

**CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.**

**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

**August 27, 2013**

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at the Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by President Tom Jerkins. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were: Mr. Barben; Mr. Black; Mr. Davis; Mr. Jerkins; Mr. Kress; Mr. McLean; Mr. Newlin; Mr. Simmons; Mr. Stambaugh and Mr. Thompson. Board members Dr. Duryea and Dr. Joyce participated by telephone. Also present were Dr. Browning, Dr. Burns, Dr. Turpen, Dr. Conti, Ms. Shepp, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton, Mr. Neff, Mr. Sherrod, Mr. Minter, Ms. Nowicki and Ms. Johnson. Also participating by telephone were Dr. Dukowitz and Dr. Rogers.

Mr. Jerkins introduced Dr. Lisa Conti from FDACS in Tallahassee. Dr. Conti was recommended by FDACS to replace Shannon Shepp as a board member of CRDF.

Mr. Jerkins reported on the combined CRDF and California Citrus Research Board meeting that started on Monday and continued on Tuesday morning. This meeting was a collaboration effort between Florida and California. Mr. Kress, Mr. Barben and Mr. Thompson were among the Board members participating in the meeting and felt that it was a great first step in allowing the two states to collaborate on projects of interest to both. The goal of this meeting was to explore ways that the research programs of both industries can work closely together in pursuit of HLB and other disease solutions.

Mr. Stambaugh moved to accept the Minutes of the July 23, 2013 Board of Directors meeting. Seconded by Mr. Kress, the motion passed unanimously.

**Finance and Audit Committee:** Chairman Hugh Thompson gave an update on the financial statement for July 2013, and a brief summary was provided, highlighting the current cash position and expenses as illustrated in the monthly financial summary.

**Governance Committee:** Chairman Bob Stambaugh indicated there was no Governance activity to report at this time.

**Commercial Product Delivery Committee:** Chairman Ben McLean updated the board on the neonicotinoid stewardship workshop held with Dan Botts on August 23, 2013 to develop the essentials of a program for sustained use of these psyllid control tools. Dr. Browning provided a PowerPoint slide to show the information for the St. Helena cold protection project that was approved in July. The original estimate approved by the board was \$83,467 and the actual amount needed is \$91,921.64, based on an updated quote. Mr. Black made a motion to approve the \$91,921.64, a difference of \$8,454.64 for the St. Helena project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and passed unanimously. Mr. Black asked if the equipment would belong to the owners of the property if the lease ended. Dr. Burns stated that she is working on a long term lease arrangement for the use of the property for research and chances are that the equipment would have lived out the useful life by the time that lease/relationship is over.

**Research Management Committee:** Chairman Bobby Barben presented four enhancements to projects that had been presented to the Research committee during their meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>. These enhancements would all fall under the legislative funding initiative for period 7/1/2013 thru 6/30/2014. The research committee made recommendations for approval of three of the 4 projects at this time.

The first enhancement is for Project #614. Dr. Young proposed to test the hypothesis that enhanced nutritional applications sustain productivity in endemic HLB Florida grove situations. Mr. Barben made a motion to recommend approval for continuing support of this project. The action would extend the project for 8 months beyond its current end date and provide an enhanced one-year budget of \$99,877. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and passed unanimously.

The second project reviewed was Dr. Ehsani's Project #586, which is evaluating the use of thermal therapy to reduce infection in HLB-infected trees. This project enhancement involves addition of Dr Ping Duan to continue his research in the Indian River and to expand the current research by Dr. Ehsani and Dr. Reyes. The additional funding request was \$229,618 for one year. This would be used to assist in adoption of this therapy on a larger scale and to further refine the temperature and time combination that will be most effective. Mr. Barben recommended approval of this enhancement for 1 year and \$229,618. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and passed unanimously.

The third project reviewed was Dr. Stansly's Project #447, a project submitted for consideration that addresses nutritional programs and other treatments targeted to young trees. The PI requested funds to start 4 new field experiments, and describes a three year plan for the research. Discussion focused on the funding period of interest being only one year, and how the use of first-year funding would bring reportable results against the 3-year plan. Further, there was discussion about the appropriateness of funding the first year installation of new experiments with no consideration of how the subsequent years will be supported. The committee asked Dr. Stansly to isolate the reflective mulch research element in a one-year plan to initiate the experiment in the Indian River and to show how progress in year one could be obtained to justify the enhancement spending. The committee also recommended that he consider submission of the remainder of the request through the CATP-13 pre-proposal system. Dr. Stansly was requested to come back to the Research Management committee with a budget for the reflective mulch experiment, and thus no action was required by the Board at this time.

The fourth project reviewed was Dr. Rouse's Project #179. This project had six components and was constructed to cover a three year period. Like the previous project, this request focused on several experiments relating to enhanced nutrition, but also contained various other objectives, all addressing mature citrus trees under pressure from HLB. Each experiment was evaluated and discussed, with the Committee making a recommendation for each.

Experiment one: The series of field trials whose goal is optimizing ground and foliar nutrients, was proposed at an estimated cost \$165,880. Following discussion amongst the committee and with the PI, the committee recommended that this element be supported as proposed. If approved by the Board, a detailed budget and further details of treatment will be requested of the investigators. Experiment two of this project focuses on the benefit of vector control and foliar nutrition with a cost of \$109,000 as proposed. This project element involves 3 existing field trials as well as an additional trial proposed for installation in the Indian River area. The recommendation from the RMC was to support continuation

of the three existing field trials, as they will yield useful data in the current year covered by the legislative funding. However, since the 4<sup>th</sup> trial is a new installation, the committee was not convinced that results would be coming from this trial in a timeframe that justifies support from this funding. The PI was encouraged to provide a detailed budget for the portion of this experiment that was approved.

