

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

May 24, 2016

(with BoD revision of 6/15/2016)

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 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 Vice President Ricke Kress. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were: Mr. Bobby Barben; Mr. Larry Black; Dr. Jackie Burns; Mr. Ned Hancock; Mr. Ricke Kress; Dr. Jeanna Mastrodicasa; Mr. Ben McLean; Mr. Jerry Newlin; Mr. Wayne Simmons; and Mr. Hugh Thompson. Dr. Lisa Conti; Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr.; and Mr. Tom Jerkins did not participate. Also participating were: Dr. Harold Browning; Mr. Andrew Meadows; Dr. Stephanie Slinski; Mr. Mike Sparks; and Dr. Tom Turpen.

Also in attendance were: Dr. Tim Anglea; Dr. James Dukowitz (telephone); Ms. Brandi Goller; Ms. LeAnne Himrod; Ms. Susan Logue; Ms. Audrey Nowicki; Ms. Shelley Rossetter; and Ms. Shannon Shepp.

Mr. Black moved to accept the Minutes of the April 26, 2016 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and passed unanimously.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Hugh Thompson reviewed the April 30, 2016 financial summary and accompanying statements. Mr. Thompson moved to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

Dr. Browning provided an update on the FY 2016-17 Proposed Budget, noting anticipated revenue of \$14.4 million combined with an estimated carry-in of \$3 million. Dr. Browning reviewed the expense projections and reported that the final budget should be presented for approval at the June Board meeting.

Long Term Research Funding and Legislative Matters: Mr. Meadows reported work continues on developing legislative funding relief for growers in the form of tax breaks, and outlined speakers at the Annual Meeting in June when this will be addressed further.

Governance Committee: Chairman Ricke Kress reported that the committee had not met.

Research Management Committee: Chairman Bobby Barben reported on the meeting held May 18, 2016 at which time seven CATP16 proposals were reviewed along with recommendations from the Scientific Advisory Board.

Mr. Barben made a motion that the Board not fund proposals #16-006 Duan and #16-004 Lapointe. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hancock and passed unanimously.

Mr. Barben made a motion that the Board approval funding of three (3) CATP16 proposals with scope and budget reductions as outlined by the Scientific Advisory Board: #16-007 Duan; #16-009 Triplett; and #16-001 Li. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and passed unanimously.

Mr. Barben made a motion for Board approval of the request that two PI's revise and re-submit their CATP16 proposals, #16-008 Johnson and #16-005 Wang. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newlin and passed unanimously.

Mr. Barben reported two current projects were discussed with the recommendation to terminate: #910 Powell due to completion of Objectives and subsequent funding received from the MAC Group, and #903 Gruber-Boman due to the original PI on the project having departed from UF and the replacement PI having retired. Mr. Barber made a motion for Board approval to terminate current projects #910-Powell and #903-Gruber-Boman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and passed unanimously.

Dr. Turpen reported that the nuPsyllid team leaders, stakeholders and scientific advisors met to discuss the project status and review budget revision requests. Dr. Browning reported the revisions are being reviewed and summarized the process for approval of budget revisions by the proper NIFA representatives prior to revisions of the sub-awards. A request was made to generate an outline of the results to date to communicate accomplishments, show continuing/spinoff research as a result, and which project objectives may continue at the conclusion.

Mr. Barben reported that Dr. Dewdney made a presentation on the status of project #16-010C on postbloom fruit drop (PFD) and responded to questions posed by the committee. The RMC recommended that a workshop be organized to further discuss research that could assist growers in managing PFD.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Chairman Ben McLean reported on the meeting held on May 17, 2016.

A Proposal for a Research Partnership was made by Bayer Crop Science representatives Dirk Nennstiel, Christoph Andreas Braun, and Andreas Goertz for three- to six-years co-funding for sustainable citrus crop and management solutions to develop host, pathogen and vector technologies. The presentation outlined five approaches and a three-phase plan with a Collaboration Model providing for Joint Steering Committee, dedicated personnel, development decision direction and return on investment for anti-bacterial solutions originating from the period of joint research. Several in-depth questions from the committee followed relative to the components proposed, available funding sources, and engaging other states and Brazil. Mr. Kress invited Board members to submit questions in advance of the meeting to provide to Bayer. Dr. Anglea indicated there are other partners that can also be approached if the Foundation approves of the project and the gap in funding is identified. Mr. McLean made a motion for the Board to approve the committee's recommendation of a follow-up meeting with Bayer to discuss questions raised and the next steps towards a final proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barben and passes unanimously.

Mr. McLean reported the committee was updated on progress of the trunk injection field trials currently being conducted on Project #15-048C Minter and received a request for additional funding in the amount of \$3,750 to add a third application on the project. Mr. McLean made a motion to approve additional funding to Project #15-048C Minter in the amount of \$3,750 for a third application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hancock and passed unanimously.

