

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

**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

**September 23, 2014**

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at the University of Florida, IFAS, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Tom Jerkins. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were: Mr. Bobby Barben; Mr. Larry Black; Dr. Lisa Conti (telephone); Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr.; Mr. Tom Jerkins; Dr. Joe Joyce (telephone); Mr. Ricke Kress; Mr. Ben McLean; Mr. Jerry Newlin; Mr. Wayne Simmons; and Mr. Bob Stambaugh. Dr. Mary Duryea and Mr. Hugh Thompson were absent. Also participating were: Dr. Harold Browning; Dr. Jim Dukowitz (telephone); Ms. Susan Logue (telephone); Mr. Mike Sparks; Dr. Tom Turpen; and Mr. Alex Wheeler.

Also in attendance were Ms. Sarah Anderson (telephone); Dr. Tim Anglea (telephone); Dr. Calvin Arnold; Mr. Xavier Briand; Dr. Jackie Burns; Mr. Alexander Goullier; Dr. David Hall; Mr. Eric Hammons; Ms. Leanna Himrod; Ms. Diane Johnson; Mr. Kevin Murphy; Mr. Edwin Richard; Ms. Shannon Shepp; Dr. Stephanie Sliniski; Mr. Mitch Willis; and Ms. Audrey Nowicki.

Mr. Kress moved to accept the Minutes of the August 26, 2014 Board of Directors meeting. Seconded by Mr. Newlin, the motion passed unanimously.

**Finance and Audit Committee:** Vice-Chairman Larry Black reported that the committee met last Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> to review the Investment Accounts and draft audit for FYE 6/30/14. UFICO provided a recap of results to date and recommended the Foundation maintain the same low risk investments where funds are available for withdrawal on short notice.

The committee discussed the draft June 30, 2014 audit in detail and suggested the accountant make changes to provide further clarity. Mr. Wheeler reported that due to the volume of FY 2013-14 activity that took place after June 30<sup>th</sup> that must be taken into consideration, as well as the suggested changes requested by the committee, the final report will take a couple weeks to complete. He noted that all but approximately \$300,000 if the \$8 million Legislative funds available to the Foundation were expended; steps are being taken in FY 2014-15 to ensure that all of the \$3.5 million available Legislative funds will be utilized.

Dr. Browning further explained the process for over-allocating the 2013-14 Legislative funds to current projects and enhancement funding of 27 projects with the intention that the entire amount would be used but residuals exceeded even that projection. Next year's funding is allocated for full utilization by end of the third quarter so that any unexpended funds could be applied to final quarter invoices to make up the difference. At Mr. Thompson's request, Dr. Browning contacted FDACS to question if these funds could be carried over into the current year but learned they could not on a one-year contract. Dr. Browning indicated the Foundation would benefit from greater flexibility in being able to allocate the funding.

Mr. Black reviewed the balances and variances on the August 31, 2014 Financial Summary, noting that the major variance in revenue is due to the timing of the final billing of the Legislative contract. Expense variances are within reason, and the change in capital is synchronous with the current year budget. Mr. Black moved to accept the August Financial Summary as presented. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

**Long Term Research Funding and Legislative Matters:** Mr. Sparks reported that discussions continue on the FY 2015-16 Legislation. He and Dr. Browning are prepared to present the plans to the Appropriations Committee. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Sparks stated that while all revenues are up, there is a likelihood of a greater number of funding requests.

**Governance Committee** Chairman Bob Stambaugh had nothing to report.

**Research Management Committee:** Chairman Bobby Barben reported on the September 22 meeting of the Committee at which three proposals for enhancements to current projects were presented:

Dr. Kelly Morgan (#838) requested \$140,542 in additional funding over three years for additional trials of single and combined treatments of products as well as the addition of compost and organic acids. Mr. Barben moved to partially fund the enhancement in the amount of \$20,000/year for three years contingent upon receiving manufacturer support to fund the balance of the project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and passed unanimously.

