

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
October 27, 2015

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at the University of Florida, IFAS, CREC, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, in Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by President Tom Jerkins. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were: Mr. Larry Black; Dr. Jackie Burns (telephone); Dr. Lisa Conti (telephone); Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr.; Mr. Tom Jerkins; Mr. Ricke Kress; Mr. Ben McLean (telephone); Mr. Jerry Newlin (telephone); Mr. Wayne Simmons; Mr. Bob Stambaugh; and Mr. Hugh Thompson. Mr. Barben was absent. Also participating were: Mr. Dan Botts; Dr. Harold Browning; Mr. Andrew Meadows; Dr. Stephanie Slinski; Dr. Tom Turpen (telephone); and Mr. Lee Wheeler.

Also in attendance were: Ms. Sarah Anderson (telephone); Dr. James Dukowitz (telephone); Ms. Brandi Goller; Ms. Leanna Himrod; Ms. Audrey Nowicki; Dr. Michael Rogers; Ms. Shelley Rossetter; and Ms. Shannon Shepp.

Mr. Kress moved to accept the Minutes of the September 22, 2015 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black, who requested the reference to HLB and the degree of infection in the COO Report be clarified that was referring to Texas. With that correction, the motion passed unanimously.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Hugh Thompson reviewed the September 2015 financial summary and accompanying reports. Discussion of the recent refund to CRDF of overpayments on UF projects occurred and staff are evaluating the revenue sources associated with the refunds, which cover the period 2010 through June 30, 2015. The committee directed staff to close the UFICO account as a result of smaller CRDF reserves and alternative investment options. Mr. Black made a motion to accept the September financial statement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kress and passed unanimously.

Mr. Wheeler reported that the audit for FYE June 30, 2015 has been completed, and the final report should be issued within a week. No compliance or internal control issues were identified. Mr. Black moved to accept the draft FYE 6-30-2015 audit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and passed unanimously.

Dr. Browning reviewed the request for sponsorship of the September 2016 International Citrus Congress scheduled for Brazil, noting that as the spread of HLB continues to affect other countries as well as spreading in the U.S., more presenters will attend to share knowledge. Mr. Thompson made a motion to fund sponsorship of the 2016 ICC in Brazil in the amount of \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and passed unanimously.

Long Term Research Funding and Legislative Matters: Mr. Meadows reported the state budget request of \$8.5 million for the next fiscal year has strong support among members of the Appropriations Committee and Florida Legislature. Federal meetings continue with requests to expand support for U.S. citrus and the Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP). Mr. Andrews reported that Florida Citrus Mutual has been working on the dissemination of information to growers for the upcoming 2016 Box Tax referendum.

Governance Committee: Chairman Bob Stambaugh reported the COO Review forms will be distributed to the Board members and requested they be returned to him by November 23rd.

Research Management Committee: Chairman Bobby Barben said the committee has not met.

Dr. Turpen reviewed the status of the nuPsyllid project, noting an expectation of the redirection of some funding since the rearing, testing, and disseminating won't be completed. While progress has been made with the three drivers, none are ready for the next steps. Mr. Black suggested the stakeholder advisory group meet prior to any redirection of funds. Dr. Browning stated that unspent budgets on the developmental elements of the project can be continued for the remainder of the project. He noted also that NIFA has recently funded two SCRI projects related to alternative psyllid management strategies, with Dr. Bryce Falk, UC Davis, and Dr. Judy Brown, UAZ that will complement their efforts on the CRDF project.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Chairman Ben McLean reported the CPDC met on October 20th. Discussions included a report on the Knowledge Mapping session and an update on the Section 18 application.

Dr. Browning stated that a Rootstock Field Day is planned for November 10th at the A. Duda & Sons groves in LaBelle. A Thermotherapy Field Day is being planned on December 3rd at the Wheeler groves in Lake Wales. Information can be found on the CRDF web page and Extension Agents' web sites.

Mr. McLean reported that the committee reviewed a proposal and bids received by Dr. Slinski for a biopesticides field trial to replace the previous project which was prematurely ended. Mr. McLean made a motion to fund the biopesticide field trial up to \$16,000, later clarifying a maximum of \$16,104. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kress and passed unanimously.

Dr. Turpen provided an update on the psyllid shield project, pointing out its potential role in area-wide protection of solid block plantings. He has had discussions with the UF Office of Technology and Licensing, potential partners, and regulatory agencies.

Mr. Botts gave an update on the status of the Tree Health Section 18 application, noting the package has been forwarded to FDACS for review. At the same time, it is being evaluated by outside peer science reviewers. He noted the importance of letters of support from the citrus industry for the application. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will complete its review, and if justified, will forward the application to EPA.

Dr. Browning reported that an outcome of the Knowledge Mapping session was a single phase field trial that puts the best candidates side by side in the field, with the review and selection of candidates to be tested by a committee of growers and researchers. Simultaneous evaluation of performance, resolving intellectual property issues, addressing regulatory considerations and planning scale-up will shorten the total timeline to delivery and the group estimated the process could take eight years from the time candidates went to the field until ready for use. Other recommendations from the group were oversight by CRDF, and an annual evaluation of data from each of the trials. The CPDC should have preliminary plans for establishing the committees and be ready to put the first call for candidates out for a 2016 trial. The Project Manager will be a Foundation employee who oversees the decision processes, liaison with the scientific community and the shared database.

Mr. McLean reported the committee reviewed a proposal from Dr. Graham which would provide \$44,000 co-funding in the last year of a multi-year citrus canker trial in Brazil. This trial is providing valuable information to Florida growers on the effects of windbreaks on canker management in combination with other control measures. Mr. McLean made a motion to approve Dr. Graham's canker proposal for co-funding the project in the amount of \$44,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and passed unanimously.

Industry Research Coordinating Committee: Chairman Wayne Simmons had nothing to report.

COO Report: Dr. Browning reported Strategic Planning discussions will take place during the Executive Committee meeting in November. A firm has been identified to assist in the planning and is moving forward. The timeline for this effort calls for monthly updates and presentation for discussion/adoption of recommendations at the February 2016 Committee and Board Meetings.

Dr. Browning updated the board on staffing activities, indicating that a candidate for the Program Assistant position has been selected. Employment verification and the background check are being completed at this time.

The position description for the Bacterial Project Manager has been submitted to the UF Classification and Compensation Office of HR for review and approval prior to advertising. The goal is to have a hiring decision by the end of the year.

The development of a Project Manager position for the HLB Tolerance/Resistance project area also has advanced, with submission of the position description pending. The Knowledge Mapping session recommendation for the Breeding and Engineering Project Manager included that the incumbent possess organizational skills as well as an agricultural background. The position description should be ready for UF approval within 15 days.

Dr. Browning made a presentation to the Citrus Commission in September. Following an update of CRDF programs and progress, a discussion was held on the topic of inoculum removal. A white paper is being written to summarize the need, potential impacts and methods available to assist growers in removing unmanaged citrus.

Following the August trip to Fundecitrus, Dr. Juliano Ayres continues to share the Brazilian's knowledge and experience with managing HLB. Dr. Browning recommended that Mr. Ayres be invited to present an update and his thoughts on management of Florida HLB to the Board in January.

Future CRDF Meetings: Board of Directors meeting – December 8, 2015

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Minutes submitted by Jerry Newlin