The committee received details of a proposal from Dr. Laurene Tetard, UCF, to detection and quantify bactericidal absorption and movement in citrus. Mr. McLean made a motion to recommend the Board fund the Tetard proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newlin and passed unanimously.

The committee received a request for additional support in the amount of \$1,000 in Years 2 and 3 of Project #942.2C Yonce to cover costs of the additional scope of work requested in the soil microbial field

trial. Mr. McLean made a motion for Board support of the addition of \$1,000 to Project #942.2C for the cost of additional scope of work. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kress and passed unanimously.

The committee received a proposal to extend project #943C Rogers for scale-up of thermal therapy for two additional years to coincide with the corresponding funding by MAC at approximately \$89,000/year. Mr. McLean moved to recommend Board support of additional two years of funding on Project #943C Rogers to support the scale-up of thermal therapy equipment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and passed unanimously.

The committee reviewed the 2016 invited Proposal #16-011C Adair which extends Dr. Stansly's previously funded field trial of reflective mulch at Vero Beach field sites for one year in the amount of \$89,439. Mr. McLean made a motion for Board approval of proposal #16-011C for one year in the amount of \$89,439. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and passed with one dissenting vote.

The committee received a request for additional funding to project #15-032C Irey in the amount of \$2,878 for the installation of PMA CLas detection/analysis in SGR PCR lab for HLB testing. Mr. McLean made a motion for Board approval of \$2,878 additional funding for Project #15-032C Irey for the installation of PMA CLas detection. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and passed with one abstention, by Mr. Kress.

The committee received a three-year proposal in the amount of \$554,486 from Mr. Irey, Southern Gardens, for the Use of RNAI delivered by the Citrus Tristeza Virus Viral Vector (CTVvv). The project will establish a small field trial to replicate and validate the growth room conditions to determine if a CTVvv together with RNAi can be used to specifically and economically control ACP without the use of or to augment traditional pesticides. Mr. McLean made a motion for Board approval of the 3-year \$554,486 proposal for Use of RNAi delivered by the Citrus Tristeza Virus Viral Vector to control the Asian Psyllid. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and passed with one abstention, by Mr. Kress.

Dr. Turpen and Dr. Dukowitz reported on transgenic citrus and the provisional patent application for NPRI sequence, the plant gene that regulates response and is showing some promise in field tested plants to suppress HLB. After a detailed review of the license, they concluded it is in the best interest of the Foundation and industry and proposed no objections to the license by the Foundation. Mr. Black made a motion for the Foundation to issue a 'no objection' letter to the University of Florida. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barben, and passed with one abstention, by Mr. Kress.

Dr. Browning noted the Project Managers' Quarterly Progress Report in Board materials and posted on the CRDF website, and indicated that as projects enter the second and third years, more data will be included in future reports.

Industry Research Coordinating Committee: Chairman Wayne Simmons reported the committee met for a discussion of citrus industry research priorities, which will be compiled and re-distributed for prioritization along with the current inventory of U.S. research and further definition of gaps, with the final report expected in July or August. The inventory will be posted to the citrusrdf.org web page once completed.

Executive Committee: Strategic Planning – Dr. Browning pointed out the Strategic Planning Initiatives which were included in the meeting materials.

Initiative 1: Short-Term Technologies – review current portfolio and present priority topics to the Board; Mr. Jerkins will take the lead. Mr. Hancock made a motion to accept Initiative 1. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and passed unanimously.

Initiative 2: Medium- to Long-Term Technologies – define, identify current and potential projects, and identify prospective partnership projects; Mr. Barben to take the lead. Initiative is ongoing after initial assessment. Mr. Black moved to accept Initiative 2, seconded by Mr. McLean. Discussion followed that the assistance of an outside panel would be beneficial. Topics should be identified by June 30 for outside review. The motion passed unanimously.

Initiative 3: Grower Playbook; Mr. Newlin to take the lead. UF is well underway with the handbook; the Foundation will lead an *ad hoc* committee to work with UF on development. Mr. Black made a motion to approve Initiative 3. The motion was seconded by Mr. McLean and passed unanimously. Ms. Shepp recommended Dr. Walsh be added to the *ad-hoc* committee reviewing the Grower Playbook.

Initiative 4: Regulatory and Business; Mr. Black to take the lead. Mr. Newlin made a motion to accept Initiative 4. The motion was seconded by Mr. McLean and passed unanimously. While this is already occurring to a degree, a consultant may be hired as necessary to insure this initiative is adequately met since it is an important initiative.

COO Report: Dr. Browning reminded members of the June 15th Board meeting in Bonita Springs and noted the suggestion was made to have a more in-depth discussion on one specific topic of research, which was agreed to by all.

A Board photo will be taken at the June 15th meeting.

Future CRDF Meetings: Box Tax Advisory Council followed by Board of Directors meeting – Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 9:30 am in Bonita Springs

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Minutes submitted by Jerry Newlin