The final element of this proposed enhancement was the economic evaluation of all experiments, proposed by Dr. Fritz Roka. His plan is to work with those conducting the field trials and assess the costs and returns associated with each element of the research. The committee recommended that this element be preserved and that Dr. Roka submit a plan and budget for up to \$30,000 for this component.

Mr. Barben recommended approval of experiment one and experiment two as discussed and the economic analysis on these trials with a budget not to exceed \$30,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and passed unanimously. The committee also recommended that Dr. Rouse consider submission of the remainder of the research elements contained in this proposal through the CATP-13 pre-proposal system. This process will be able to address the multi-year goals associated with these elements.

Dr. Turpen presented an overview of the request to expand Project # 582, an ongoing project to seek methods to interfere with HLB transmission in ACP. The request for expansion of the project life and budget emerged from the nuPssyllid project team meeting in April, when they discovered a critical gap in the NIFA project scope. The gap presented is the ability to transform ACP. Dr. Pelz-Stelinski's project provides supporting ACP colonies to conduct this work and therefore is proposed for amendment to address this gap. The proposed modification to the project adds Dr. Al Handler with USDA, ARS in Gainesville as a sub-contractor. The budget request of \$386,479 over two years includes Dr. Handler's objective to transform ACP and additional funding for Dr. Pelz-Stelinski to cover her expenses for this period. The other \$250,010 contained in the transformation proposal is for the third year and will be reallocated from within the NIFA project grant. Mr. Barben made a motion to recommend approval the enhancement to Dr. Pelz-Stelinski's project with a cost of \$386,479. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newlin and passed unanimously.

As recommended during the July Board meeting, researchers have now been asked to submit one-year enhancement ideas on currently funded projects to CRDF for short-term projects that could fall under the legislative funds. There were approximately 25 ideas submitted; Dr. Browning and Dr. Turpen are reviewing these ideas to seek additional information and budgets. Presentation of these legislative enhancement requests will occur at the September Research Management Committee meeting.

**Industry Research Coordinating Committee:** Chairman Wayne Simmons indicated there was no IRCC activity to report at this time.

**Long Term Research Funding and Legislative Matters:** Dr. Browning reported that Mike Sparks is encouraged by progress with the Trust Fund. On the state front, Mr. Sparks and Dr. Browning will be in Tallahassee next week to talk about what CRDF is doing with the legislative funds this year and what the request might be for next year.

**COO Report:** Dr. Browning talked about the Brazil trip that is scheduled for the last week in October. Dr. Juliano Ayres with Fundecitrus is setting up tours to research labs, nurseries and groves. The group will

also try to gain some insight on the 2,4-D trials underway in Brazil. These tours, along with discussion with research teams, will provide insight into research results that are being implemented in Brazil and allow for discussion of coordination of research with Florida.

CRDF Website: As discussed at last month's Board meeting, UF IT has reviewed the license agreement from Ecostat for the website software. Coincidentally, the progress reporting system on the current database is not working properly and is unstable. Since there are UF concerns on how to manage the website defined by Dr. Rogers within the license agreement, UF has suggested that we discuss all options before moving ahead with the website migration. Last month the Board approved to extend the Ecostat agreement for two months and now there is a need to extend Ecostat's contract for one additional month to allow CRDF to work through the details with UF and Ecostat. Mr. Stambaugh made a motion to recommend approval of an additional one-month extension to the Ecostat contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lisa Conti has been nominated as the FDACS representative to the CRDF Board of Director's by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Mr. Newlin recommended approval of Dr. Conti as the FDACS Board representative. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and passed unanimously.

Committee Membership: Research Management committee renewals were addressed, with Florida Citrus Production Managers recommending Joby Sherrod to replace George Walker and Mike Stewart to replace John Merritt. Steve Farr and Jim Snively were recommended for appointment for an additional term. Mr. Newlin made the motion to approve the recommendations from Florida Citrus Production Managers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kress and the motion passed unanimously.

The Industry Research Coordinating Committee had four members that are up for renewal. The respective sectors of the industry have asked that the current members be reappointed for the next term. These members are Peter McClure, Kevin Gaffney, Carson Futch and Paul Genke. Mr. Stambaugh made the motion to approve Mr. McClure, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Futch and Mr. Genke for renewal on the IRC committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Browning reported a need to schedule a meeting in September for Finance and Audit committee to address the completion of the audit. The Commercial Product Delivery Committee and Research Management Committee will also need to meet in September to address projects falling under the legislative funding. Polls will be going out in anticipation of these meetings.

#### **New Business:**

Dr. Browning reported on discussion with Monsanto regarding areas of common interest in research on HLB. Dr. Turpen likewise reported collaboration that is forming with IBM in areas of research where IBM has expertise.

Mr. Richard Gaskalla with FDACS has been engaged in considering issues and permits associated with shipment of micropropagated plant material for use in tolerant rootstock field trials.

**Future CRDF Meetings:**

- Board of Directors meeting – Tuesday, September 24, 2013 9:30 A.M. EDT, Lake Alfred

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Jerry Newlin