

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
Minutes of the
Research Management Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2016

A meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Thursday, January 21, 2016. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Chairman Bobby Barben. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were: Mr. Bobby Barben; Mr. Tim Dooley; Mr. Steve Farr; Mr. David Howard (telephone); Mr. Peter McClure (telephone); Mr. Joby Sherrod; Mr. Wayne Simmons; Mr. Jim Snively; and Mr. Mike Stewart. Mr. Bill Barber and Mr. Larry Davis did not participate. Also participating were: Dr. Harold Browning; Dr. Jackie Burns; Mr. Jerry Newlin (telephone); Dr. Michael Rogers; Dr. Stephanie Slinski; and Dr. Tom Turpen (telephone). Also present were: Ms. Mariana Mansur; Ms. Audrey Nowicki; and Dr. Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Snively moved to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons, and passed unanimously.

Dr. Browning introduced Ms. Mariana Mansur, hired to fill the Program Assistant position.

Dr. Browning reminded the committee of the talking points tool for communication with growers that was compiled and sent to the Board and committees.

Mr. Barben informed the group of a concern he received from a grower that culturing hasn't been completed. Dr. Browning and Dr. Turpen are communicating with the culturing project leads regarding the opportunity for cooperation with those conducting metabolomics on the pathogen.

Dr. Browning began the discussion of current research projects, noting that due to the federal funding sources' timelines and potential overlap there was not a general call for proposals this year. The five Project Managers reviewed the progress of current research as it relates to the objectives of each project. Once the comments of the project managers were compiled, they met to discuss and categorize each project into priorities, forwarding recommendations for invitation, further discussion of a project, or termination to this committee. The CPD projects were similarly reviewed and review comments will be made available to the CPD Committee.

Referring to the RMC project spreadsheet, progress of the first twenty-nine projects coded light green were discussed along with recommendations appropriate to each. Recommendations included deferring on further support and referring PIs to federal HLB funding programs, integration into the rootstocks and cions knowledge mapping follow-on, and integrating with the mature citrus transformation facility project.

There was general discussion of the breeding program, importance of the project manager to coordinate efforts, and the benefits of sharing knowledge among researchers. Mr. Barben suggested a field day be held at the Picos Farm to see the progress with new plant materials first-hand. With the critical need for tolerant rootstocks at this point in time, the committee did not see a need to make crosses for additional rootstocks, a process that would involve a decade or more.

Dr. Dewdney's project on black spot was discussed including how to address lifting Federal quarantine on black spot. A request was made to expand the project scope to obtain data in support of quarantine questions.

Dr. Browning reviewed the project managers' recommendations for three current projects and two proposed projects which were suggested for return proposal invitation. In addition, Dr. Turpen outlined two follow-on projects proposed by Dr. Duan, rapid detection of HLB infection and quick differentiation of HLB tolerance using two major metabolite biomarkers, and rapid selection of variant citrus plants or bud sports from commercial citrus varieties with greater HLB resistance/tolerance that the project managers suggested could be projects to invite for full proposals.

Dr. Browning reviewed the final portion of the list, thirty-nine projects, many of which will terminate by July 1, 2016, noting projects which are already continuing with CRDF or federal funding and those for which the research is complete. Among these are projects that have not been recommended to continue. Barben requested that the comprehensive final reports be sent to the committee. They are currently available on the secure committee page.

Mr. Howard requested that Dr. Stansly's Project 447, which completed its fourth year, and established organic and reflective mulch treatments in a new planting in the last two years in the Indian River region, be considered for extending the final trial for an additional year to obtain yield and economics data. This project will be incorporated into the motion for considering additional projects.

Mr. Barben stated the importance of communicating results of Dr. Dewdney's post-bloom fruit drop projects to the industry in the next few months. Dr. Rogers will follow up to be sure the information is communicated and determine if a proposal for additional work is needed. The proposal resulting from the next steps will be addressed by the Commercial Product Development Committee and if approved will be advanced to allow for timely implementation during this season.

In summary, twenty-nine current RMC projects are continuing, and seven projects will be recommended to the Board for invitation of a full proposal.

The project with Mr. Adair for the Vero Beach component of the reflective mulch project will be deferred to the CPDC for consideration of a proposal for the third year of to complete yield evaluation of economics.

Dr. Graham will be contacted to determine if gaps exist in the project 732 root studies, requesting a gap proposal if needed.

Mr. Snively made a motion to approve the invitation of full proposals on the nine projects as recommended in the previous discussions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and passed unanimously.

Dr. Slinski reported on the status of the Section 18 application, noting the EPA has made a request to FDACS to clarify PHI at forty days instead of sixty days as currently shown on the label for canker. Grower recommendations for use based on the final labels as approved will be ready for immediate distribution upon announcement.

Dr. Browning reported the Foundation's Strategic Planning process continues, with recommendations to be presented to the Board on February 23rd.

Other business:

Dr. Browning requested input from the committee on ways CRDF can communicate responses to unanswered questions. Reporting on project progress as it relates to the objectives would be most helpful. Information was also requested on RNAi. A proposal for field trial is expected to be considered by the CPDC next month.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by A. Nowicki