A meeting of the Commercial Product Delivery Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Monday, August 22, 2016. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Chairman Ben McLean. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were: Dr. Timothy L. Anglea; Mr. Larry Black; Dr. Jackie Burns (telephone); Ms. Holly Chamberlain; Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr.; Mr. Ricke Kress; Mr. Peter McClure (telephone); Mr. Ben McLean; Mr. Jerry Newlin (telephone); Mr. Andy Rackley (telephone); Ms. Shannon Shepp; and Mr. Tom Stopyra. Mr. David Howard, Dr. Brian Scully, and Mr. Hugh W. Thompson did not participate. Other participants were: Mr. Mike Aerts; Mr. Daniel Botts; Dr. Harold Browning; Dr. Jim Dukowitz; Dr. Catherine Hatcher; Mr. Taw Richardson; Dr. Stephanie Slinski; Dr. James Syvertsen; and Dr. Rosa Walsh.

Others attending the meeting included Ms. Brandy Brown, Ms. Sharon Garrett (telephone), Ms. Audrey Nowicki and Mr. Brandon Page.

Mr. Kress moved to accept the minutes of the July 18, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and, with no discussion, passed unanimously.

Dr. Browning introduced Ms. Brandy Brown, recently hired to fill the Program Assistant position. Dr. Catherine Hatcher, HLB Tolerance/Resistance Project Manager was reintroduced for those who were not able to attend last month’s meeting. Finally, Ms. Chamberlin was recognized as a new Member of CPDC.

Chairman McLean asked to move on to the Active Projects Updates.

Dr. Slinski presented a revision of funding for the Pelz-Stelinski Greenhouse Assay (project # 15-0??) in the amount of $6,036 to cover the additional cost of salaries imposed by UF. Mr. Black made a motion for approval of the additional funding for the Pelz-Stelinski assay RSA in the amount of $6,036. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stopyra and passed unanimously.

Dr. Slinski introduced four projects proposed by AgroSource, Inc.

1) The ASI Project #938C, Large Scale Lab/Greenhouse/Field Trial. The different treatments involved were discussed and a budget for year three in the amount of $884,509 was presented. Project Management Staff recommended Committee discussion. Mr. Stopyra motioned to not approve the proposal into the 3rd year without modifications to the proposal. Dr. Anglea seconded the motion. After some discussion, Mr. Stopyra withdrew his motion to not approve the proposal and Dr. Anglea withdrew his second, clearing the table for alternative motions. Mr. Newlin moved to approve ASI Project #938C funding as is. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Mr. Black amended the motion to include the removal of evaluation of new bactericide compounds from the project, and Board approval of a revised budget. Ms. Shepp stated she was voting down on the motion due to the vague language involved and she does not clearly understand the
proposal and it being a lot of money. Following further discussion the amendment to the motion was passed, and the original motion passed with two opposed, Ms. Shepp and Mr. Stopyra.

2) A one-year project entitled “ASI Grower Tank Mix Trials” was presented with a budget in the amount of $251,906. It was noted that this project could possibly be expanded to a 2 year project. Project Management Staff recommended Committee discussion. Mr. Davis moved to recommend the project. Mr. Newlin seconded the motion. Taw Richardson was asked about the disclosure of results of the studies and the time frame of when he will release results to the growers. Mr. Richardson said the information would be released immediately upon collection and analysis of the data. Mr. Black stated his opposition to the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. McLean requested a vote for $251,906 for the Tank Mix Trials. The motion was defeated with a 7-5 vote.

3) A one-year project entitled “ASI Residue Studies” was presented with a budget in the amount of $254,539. Project Management Staff recommended Committee discussion. Mr. Kress motioned to recommend the project, and Mr. McLean seconded the motion. Communication from suppliers and users of dried citrus peel pellets has requested clarification on the details on bactericide use in the field and the residual levels in pellets resulting from these uses. It was suggested that the project proposal not be supported, and instead, Agrosource should work directly with the citrus processors to develop and interpret the data from this area of study. Mr. McLean requested a vote for $254,539 for the ASI Residue Studies. The motion was unanimously defeated.

4) ASI Section 18 HLB-Resistance Monitoring, a new project, was presented with a budget in the amount of $113,490. Project Management Staff recommended Committee discussion. Mr. McLean moved to recommend project approval, and Mr. Davis seconded the motion. During discussion, Mr. Richardson indicated that Agrosource would take responsibility for and fund the project if support from CRDF was not approved. Mr. McLean requested a vote for $113,490 for the ASI Section 18 HLB-Resistance Monitoring. The motion was unanimously defeated.

Dr. Slinski reported briefly on the Grower Bactericide Use Survey and stated a white paper would be available within a week. On the topic of bactericides, Mr. Botts gave an update on Section 18 stating the EPA forwarded a letter of support to the Agricultural Commissioner on Monday, August 15, 2016. There are no anticipated changes to use patterns or crops listed on labels. Dr. Browning thanked Mr. Rackley and FDACS efforts and also thanked Dan Botts and Mike Aerts for the efforts of FFVA and TPR. It was requested that a link be posted on the website for the presentations made at the Citrus Expo.

Dr. Hatcher gave a brief update on the HLB Resistance topic, stating she will be leading projects relating to advancing HLB resistance and tolerance. She has met with the IFAS Plant Improvement Team and USDA Plant Improvement Team, to discuss how the teams advance materials through their projects to field testing and release. She has requested details on their advanced field trials and will continue to meet with the IFAS and ARS teams to move the project forward.

Dr. Slinski reported that the Dewdney Postbloom Fruit Drop Proposal Revision 16-010C will be presented at the September meeting.
Dr. Browning gave an update on the meeting with USDA/APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services in Washington D.C., noting CRDF was represented by Tom Turpen, Rick Kress, Mike Aerts, and Harold Browning. The focus of the meeting was to share technology approaches being pursued to deliver HLB solutions to Florida citrus growers and growers in other states, and how these emerging solutions will navigate through biotechnology regulatory processes which are under revision by BRS.

The CHMA Support Contract #15-035C Rogers was presented with a modification to authorize up to $5,000 of the existing budget to be reallocated for International Travel. This modification gives authorization for the use of travel funds for agents S. Futch, M. Zekri and L. Hurner to attend the International Citrus Congress. Mr. Kress moved to approve the modification for travel. Mr. Stopyra seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Southern Gardens Diagnostic Lab Contract #15-032C Irey was presented for additional funding in the amount of $39,785 for the 1st year, due to increased volume of samples run during year one. Mr. Stopyra moved to approve the additional funding. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and it passed with one abstaining vote by Mr. Kress, who noted a conflict of interest as a principal at Southern Gardens Citrus. Mr. McClure added that Southern Gardens has continued to provide superb service with their lab and has been a great service to our industry.

The Quarterly Project Managers Reports were included in the meeting materials and are posted on the CRDF website. Questions can be directed to the Project Managers.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by Brandy Brown