

# CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

## Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

May 26, 2015

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at the Florida Citrus Mutual Headquarters, 411 E. Orange Ave., Lakeland, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 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; Dr. Lisa Conti (telephone); Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr.; Mr. Tom Jerkins; Mr. Ricke Kress; Mr. Ben McLean (telephone); Mr. Jerry Newlin; Mr. Wayne Simmons; Mr. Bob Stambaugh; and Mr. Hugh Thompson (telephone). Dr. Mary Duryea was absent. Also participating were: Dr. Harold Browning; Mr. Mike Sparks; Dr. Stephanie Slinski; and Dr. Tom Turpen.

Also in attendance were: Ms. Sarah Anderson; Mr. Dennis Broadaway; Ms. Brooke Conley; Mr. Aeden J. Dowling; Dr. Jim Dukowitz (telephone); Ms. Brandi Goller; Ms. LeAnna Himrod; Dr. Susan Logue; Ms. Audrey Nowicki; Dr. Michael Rogers; Ms. Shannon Shepp; Ms. Callie Walker; Dr. Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Kress moved to accept the Minutes of the April 28, 2015 Board of Directors meeting. Seconded by Mr. Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

**Finance and Audit Committee:** Chairman Hugh Thompson provided a summary of the April 2015 financial summary, noting a continued decline in the cash accounts as was predicted in the FY 2014-15 budget, and reviewed the revenue and expense variances. Mr. Davis moved to accept the April 2015 Financial Summary as presented. Seconded by Mr. Kress, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Browning updated the Board on the UF internal audit, currently in the testing phase, and expects their preliminary report in the next two weeks and final report by the end of June.

**Long Term Research Funding and Legislative Matters:** Mr. Sparks gave an update on the status of the state budget process, noting Legislators who are supportive of citrus research funding. Congressman Buchanon, Ways and Means Committee, is visiting FCM today for a discussion of citrus industry issues.

Dr. Browning reported that additional priorities are being considered for MAC consideration with remaining funds. He also reported on the status of the USDA, NIFA Citrus Disease Research and Education Program, noting that the suggestions (pre-proposal) deadline for submission has passed. A group of about fifty stakeholders will assist in evaluating the suggestions to provide input on which pre-proposals should be invited for full proposals. Those interested in participating should contact Dr. Browning.

Dr. Browning presented an outline of current research and delivery funding support by the Foundation, NIFA and MAC programs. Board members expressed interest in receiving this same information individually. The final \$4 million in MAC funding should be committed within the next thirty days.

Mr. Thompson asked Dr. Browning to speak briefly on the status of the draft FY 2015-16 budget. The initial draft includes known revenue and expense projections, and does not include the first year costs of new proposals being considered for funding. If the approved legislative support for HLB research is \$8 million, about \$5 million can be invested in new delivery and research projects. In the event the allocation is less, Dr. Browning has had conversations with FDOC regarding additional funding to meet budget needs. He continues to work with Mr. Marshall Wiseheart on the FDACS contracts wording in anticipation of the state budget passing new projects approved for funding will be prioritized and contracted as funding becomes available.

**Governance Committee:** Chairman Bob Stambaugh reported that the committee did not meet and has no action items. All approvals required by UF have been obtained for the COO salary increase to take effect July 1, 2015.

**Research Management Committee:** Chairman Bobby Barben reported that the committee will meet June 9<sup>th</sup> to hear Scientific Advisory Board recommendations from their meeting scheduled for May 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will present recommendations to the Board on June 18.

Dr. Turpen reported that after several years as Chairman of the CRDF Scientific Advisory Board, Dr. Bruening has resigned his role; Dr. Steve Lindow will be the Chair for the 2015 meeting. In addition, two new members, Dr. Ralph Scorza, Research Horticulturist from USDA-ARS, and Dr. Angela Douglas, Entomologist from Cornell University, have been added to SAB this year.

Mr. Barben suggested that Dr. Bruening be acknowledged for his contributions to the HLB Research Program from the beginning of the HLB campaign.

**Commercial Product Delivery Committee:** Chairman Ben McLean reported the committee met last week and heard a presentation by Dr. Jude Grosser on the status of rootstock trials around the state, and to begin discussion of the CPD proposals. The committee will meet June 12<sup>th</sup> to prioritize those being recommended for funding and will present recommendations for Board approval at the June 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting.

Dr. Browning invited Mr. Kress to update the Board on the Experimental Use Permit process and the EUP recently obtained by Southern Gardens for engineered citrus. Mr. Kress presented an outline of the requirements for the lengthy EUP process under EPA Category 1010 which includes oranges, grapefruit and lemons.

Dr. Turpen presented a request from Mr. John Byatt, UF Office of Technology Licensing (OTL), for the Foundation to consider UF exclusively licensing of two patents resulting in part from

CRDF-funded research (projects 608 and 609). The research by Dr. Nian Wang involves (1) beneficial microbes to improve health of citrus, and (2) selection of a wide range of materials that could be used and registered quickly. Dr. Turpen reported that the proposed licensing agreement includes an aggressive timeline to make products available to growers, and has appropriate controls in place. Mr. Kress made a motion of non-objection to the UF efforts on licensing with a startup company the technology resulting from Wang-608 and Wang-609. Seconded by Mr. Simmons, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Browning referred to the CPD Project Managers' 22-page Quarterly Report of activities on the active projects that was included in the Board materials and which will be posted to the CRDF website. If, after reviewing, there are any questions or discussions on any of the projects, they should be directed to the Project Managers.

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

**COO Report:** Dr. Browning reminded the Board members that all Conflict of Interest forms are being requested to conform to audit standards. In addition, Conflict of Interest forms are requested from non-Board committee members. He has requested UF Counsel provide a draft Conflict of Interest policy adapted to cover conflicts not addressed by the current form that could arise for non-Board committee members as well as Project Managers, other contractors and Staff. This draft COI policy will be submitted for Governance Committee approval in June prior to the Board meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:** Dr. Michael Rogers reported that renovations at Ben Hill Griffin Hall at UF-CREC are expected to be completed mid-July.

**Future CRDF Meetings:**

- Research Management Committee – 9:30 am, Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Grove House, Lake Wales
- Finance and Audit Committee – 9:30 am, Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> in the Packinghouse Conference Room
- Governance Committee – 10:00 am, Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, telephonic
- Commercial Product Delivery Committee – 9:30 am, June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Grove House, Lake Wales
- Box Tax Advisory Council followed by Board of Directors meeting – June 18, 2015 in Bonita Springs

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Minutes submitted by Jerry Newlin