

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

July 24, 2018

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at the University of Florida, IFAS, CREC, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, in Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. President Larry Black called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were: Mr. Rob Atchley, Mr. Larry Black, Dr. Jackie Burns, Mr. Joe Davis Jr., Mr. Ned Hancock (telephone), Dr. Greg Hodges (telephone), Mr. David Howard, Mr. Ricke Kress, Mr. Charlie Lykes, Dr. Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Mr. Ben McLean (telephone), Mr. Jerry Newlin, and Mr. John Updike, Jr. Also participating were: Dr. John Arthington, Ms. Brandy Brown, Mr. Rick Dantzler, Dr. Catherine Hatcher, Dr. Brian Scully and Dr. Jim Syvertsen.

Also in attendance were: Mr. Bobby Barben, Ms. Jessica Belcher, Mr. Kevin Bouffard, Mr. Dan Casper, Mr. Peter Chaires, Mr. Dewayne Clieft, Mr. Ed Dickinson, Mr. Aedan Dowling; Mr. Jerry Fankhauser, Ms. Sharon Garrett (telephone), Dr. Jude Grosser, Mr. Ron Hamel, Dr. Alec Hayes, Ms. LeAnna Himrod (telephone), Mr. Jason Johnson, Mr. Richard Lally, Mr. Tom Mitchell, Mr. John Morgan, Mr. Ernie Neff, Ms. Audrey Nowicki (telephone), Mr. Chris Oswalt, Dr. Pat Ouimet, Mr. Brandon Page, Ms. Carrie Porterfield (telephone), Mr. Gee Roe; Dr. Michael Rogers; Ms. Shannon Shepp (telephone); Dr. Stephanie Slinski (telephone), Mr. Tom Stopyra, Ms. Callie Walker and Dr. Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Kress moved to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2018 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newlin and passed unanimously.

Executive Committee: Chairman Larry Black opened the meeting with a brief discussion from the July 5, 2018 Executive Committee meeting, where the committee discussed the revised Project Manager job descriptions and various updates surrounding the project managers and contractor functions.

Dr. John Arthington gave an update on the current duties and roles of the project managers with CRDF, including the elimination of the Bactericides Project Manager position held by Dr. Stephanie Slinski. Dr. Jim Syvertsen is a consultant with CRDF and will be working with the biopesticides data, along with other ongoing field projects. Dr. Slinski's last official day with CRDF will be August 6, 2018. Dr. Slinski will assist Dr. George Sundin, a CRDF consultant, with the Microbial Resistance Monitoring report, which is part of CRDF's responsibility with TPR to support the Section 18. Dr. Slinski will also be assisting Mr. Dan Botts with preparing a white paper on bactericide delivery through trunk injection, review existing data and possible data gaps. Dr. Jim Graham is working with CRDF as a consultant and his responsibilities are to assist in the RFP process with Dr. Catherine Hatcher and Dr. Arthington. His start and end date with CRDF follow the RFP timelines; however, when a new COO comes on, Dr. Graham's role may change.

Dr. Arthington reported that Dr. Catherine Hatcher's Breeding and Resistance Project Manager job description has been revised; the details of her new role and responsibilities are provided in the materials. The revision includes two parts; 1) a special pay increase as an offer to retain her services with CRDF, and 2) the clarification of her job duties. Mr. Howard made a motion to accept the revisions and approve the special pay increase as presented to Dr. Hatcher's job description. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kress and passed unanimously.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Ned Hancock reviewed the Financial Summary for the period ending June 30, 2018. Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the June 2018 financial summary. Mr. Updike seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Arthington reported on CRDF Field Staffing changes of one OPS position to TEAMS status employee. UF is going through a major HR update to OPS employees and it was found that CRDF was out of compliance with one employee, Ms. Emily Collins. Ms. Collins has been employed by UF and CRDF for 7 years and is a great asset to CRDF. The change to her status must be made by August to comply. There was Board discussion about the class & comp and fringe benefits for Ms. Collins to become a TEAMS employee. Mr. Kress made a motion to approve the move of Ms. Collins from OPS to NONEXEMPT TEAMS status as presented with the increase in salary and fringe benefits. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed unanimously. The job description will be written as a time limited position with a 45-day notice of termination.

Long Term Research Funding and Legislative Matters: Mr. Black gave an update for Mr. Mike Sparks on Legislative and funding issues.

Governance Committee: Chairman Kress reported the first active topic relates to the COO position and asked Mr. Black to continue with an update.

Mr. Black gave an update on the status of the COO position. On June 27, there were four in-person interviews conducted from the six phone candidates. The Search and Screen Committee made the decision to investigate one of the candidates further; the follow up from that reach out was that the candidate was not available to take the job at this time so she removed herself from consideration. At that time, the S&S Committee decided to regroup and continue to search for additional candidates and reopen the advertisement. Two candidates were chosen for interviews, which were conducted on July 16, and Mr. Rick Dantzler was recommended by the S&S Committee for the new CRDF COO position. Mr. Black made a motion to recommend Mr. Dantzler for the COO position to Dr. Jack Payne. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis. Mr. Black asked Mr. Dantzler to introduce himself to the Board before BoD discussions.