Dr. Phil Stansly (#447) requested additional funding of \$470,118 over three years to expand his current trials at various locations including Ray Ruby in Vero Beach as well as proposed new plantings. This project received \$148,159 in enhancement from legislative funding last year. The committee would like to visit the project sites to learn more specifics and therefore tabled the proposal consideration.

Dr. James Graham (#732) requested a one-year enhancement to his current project to better understand and reduce early root loss due to HLB. Funds will be used to purchase a circular root scanner that will allow for increased effectiveness of assessment of treatments to mitigate root loss caused by current destructive methods. Mr. Barben moved to approve additional funding of \$35,702 for one year. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Newlin voiced his disappointment in the recommendations made by the committee, adding that he feels all of these studies are important to growers. He added that OrangeCo will continue to work with these researchers in an effort to obtain as much information on the root systems as possible.

Dr. Turpen reported that the knowledge mapping sessions led by Tropicana have been postponed to the end of October due to the USDA NIFA proposal deadlines at the end of September.

Dr. Turpen reported one candidate antibiotic compound that failed development for animal use has been identified and has the regulatory data developed. This compound will be tested on citrus over the next six months. He expects to submit a full report on this search next month.

Dr. Turpen introduced Dr. Stephanie Slinski who was hired as a TIG associate to fill the full time Florida antibacterial manager position.

**Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Chairman Ben McLean** reported on the IR4 mini-summit in Atlanta which several committee members attended. The discussions centered on labeling issues and minutes of the sessions are included with the board meeting materials.

Dr. Dukowitz reported on the August 28<sup>th</sup> teleconference meeting which focused on regulatory issues of antimicrobials in preparation for the September 11<sup>th</sup> mini-summit. Mr. Black added that the regulatory agencies noted that penicillin has challenges as a citrus antimicrobial due to its widespread allergenicity. Also, foliar applications of antimicrobials are the least desirable, stressing that alternative methods of treatment should continue to be explored. The agencies welcomed and recommended the Foundation meeting with them to keep them informed of future plans.

Dr. Conti reported that FDACS is working with the EPA and has regularly scheduled conference calls with them. Dr. Conti invited Dr. Browning and the Foundation team to participate in the calls.

Mr. Jerkins stressed that with the regulatory agencies' negative discussions on penicillin, focus should be on the alternatives.

Mr. Davis noted at the last board meeting it was voted unanimously to reach out to NuFarm and asked for an update. Dr. Dukowitz has had discussions with their representatives. While they were not clear on their plans to move forward, NuFarm is interested in getting results to growers. Mr. Black suggested offering financial assistance to accelerate their Florida trials. Dr. Browning suggested inviting NuFarm representatives to the October CPDC meeting.

Mr. McLean reported that the committee met on September 18<sup>th</sup> at which time Mr. Rucks and Dr. Beeson of UF, IFAS presented a proposal to accelerate the production of quality budded new rootstocks for outplanting in groves for all commercial citrus producers' future use. The proposal included costs to add a 105 x 23 ft. bay to an existing greenhouse at the Mid-Florida Citrus Research and Education Center in Apopka. Mr. McLean moved to fund Dr. Beeson's proposal in the amount of \$331,774 over three years. Seconded by Mr. Newlin, the motion passed unanimously.

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

**COO Report:** Dr. Browning reminded the Board that the acceleration of delivery of tolerant nursery stocks was a priority of the IRCC Gaps Analysis, stressing the need to overcome the limited availability of seed and plants. The Board approval of Dr. Beeson's proposal addresses this gap.

He noted also that Dr. Jackie Burns will be moving to Gainesville having accepted the position of Dean of Research. A plan for CREC leadership transition is under development.

**New Business:** No new business to report.

**Future CRDF Meetings:**

- Board of Directors meeting – Tuesday, October 28, 2014
- Committee members will be polled for CPDC and F & A meetings, and RMC tours of Dr. Stansly's field trials.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Jerry Newlin