dr. Claudio Gonzalez's proposal in the amount of \$101,958.75 to screen 30 additional assays through December 2015. Seconded by Mr. Black, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Slinski introduced a new proposal from Dr. Pelz-Stelinski for *in vitro* whole plant assays to test the efficacy of antimicrobial materials against *CLas*, mobility of the material in the plant and phytotoxicity. The Research Service Agreement proposes spending up to \$125,797.33 for up to 50 assays over 12

months. Mr. Newlin moved the Board approve Dr. Stelinski's proposal for the whole plant greenhouse assays in the amount of \$125,797.33. Seconded by Mr. Black, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Slinski reported that the Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association was contacted to identify potential partners and increase awareness of the Foundation's needs in relation to bactericides. A template was suggested for CRDF to summarize the status and information on advanced candidates for distribution to potential partners.

Dr. Browning reported that Ms. Callie Walker, FDACS CHMA Coordinator, made a presentation to the Commercial Product Delivery Committee on a MAC-approved demonstration project to remove up to 5,000 acres of economically abandoned citrus and to evaluate the impact on reducing disease pressure in remaining nearby groves. In addition, Dr. Albrigo presented a summary of the mixed results of PGR field trials.

Dr. Browning indicated the need for the Board to select a grower cooperator for the third site for the field trials of candidate HLB-tolerant rootstocks. The previous two sites selected were A. Duda and Sons in the Southwest area and Peace River Packing Company for the Ridge site. The grower cooperator candidates remaining for selection are Southern Gardens Citrus for a Southwest site and Ben Hill Griffin, Inc. for a Southwest or Ridge site. Per the procedures used in the previous site selections, Ben Hill Griffin, Inc. was drawn for the third site.

The Commercial Product Delivery Project Progress Report for the quarter ending December 31, 2014 was included in the meeting materials. Anyone having questions on the projects is encouraged to contact Dr. Browning or the project manager for that topic.

Industry Research Coordinating Committee: Chairman Wayne Simmons had no activity to report.

COO Report: Dr. Browning reported that he met with 110-120 state legislators from throughout the U.S. early in January, and arranged for a grove tour January 2nd for them to personally see the effects of HLB. Three legislators from Iowa indicated that they had never heard of HLB. Discussions included questions about GMO's and other topics of common interest. It is clear that many states share pest and disease challenges across a diversity of crops. A number of farming advocates were interested in the overview of HLB and Florida's efforts to find solutions. Dr. Browning is scheduled to participate in a Farm Foundation Forum in Washington D.C. January 27th to discuss funding models for agricultural research, reporting f on the CRDF model and how it is designed to solve HLB. A part of this forum will focus on the new Federal Foundation for Agricultural Research which was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill.

New Business: There was no new business to report.

Future CRDF Meetings:

- Board of Directors meeting – February 24, 2015

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Jerry Newlin