

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
Minutes of the
Research Management Committee Meeting
Friday, September 21, 2018

A telephonic meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Friday, September 21, 2018. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Chairman David Howard. The roll was called, and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were: Mr. Bobby Barben, Mr. Tim Dooley, Mr. David Howard, Mr. Joby Sherrod, Mr. Buddy Strickland and Mr. Forest Taylor. Mr. Steve Farr, Mr. Daniel Scott, Mr. Wayne Simmons and Mr. Jim Snively did not participate.

Also participating were: Ms. Brandy Brown, Mr. Rick Dantzler, Dr. Fred Gmitter, Dr. Catherine Hatcher, Ms. Audrey Nowicki and Mr. Brandon Page.

Mr. Sherrod moved to accept the minutes of the September 4, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dooley and passed unanimously.

Chairman Howard asked Dr. Hatcher to open the meeting with the review of the project revisions with contingencies requested for funding.

Dr. Hatcher led the committee discussion of each proposal revision:

- #18-006 Dewdney – Dr. Dewdney was requested to reduce the scope of the project to focus on objectives 1 and 3, with a corresponding budget reduction. It was agreed the revisions were consistent with the request and the desired outcome is attainable. Mr. Sherrod made a motion to accept the revisions and recommend the revised proposal #18-006 Dewdney to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strickland and passed unanimously.

- #18-010 Gmitter – Dr. Gmitter was requested to provide an explanation of excessive costs of sequencing, why JGI is not more involved in the project, and a budget reduction. Other questions included how Dr. Gmitter intends to communicate findings to the research community, and how this project overlaps with other sequencing projects and current citrus sequences? Dr. Gmitter submitted a budget justification and explained the original budget submitted is necessary to complete the project. He responded to the committee's questions and stated more involvement with JGI would result in a higher budget and subsequent indirect costs. The committee suggested seeking co-funding from other agencies such as CRB and NIFA after year one. Dr. Hatcher advised the committee that the science is sound and the deliverables could have a positive outcome on the industry. Mr. Taylor made a motion to recommend project #18-010 Gmitter for year 1 funding, with the consideration to request co-funding with CRB or other funding organizations in years 2 and 3 with permission from the PI to share the proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sherrod and passed unanimously.

- #18-011 Gmitter – Dr. Gmitter was requested to revise the project scope to be more focused with a substantial budget reduction, as well as clarify the difference between proposal 18-011 and his current NIFA grant. Dr. Gmitter submitted a revision with a budget reduction of \$112,000, primarily for equipment costs removed from the project and provided an explanation in the narrative of the NIFA project overlap. Mr. Barben made a motion to accept the proposal with revisions to initiate further discussion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strickland. Primary concerns were that this proposal is more a of funded program than a research project, the excessive budget, broad focus and deliverables. Mr. Barben amended his original motion to defer approval of project #18-011 Gmitter until the committee can have a broader discussion of Plant Improvement Research in general and formulate a strategy based on industry consensus at the next RMC meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strickland and passed unanimously.
- #18-016 McNellis – Dr. McNellis was requested to reduce the project scope and budget to include only objectives 1 and 6 for proof of concept. CRDF may consider continuation funding of objectives 2 – 5 upon successful completion of objectives 1 and 6. Dr. McNellis addressed all contingencies, reducing the overall budget \$214,773, which included a reduction in post-doc costs and the term from three years to two to obtain proof of concept. Mr. Strickland made a motion to accept the revisions and recommend the revised proposal #18-016 McNellis to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barben and passed unanimously.
- #18-017 Mou – Dr. Mou was requested to reduce the budget, and explain the need for a post-doc in the establishment year of the field trial. In addition, the timeliness of establishing this field trial was questioned due to the current unavailability of clean germplasm. The PI was also advised to consult with the EPA and FDA on regulatory requirements for possible deregulation of elite lines in the future. Dr. Mou submitted a budget reduction of \$84,696, addressed the regulatory issue and explained he has proper material to deploy in the field in the first year to begin observations and evaluations. Mr. Barben made a motion to accept revisions and recommend the revised proposal #18-017 Mou to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strickland and passed unanimously.

In other business, the Chairman discussed the need for additional discussion of funding projects vs. programs to obtain a clear understanding of the desire of the industry going forward. Mr. Dantzer suggested the committee bring this discussion to the Board for better direction.

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

Minutes submitted by Brandy Brown.