

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
Commercial Product Delivery Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2015

A meeting of the Commercial Product Delivery Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 in Ben Hill Griffin Hall at the UF-IFAS, CREC, in Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Chairman Ben McLean. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were: Mr. Larry Black; Dr. Jackie Burns (telephone); Mr. David Howard; Mr. Ricke Kress; Mr. Ben McLean; Mr. Jerry Newlin (telephone); Mr. Andy Rackley (telephone); Ms. Shannon Shepp (telephone); and Mr. Tom Stopyra. Committee members Dr. Timothy L. Anglea, Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr., Mr. Peter McClure, and Mr. Hugh W. Thompson did not participate. Also participating were: Dr. Jim Dukowitz (telephone); Dr. Harold Browning (telephone); Dr. Stephanie Slinski; Dr. Jim Syvertsen; and Dr. Tom Turpen (telephone).

Others attending the meeting included Ms. Brandi Goller, Ms. Audrey Nowicki, Dr. Michael Rogers, Dr. Brian Scully (telephone), and Dr. Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Kress moved to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Howard and passed unanimously.

Dr. Slinski and Dr. Browning reported that the Section 18 application for Tree Health has been submitted and is currently being reviewed by FDACS. She and Dr. Browning had a follow-up call with FFVA/TPR, FDACS and EPA yesterday to brief them on progress with the Section 18 petition. Mr. Rackley reported that FDACS is hopeful to complete its review and forward the application to the EPA by mid-November.

Dr. Browning thanked Mr. Botts and Mr. Mike Aerts, FFVA, and Third Party Registrations for putting other matters aside to expedite assembly and submission of this application. He also thanked Mr. Rackley and his group for their assistance along the way. Scientists from UF-IFAS, as well as others experienced with bactericide use on crops, have been requested to review the application and provide a letter of evaluation; as well, board, committee members and growers have been requested to provide letters of support which are significant to the approval process. Mr. Newlin, on behalf of the growers, acknowledged the efforts of all involved in submitting the Section 18 application.

Dr. Syvertsen gave an update on the rootstock trials and Thermal Therapy. He also reported on the upcoming Rootstock Field Day November 10th at three locations at the Duda site, and said plans are being made for a Thermal Therapy Field Day on Thursday, December 3rd at Wheeler Groves in Lake Wales.

Dr. Slinski reported that the initial trial of biopesticide treatments was terminated due to incorrect application. New bids for the proposal were solicited from five crop consultants, with four bids having been received from well qualified consultants. Under this proposal most of the evaluations will be conducted by the field trial administrator, with the trial under way in 2016 on an early Hamlin crop. The lowest bid of \$16,104 includes the crop destruct as well as expenses incurred by the field trial

administrator. Mr. Black made a motion to recommend the Board approve the project with the lowest crop consultant bid not to exceed \$16,104. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newlin and passed unanimously.

Dr. Slinski reported the site has been selected for the trunk injection field trial with training planned later this month. The greenhouse assay to test bactericides is in progress, having identified enough systemically infected trees to start treatments in September. Discussions of scale-up needs to include the necessary plants and space are in progress.

Dr. Turpen reported on the RNAi technology and potential treatments or products that could result; two initiatives are moving forward outside of direct Foundation support. Efforts continue to translate greenhouse findings to the field, while trying to locate potential licensees. In addition, discussions with EPA must be held once the model is in place to provide subsequent direction.

Dr. Browning gave an overview of the Knowledge Mapping session on tolerant rootstocks and resistance engineering which included 17 scientists from citrus growing states as well as a few researchers with extensive experience on this topic with other crops. Currently the Foundation alone has invested \$14.7 M on 33 projects on breeding and engineering. The participants outlined steps to the goal of designing a common pipeline to field test candidate plants side by side. The design and implementation details of the process are being worked out, and it is expected the Foundation will have proposals for consideration later this year.

The Rootstock Project Manager position should be posted, recruited and filled in the next few months, prior to the start of these coordinated field trials. There are numerous field trials in Florida currently collecting varying degrees of data which shows there are plenty of candidates that can be compared side-by-side to move this forward. This effort will bring the best of the candidates forth, including products of conventional breeding and engineering in one site.

Dr. Browning outlined a proposal from Dr. Graham for co-funding an ongoing Brazilian field trial set up in Paraná three years ago for integrated management of citrus canker based on copper-based bactericides, windbreaks and citrus leafminer control, as outlined in the materials provided. Fundecitrus and Dr. Graham, a Florida cooperator in the field research, are requesting cost-share support of \$44,000 through September 2016 in the final year for three field assistants at the site to perform horticultural management and citrus canker assessments. This work is not replicated elsewhere and will benefit Florida citrus growers in developing management strategies for citrus canker. Mr. Black moved to recommend Board approval of co-funding in the amount of \$44,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stopyra and passed unanimously.

The Committee will meet prior to the December 8th Board of Directors to review the quarterly project manager reports and review any proposals resulting from the Knowledge Mapping. Dr. Browning encouraged the CPDC to think about how to re-position the Foundation to best move forward with their Strategic Planning and how this will foster rapid delivery of HLB solutions.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.

Minutes submitted by Audrey Nowicki