

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

September 24, 2013

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at the Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 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. Simmons; Mr. Stambaugh and Mr. Thompson. Board members Dr. Conti, Dr. Joyce, Mr. Kress, Mr. McLean and Mr. Newlin participated by telephone. Also present were Dr. Browning, Dr. Turpen, Dr. Dukowitz, Ms. Shepp, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton, Mr. Neff, Dr. Gruber, Dr. Rogers, Ms. Nowicki and Ms. Johnson.

Mr. Davis moved to accept the Minutes of the August 27, 2013 Board of Directors meeting. Seconded by Mr. Simmons, the motion passed unanimously.

**Finance and Audit Committee:** Chairman Hugh Thompson gave an update on the financial statement for August 2013, and a brief summary was provided. Mr. Thompson presented the draft Audit. An updated draft was provided to committee members at the meeting, along with an errata sheet which highlighted the differences from the original draft. Included were adjustments in how commercial product delivery projects were presented in the audit. The Audit page 3 Balance Sheet as of 6/30/13 shows liabilities of unexpended contract funds of \$4, 669,453 plus accounts payable as \$1,319,996 which total \$5,989,449. Available cash is \$6,328,531. This explains the funds in reserve. Page 19 shows audit findings with an unqualified opinion. Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the audit as amended. Seconded by Mr. Barben, the motion passed unanimously.

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

**Commercial Product Delivery Committee:** Chairman Ben McLean indicated there was no Commercial Product Delivery activity to report at this time.

**Research Management Committee:** Chairman Bobby Barben presented enhancements to projects that had been presented to the committee during their meeting on September 23<sup>rd</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 as listed below.

Presented for final review was Dr. Rouse's Project #179. This enhancement would extend the project for an additional six months. The project would add experiments in the Indian River Region and also include grapefruit. In addition, three existing trials in oranges in southwest Florida to evaluate economic benefit of insecticides and foliar nutrients will continue. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve the extension of this project for six months and approve a budget increase of \$252,196. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

The second enhancement for final review was Dr. Stansly's Project #447. This project enhancement is to conduct a one year study on reflective mulch on grapefruit on the east coast. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve a budget increase of \$148,159. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

The following recommendations are a result of requests to PI's that have existing projects that would fall under the Legislative funding for short-term enhancement.

Dr. Gmitter's Project #537: The RMC recommended an increase to support the number of scion samples to be propagated, replicated, propagated, and tested in the greenhouse and to explore the nature of the rootstocks on which surviving trees are found. The cost of this addition is \$20,000. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve a budget increase of \$20,000. Seconded by Mr. Stambaugh, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Grosser's Project #548: Proposes to conduct a more extensive top working experiment to evaluate performance of selected new sweet orange clones when grafted to HLB-infected scaffold branches of existing field trees. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve a budget increase of \$16,229. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Mankin's Project #567: The goal of this enhancement is to purchase 3-5 commercial bird distress call speaker systems and modify them to produce female psyllid reply signals. The original project will be extended six months to be synchronous with the supplemental funding project. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve the extension of six months and approve a budget increase of \$115,000. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Mizell's Project #570: This expansion proposes to enhance psyllid attraction from natural host chemistry with a trap designed to be both a "fungal delivery mechanism" and an "efficient trap for quantifying psyllid treatment responses". This enhancement would extend the original project for an additional two months. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve a budget increase of \$97,108 and extension of this project for two additional months. Seconded by Mr. Simmons, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Pelz-Stelinski's Project #581, proposes to test the hypothesis that ACP's move to and "shelter" in poorly managed groves or alternate hosts during winter months before dispersing to more actively managed groves in the spring. The committee agreed it would be good to know how best to fight the psyllid in the winter. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve a budget increase of \$11,868 and extension of this project for two additional months. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Pelz-Stelinski's Project #582, proposes to determine the impact of cool temperatures, and expression of melanization genes, on ACP vector competence. They will also investigate melanization gene expression in response to entomopathogenic fungal infection at different temperatures. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve a budget increase of \$28,368 and extension of this project for two additional months. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Powell's Project #584: This enhancement proposes to field-test formulations that will efficiently deliver molecules effective against CLAs into citrus phloem. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve of the budget increase of \$81,610. Seconded by Mr. Simmons, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Roger's Project #590: This addition proposes to examine the concentration of Neonicotinoid pesticides in citrus nectar when applications are made at different time intervals prior to bloom. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve a budget increase of \$45,368. Seconded by Mr. Black, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Stelinski's Project #603, proposes to enhance the throughput of assays by dedicating more labor to psyllid colony maintenance. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve a budget increase of \$30,336 and extension of this project for three additional months. Seconded by Mr. Black, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Stelinski's Project #604: Proposes to add a similar experiment within a planting of mature citrus trees with a mix of HLB-infected and non-infected trees. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve a budget increase of \$28,368 and extension of this project for three additional months. Seconded by Mr. Simmons, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Wang's Project #608: Proposes to expand field testing which will include two additional field trials in two locations, larger scale field test, test more beneficial microbes, and test different approaches to enhance survival of the beneficial microbes in the soil. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve a budget increase of \$97,076. Seconded by Mr. Black, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Allan's Project #701: Proposes to optimize attraction of psyllids to visual targets which will provide directly applicable information for field use. She also proposes to begin year two of the ongoing project early to accelerate towards solutions. The question was raised why the increase in budget money if she is only moving year two work to year one. Dr. Turpen will check with Dr. Allan on the rationale. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve a budget increase up to \$70,708. Seconded by Mr. Black, the motion passed unanimously.

