A field tour meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Friday, October 24, 2014 at the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded.

The committee met at 10:00 a.m. and a quorum was not present. Committee members participating were: Mr. Bobby Barben; Mr. Tim Dooley; Mr. Steve Farr; Mr. David Howard; Mr. Joby Sherrod and Mr. Wayne Simmons. Mr. Bill Barber, Mr. Larry Davis, Mr. Jim Snively; Mr. Tom Jerkins; Mr. Peter McClure and Mr. Mike Stewart did not participate. Also participating were: Mr. Jerry Newlin; Dr. Phil Stansly; Mr. Scott Croxton; Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton; Dr. Robert Rouse and Ms. Callie Walker.

The main objective of the meeting was to observe and discuss the ongoing field research experiments associated with Dr. Stansly’s CRDF-funded project #447. This project was initiated in early 2012 to evaluate individual and combined treatments of vector control and foliar nutrients to bring a solid planting of round orange into profitable production. In the second year of the project, funding was extended to replicate the experiment in the Indian River Region with a new planting of grapefruit trees located at the Florida Research Center for Agricultural Sustainability in Vero Beach. A third planting related to this research was established at SWFREC to continue evaluation of various treatments on ‘Ray Ruby’ grapefruit. A grower cooperator planting located in Hendry County with A. Duda cooperators also is associated with this project.

Dr. Stansly has submitted a proposal to continue and expand this project, enhancing current trials and incorporating new treatments of organic acids to existing trials. In addition, the proposal includes overlaying several of these treatment combinations on a new cooperator planting to integrate treatments at time of planting. The Research Management Committee has tabled the proposal pending an opportunity to visit the field sites and validate progress that could be expanded with additional investment.

During the grove tours in Immokalee and Labelle, Dr. Stansly and his colleagues gave an overview of the trial parameters, measures and results to date. Committee members and others in attendance discussed the progress, evaluated the general status of the plantings and how the treatments were affecting tree growth and disease development. The value of additional time and imposition of additional treatments at the SWFREC site were discussed, as were the opportunities that an additional new planting would provide.

During the site visit to SWFREC, Immokalee, the tour also visited field sites associated with project #179 conducted by Dr. Bob Rouse. This project has been completed, and evaluated similar combinations of treatments towards HLB and ACP, focusing on established (mature) groves. Dr. Rouse addressed questions on this experiment.

Discussion ensued on the trials and proposed expansion during lunch provided by A. Duda. There were no actions planned on the agenda and none were taken.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Robert H. Barben