

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

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**March 24, 2015**

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at the University of Florida, IFAS, CREC, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am by President Tom Jerkins. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were: Mr. Bobby Barben; Mr. Larry Black; Dr. Jackie Burns; Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr.; Dr. Mary Duryea (telephone); Mr. Tom Jerkins; Mr. Ricke Kress; Mr. Ben McLean; Mr. Jerry Newlin; Mr. Wayne Simmons; Mr. Bob Stambaugh; and Mr. Hugh Thompson. Dr. Lisa Conti was absent. Also participating were: Dr. Harold Browning; Dr. Susan Logue; Mr. Mike Sparks; Dr. Stephanie Slinski; Dr. Jim Syvertsen (telephone); and Dr. Tom Turpen.

Also in attendance were: Mr. Dennis Broadway; Mr. Aeden Dowling; Dr. Jim Dukowitz (telephone); Ms. Sharon Garrett; Ms. Brandi Goller; Mr. David Howard (telephone); Ms. Audrey Nowicki; Dr. Michael Rogers; Dr. Brian Scully; Ms. Shannon Shepp; Dr. Rosa Walsh; and Mr. Mitch Willis.

Mr. Kress moved to accept the Minutes of the February 24, 2015 Board of Directors meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stambaugh, the motion passed unanimously.

**Finance and Audit Committee:** Chairman Hugh Thompson reviewed the February 2015 financial summary. Mr. Barben moved to accept the February 2015 Financial Summary, seconded by Mr. Black. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Browning reported that the UF on-site internal operational audit is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

**Long Term Research Funding and Legislative Matters:** Mr. Sparks reported on the status of state legislative funding for FY 2015-16.

**Governance Committee:** Chairman Bob Stambaugh reported the committee met March 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss if the Foundation would benefit from changes to the organizational structure. Mr. Stambaugh moved to recommend the President of the Board appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of Board and non-Board members to consider organization and staffing changes. Seconded by Mr. Thompson, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stambaugh moved to recommend to the Board that the COO compensation be increased five (5%) percent effective July 1, 2015 and he remain eligible for any increases authorized by UF. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kress.

Mr. Barben asked if UF has constraints on salary increases and Dr. Burns clarified.

Dr. Browning was excused from the meeting for the next discussion.

Mr. Thompson made a motion that the Board approve a ten percent (10%) increase in COO salary and the position remain eligible for future UF increases. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barben.

Mr. Stambaugh and Mr. Kress withdrew their original motion and second for approval of a five (5%) percent COO salary increase. The motion for a ten (10%) percent increase in COO salary passed unanimously.

**Research Management Committee:** Chairman Bobby Barben reported thirty pre-proposals were received and presented to the committee on March 19<sup>th</sup>, approving twenty-eight projects for proposals as outlined in the Board materials. Mr. Barben made a motion that the Board approve the twenty-eight pre-proposals for consideration of full proposals. Seconded by Mr. Simmons, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Davis questioned if the pre-proposals were related to the federally funded NIFA and MAC projects. There is potential for overlap and a contingency can be added to the CRDF contracts accordingly.

Mr. Barben reported the committee approved the following recommendation of bridge funding by the Board until full proposals are received and evaluated.

- Dr. Grosser's project #547 for Juvenile Citrus Transformation Technology, currently ending March 31, 2015. Mr. Barben made a motion that the Board approve bridge funding of Dr. Grosser's project #547 in the amount of \$33,568 and extending the project four months to July 31, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Grosser's project #548 on Rootstock Genetics and Nutrition of New Citrus Plantings, currently ending March 31, 2015. Mr. Barben made a motion that the Board approve bridge funding of Dr. Grosser's project #548 in the amount of \$23,335.83 and extending the project four months to July 31, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Gabriel's project #723 on culturing HLB, which currently ends April 30, 2015. Mr. Barben made a motion that the Board approve bridge funding of Dr. Gabriel's project #548 in the amount of \$45,595 and extending the project three months to July 31, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Susan Logue gave a presentation of Key Opportunities resulting from Knowledge Mapping.

Dr. Browning reported that a progressive system of bactericidal assays adding a whole plant assay, was addressed by the program managers and approved by the Board last month.

Dr. Browning has contacted outside corporations to discuss project management opportunities and strategies and will provide an overview to the Board.

**Program Manager Report:** Dr. Turpen reviewed the process followed this year for pre-proposal invitations in place of the usual call for proposals.

Dr. Turpen summarized the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CRDF nuPsyllid NIFA grant teams. The teams have focused on three mechanisms for vectoring the disease without a clear decision on the any one being more successful.

Mr. Black requested Dr. Turpen provide a longer-term plan over the next six months to determine how the project will continue at its termination.

**Commercial Product Delivery Committee:** Chairman Ben McLean reported the committee met March 19<sup>th</sup> to review CPD projects and pre-proposals under consideration to be invited for full proposals.

Mr. McLean made a motion that the Board approve the invitation to submit a full proposal on the 21 projects listed in the Board materials. Seconded by Mr. Barben, the motion passed unanimously.

Grower rootstock trials were discussed. The Duda & Sons site has been planted, the Peace River Packing site is scheduled to start April 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Ben Hill Griffin Inc. site is scheduled for planting in June/July. Mr. McLean moved that the Board direct Staff to initiate the second round of rootstock trials, identifying sites for the plan of work. Seconded by Mr. Newlin, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Slinski presented a proposal for field trial of GRAS/biopesticide products. Four crop consultants provided bids ranging from \$22,200 to \$79,000. Mr. McLean made a motion for Board approval to proceed with the field trial, directing Staff to accept the best qualified consultant bids not to exceed \$32,370, seconded by Mr. Kress. The Staff recommended acceptance of the fourth bid based on consultant's qualifications. Mr. McLean withdrew his motion; Mr. Kress withdrew his second. Mr. Davis moved the Board accept the lowest bid for the GRAS/biopesticide field trial, for the total project not to exceed \$24,304. Seconded by Mr. Newlin, the motion passed unanimously.

**Industry Research Coordinating Committee:** Chairman Wayne Simmons had nothing to report.

**COO Report:** Dr. Browning reported that staff evaluations have been completed according to UF procedures and will be transmitted to UF. Copies can be provided to the Governance Committee.

Dr. Browning reported on the success of the IRCHLB meeting and the UF IFAS, CRDF and FCM Grower Day meeting and lunch.

**New Business:** Dr. Browning advised that the Ben Hill Griffin, Jr. Citrus Hall will undergo renovations starting in April during which time Committee and Board meetings will be held elsewhere.

#### **Future CRDF Meetings:**

- Board of Directors meeting – April 18, 2015, location to be determined.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Minutes submitted by Jerry Newlin