Mr. Dantzler thanked Mr. Black and the Board for the opportunity to be considered for the COO positions and gave a detailed summary and of his background, his insight on citrus and his plans on helping combat citrus greening.

Mr. Jerry Newlin expressed his support for Mr. Dantzler to become the new COO for CRDF and said he has spoken with fellow growers about what they are looking for in a leader, and none said a scientific background was a priority. He also went on to say, “every one of the growers said it’s time to try a different approach, and communication with the grower community is going to be essential, and Mr. Dantzler fits the bill.”

There was BoD discussion about two other applications that were received and it was agreed that those applicants’ qualifications didn’t warrant further consideration. After no further discussion, the motion was reviewed and passed unanimously.

Mr. Black reported the S&S Committee recommended compensation for Mr. Dantzler in the amount of \$155,000. Mr. Kress made a motion to approve the recommended compensation of \$155,000 for Mr. Dantzler. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Mr. Black congratulated and welcomed Mr. Dantzler as the new CRDF COO.

Mr. Kress gave an update on the Citrus Research Board (CRB) Huanglongbing-Multi-Agency Coordination (HLB-MAC) meeting and shared information regarding a CRB proposal to HLB-MAC. The purpose of this proposal is to solicit funding to design, plan and launch a new organization with the primary purpose to support the development of HLB-resistant citrus varieties for commercial production across the United States. The expectation is that coordinating funding for research, and standardizing breeding efforts supported at the industry, state and federal levels, may reduce the time to market for newly discovered and/or engineered HLB-resistant citrus varieties, thus allowing for continued American citrus production. The CRB was seeking support and participation from CRDF. Mr. Kress made a motion that CRDF should participate in a broader discussion to follow up from the National Citrus Breeding meeting in Denver (February 2018) and be a part of the process as it might move forward. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newlin and passed unanimously.

Research Management Committee: Chairman David Howard reported RMC had a telephonic meeting on July 17 and Dr. Arthington will begin the updates starting with the RMC-18 process and progress.

Dr. Arthington gave an update on progress of the RMC-18 Request For Proposals. Full proposals were due on July 20; 26 RMC, 34 CPD and the 4 service contract proposals have been received, for a total of 64 full proposals to consider. Currently CRDF staff is organizing the proposals and making them available to the *ad hoc* reviewers, Scientific Advisory Boards, as well as both RMC and CPD Committees and CRDF Board. Dr. Arthington discussed the remaining timeline for the RMC-18 process.

Dr. Hatcher gave an update on project #16-007 Duan, field evaluation of the selected variants of Ruby Red grapefruit volunteer seedlings for greater HLB resistance/tolerance. The budget revision addresses:

1. Changes in the field trial design to include three CRD small-scale trials and a one RCBD large-scale trial. The small-scale trials have been planted while the trees for the large-scale trial were budded in July 2018.
2. The issues with planting errors have been addressed, and the map has been generated
3. Post Doc expertise not required at this stage, but a technician has been assigned, and the budget has been adjusted accordingly.

Dr. Hatcher noted that while flaws in the project had been corrected, Dr. Scully's continued advice on field trial evaluation on project 16-007 is essential. Dr. Hatcher recommended to the Board that CRDF continue funding and support of the revised project #16-007 with Dr. Brian Scully as an advisor and field trial expert to Dr. Duan. Mr. Howard made a motion to support continued funding for Project# 16-007 Duan as presented with the revised proposal and request Dr. Scully's continued assistance and expertise to the project team. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kress and passed with two abstaining votes from Dr. Burns and Dr. Mastrodicasa. Dr. Scully stated that after 2020 the maintenance and continuation of the field trial would be assured. Dr. Scully will seek assistance from Dr. Hatcher to design the large-scale field trial and analysis of data collected from project 16-007.

Mr. Howard reported that as an HLB-MAC committee member, he had been asked to get representation from CRDF staff on the HLB-MAC committee. Mr. Howard recommended Dr. Hatcher as the replacement for Dr. Browning. Dr. Hatcher is familiar with MAC operations and she has participated in previous MAC meetings. Mr. Howard made a motion to accept Dr. Hatcher as CRDF's representative on the HLB-MAC committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed unanimously.

On behalf of RMC, Mr. Howard thanked and recognized the CRDF staff, especially Ms. Audrey Nowicki, for their hard work and commitment to the RFP process during the unsettled times. Mr. Howard also recognized Dr. Stephanie Slinski for her past dedication to get us to the point we are today.

Dr. Hatcher gave a brief update on the project manager report, noting that the June quarterly reports on active projects are being collected and reviewed. The project manager report will be presented with the next CRDF quarterly report.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Chairman Ben McLean reported there is nothing new to report on, however, he met with Dr. Arthington about the timeline and process for the CPDC-18 proposals.

Dr. Arthington gave a brief update on the HLB Bactericide survey and Dr. Hatcher showed a presentation on the bactericide survey.

COO Report: Dr. Arthington reminded everyone that CRDF will continue with the Educational Sessions following each of the CRDF Board meetings.

Future CRDF Meetings: Mr. Black announced the upcoming meetings:

Board of Directors – Tuesday, August 28, 2018 – Co-hosted by Highlands County Citrus Growers Association, to be held at the Bert Harris Jr. Agricultural Center in Sebring

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Jerry Newlin, Secretary.