

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
Minutes of the
Research Management Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 29, 2016

A meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Wednesday, June 29, 2016. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by Chairman Bobby Barben. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were: Mr. Bobby Barben; Mr. Tim Dooley; Mr. Steve Farr (telephone); Mr. David Howard; Mr. Joby Sherrod (telephone); Mr. Wayne Simmons (telephone); Mr. Jim Snively; and Mr. Mike Stewart. Mr. Bill Barber; Mr. Larry Davis and Mr. Peter McClure did not participate. Also participating were: Dr. L. Gene Albrigo; Dr. Harold Browning; Dr. Megan Dewdney; Dr. James Graham; Dr. Natalia Peres (telephone); Dr. James Syvertsen; Dr. Pete Timmer and Dr. Tripti Vashisth. Also present were: Mr. Mike Edenfield; Mr. Roy Morris; Ms. Audrey Nowicki; Dr. Stephanie Slinski; Mr. Strickland (telephone); and Dr. Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Howard moved to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stewart, and passed unanimously.

Chairman Barben noted the meeting was called for a roundtable discussion of Post-bloom Fruit Drop (PFD) to share what has been learned and determine if additional research would be beneficial. The discussion covered a range of topics surrounding the increase in PFD in the past two to three years, considering the complications that weather and presence of HLB declining trees has on extended flowering and subsequent infection by Colletotrichum acutatum. The biology behind the disease and conditions that foster serious disease impacts were discussed from the perspective of the plant condition, weather at bloom, and the disease itself. Ideas for further research to improve management strategies were categorized into the following:

- A. Targeting management of citrus bloom phenology
- B. Targeting pre-bloom *Colletotrichum* inoculum reduction
- C. Disease model and predicting critical infection
- D. Application of fungicides during vulnerable bloom period
- E. Other topics related to PFD research

The committee discussed several areas where follow-up research projects might be envisioned and tasked staff to summarize the discussion and highlight where research might be enhanced. Among the topics for research were application of plant growth regulators in fall to suppress winter bloom; testing of a new model for predicting *C. acutatum* development in Florida citrus; inclusion of fungicidal materials for field testing in spring, 2017; and conducting backward looking survey of grower practices in spring 2016 to determine what might be learned from their programs and the resulting disease intensity.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by A. Nowicki