The news of a restructuring of the UF, IFAS Immokalee center, raised questions regarding ongoing research projects and also pre-proposals coming forward in this round of CATP13. Dr. Browning said UF has indicated that the research work will continue. The request was made to invite someone from IFAS Administration to attend the next Board meeting to address this issue.

Dr. Turpen reported that the Commercial Product Delivery Committee meeting is tomorrow and reminded everyone that the CHRP meeting is in Denver October 15<sup>th</sup> through October 17<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that CRB has approved five projects to co-fund with CRDF. This will be a 50/50 share and each party's amount is \$413,000.

**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 and he have met with the governor's staff to discuss funding for the upcoming year. Dr. Browning will report on commitment of the current year eight million State Legislative funding at the next Board meeting.

**COO Report:** Dr. Browning discussed the Brazil trip that is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> through November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Juliano Ayres with Fundecitrus is hosting this meeting. Dr. Brodersen and Dr. Schumann plan to go on a follow up visit later.

UF has communicated to CRDF, proposing a new Indirect Cost (IDC) policy. The Governance committee will meet to discuss this issue and bring it forward to the Board. The question was raised as to whether this would affect the CATP13 call for Proposals? Dr. Browning said that it would affect them because these projects will not be contracted until March of 2014 or later. Contracts in place before January 1, 2014 would not be affected by a change in policy.

CRDF Website: The progress report facility on the CRDF website is having performance issues in both submitting and searching reports. Dr. Browning has discussed the migration of the CRDF website with UF IT and they are jointly proposing that the best option going forward is to continue support for the existing web site via Dr. Steve Rogers (Ecostat) through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. With the urgency of resolving the progress report system, this will allow UF IT to work with CRDF to design and build a new system. CRDF would need to extend Ecostat's contract for nine additional months. Mr. Black made a motion to recommend approval of an additional nine-month extension to the Ecostat contract with all the same terms. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and the motion passed unanimously.

Bayer Crop Science announced a commitment of \$200,000 toward the fight of HLB at the FFVA Annual Meeting in Jacksonville. Bayer Crop Science through FFVA will pass the monies on to CRDF to apply toward research effective January 1, 2014.

**New Business:** Dr. Conti reported on the Grower/Beekeeper meeting held September 18<sup>th</sup>. There were approximately 150 people attending. They broke up into six work groups and had discussions on the issues relating to beekeeping in citrus growing areas. The meeting was very successful. Mr. McClure represented the growers and Mr. Robby Bell represented the beekeepers. There were quite a few attendees that signed up to work together in the future to develop best management practices. A web tool is being developed in Dr. Gaskalla's group to facilitate communication between Beekeepers and Growers. Ms. Bittleman, Senior Agriculture Counselor with EPA, will be touring Florida and will interact with citrus growers in relation to HLB.

**Future CRDF Meetings:**

- Board of Directors meeting – TBD

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Jerry Newlin