Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
July 5, 2018

A telephonic meeting of the Executive Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Thursday, July 5, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chairman Larry Black. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Executive Committee members present were: Mr. Larry Black, Mr. Ned Hancock, Mr. Ricke Kress, Dr. Jeanna Mastrodicasa, and Mr. Jerry Newlin. Also participating were: Dr. John Arthington, Mr. Rob Atchley, Dr. Catherine Hatcher, Mr. David Howard, Mr. Ben McLean, Mr. John Morgan, Ms. Audrey Nowicki, Dr. Brian Scully, Dr. Stephanie Slinski, Dr. James Syvertsen, Mr. John Updike and Dr. Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Hancock made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2018, March 5, 2018, March 20, 2018 and June 26, 2018 Executive Committee meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kress and passed unanimously.

Chairman Larry Black turned the meeting over to Dr. Arthington to lead the discussion of the revised Project Manager job description. Dr. Arthington reviewed Dr. Hatcher’s revised responsibilities and proposed pay increase and noted that he discussed the specific requirements with UF. Mr. Newlin questioned whether ‘plant breeding’ should be included in the new job description. Dr. Arthington clarified the position description is broad to include all projects to ensure there is nothing to limit her involvement in CRDF research, without prioritization of any project over another. Mr. Hancock made a motion to approve the revised position and pay increase as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Kress. Mr. Black thanked the members of the committee that reached out to Dr. Hatcher in the last couple weeks. Mr. Kress questioned how Dr. Hatcher’s revised position relates to the other project managers. Dr. Arthington explained that projects that were previously overseen by Dr. Slinski will fall under the responsibility of Dr. Hatcher. She and Mr. Page are reviewing all projects for which CRDF is gathering field information as well as any field tests that should be initiated on internally funded projects; Dr. Syvertsen will continue overseeing those projects that are assigned to him. Asked what Dr. Graham’s role is, currently he is assisting with oversight of the RFP processes. Additional discussion and questions arising on subcontracted project management were tabled for discussion at a future meeting. Mr. Updike, Mr. Howard and Dr. Mastrodicasa requested the specific roles of Jim Syvertsen and Jim Graham (project manager subcontractors) be placed on the July 24 board agenda.

Dr. Hatcher expressed her appreciation for the committee’s show of confidence and support. She acknowledged recent transitions have been difficult for staff, agreed the board should address the broader issues, and said she was satisfied with today’s discussion of her position and pleased to
remain on CRDF staff. The motion to approve the revised position and pay increase passed unanimously.

Under Other Business, Mr. Newlin expressed that he too would like the July 24 board agenda to include discussion of the specifics of the previous Bactericide Project Manager position to make sure they are covered, reminding that the tank mix subcommittee has not met in recent weeks pending the outcome of the RFP, as well as making sure all requirements for the Section 18 issuance have been met. Dr. Arthington reported in the time remaining Dr. Slinski is assisting with 1) efforts on the EPA report that Dr. Sundin was hired as a consultant on, and 2) assisting Mr. Dan Botts with the White Paper on Bactericide Delivery (i.e. trunk injection discussion). Dr. Arthington will check with CPDC Chair to see if any other tasks have not been addressed prior to the July 24 meeting.

Mr. Black asked if there was an action item brought forward by the tank mix committee; Mr. Newlin indicated Dr. Slinski was to work behind the scenes of the bactericide trials to compile extensive data including work done by others before they move forward. Additionally, the current RFP may bring proposals to help address the tank mix topic.

Mr. Kress questioned the status of the TPR contract. Dr. Arthington stated at the last board meeting it was approved to continue the FFVA agreement for three months along with the specific Memo of Understanding to prepare a White Paper on what’s been learned and what the next steps should be for trunk injection. Having received notice of Mr. Botts’ and Mr. Stewart’s retirements later this year, the balance of the contract with both FFVA and TPR will have to be re-evaluated.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 am.

Minutes submitted by A. Nowicki