

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
December 8, 2015

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the University of Florida, IFAS, CREC, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, in Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Tom Jerkins. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were: Mr. Bobby Barben; Larry Black; Dr. Jackie Burns; Dr. Lisa Conti (telephone); Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr.; Mr. Tom Jerkins; Mr. Ricke Kress; Mr. Ben McLean; Mr. Jerry Newlin; Mr. Wayne Simmons; Mr. Bob Stambaugh; and Mr. Hugh Thompson. Also participating were: Mr. Dan Botts; Dr. Harold Browning; Mr. Mark Gomez (telephone); Ms. Alice Gugelev (telephone); Mr. Andrew Meadows; Dr. Stephanie Slinki; and Dr. Tom Turpen.

Also in attendance were: Ms. Sarah Anderson (telephone); Mr. Bond Caldwell; Dr. James Dukowitz (telephone); Ms. Sharon Garrett; Ms. Leanna Himrod; Ms. Mariana Mansur; Ms. Audrey Nowicki; Dr. Michael Rogers; Ms. Shelley Rossetter; Dr. Brian Scully; and Ms. Shannon Shepp (telephone).

Mr. Kress moved to accept the Minutes of the October 27, 2015 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stambaugh and passed unanimously.

Executive Committee: Dr. Browning introduced Ms. Gugelev and Mr. Gomez, principals of Business Talent Group, who are working with CRDF to develop a Strategic Plan spanning the next six years. They summarized their recent efforts gathering information from various Board and Committee members as well as industry representatives as they make recommendations regarding the future of the citrus industry in Florida and CRDF's role in delivering solutions. BTG will meet with the Executive Committee on February 10th, following up with a report to the Board at the February meeting.

The discussion which followed indicated Board members' concurrence with initial recommendations. Dr. Browning reported BTG efforts, Ms. Gugelev 60% and Mr. Gomez 40% time commitment, have been subsidized by Pepsico since late October, 2015. Beginning in January BTG efforts will increase to 80% and 60% respectively for planning and travel to Florida in February, with proposed \$60,800.00 consulting fees for 13 days and up to \$6,500.00 travel costs to the Foundation. Mr. Black made a motion to support the BTG proposal to complete their evaluation and recommendations to the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newlin and passed unanimously.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Hugh Thompson reviewed the revenue and spending as reported on the October 2015 financial summary and accompanying reports, noting a decision has not been made on the return of the overbillings by UF. Mr. Thompson moved to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and passed unanimously.

Mr. Thompson reported the CRDF Form 990 return has been completed and will be distributed to all Board members with a request for questions, comments or approval by return emails. The return is due February 15 to the IRS.

Long Term Research Funding and Legislative Matters: Mr. Black reported Florida Citrus Mutual continues to meet with State House, Senate and Governor's Budget groups where the \$8.5 Million request for 2016-2017 funding is currently included in the draft budget.

At the federal level there is significant movement on a legislative amendment to the tax code bill led by Representative Buchanan to allow growers to immediately expense costs for trees and pre-production

costs on land to expand citrus acreage. Senator Nelson filed a companion bill in the Senate. In addition, efforts continue for MAC funding of shovel-ready projects.

The NIFA announcement of successful projects approved for funding is expected in January.

Mr. Meadows gave an update on Mutual's efforts to inform growers of the need to vote on the upcoming referendum. Ballots will be mailed mid-January with the deadline to return by February 9.

Governance Committee: Chairman Bob Stambaugh reported he would like to receive the last three Board responses of the COO Review form by the end of the week. The responses will be compiled and forwarded in January to the new Governance Committee Chairman.

Research Management Committee: Chairman Bobby Barben had nothing to report.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Chairman Ben McLean reported the CPDC met on December 7. Dr. Browning thanked Mr. Botts, FFVA and TPR for their efforts to complete and submit the Tree Health Section 18 application to the EPA, and acknowledged as well Mr. Rackley and FDACS representatives for their efforts. The narrative document summarizing the petition is being posted to the web page.

Mr. Botts discussed the challenges with the submission and re-drafting based on recommendations by the EPA, outlining various versions of applications and rates included with the application. It will be necessary for UF-IFAS researchers to develop proper use recommendations and protocol to assist growers in using these tools once approved. Approval would be for twelve months. During this time, additional field evaluation and residue analyses can be completed for re-application. Any questions Mr. Botts receives from the EPA during the approval process will be promptly discussed with the Foundation for further direction on how to proceed. The EPA decision process will likely include a public comment period.

The committee received the quarterly CPDC report on active projects with the meeting materials. Questions can be directed to the Project Managers.

Mr. McLean reported the committee reviewed a proposal for supplemental support to Dr. Rogers' project #15-030C for testing and data collection of fruit quality samples from eleven soil microbe product evaluation, thermotherapy, biopesticides and bactericide trunk injection field trials. Mr. McLean made a motion to support this additional funding of \$15,194. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and passed unanimously.

Mr. McLean reported the committee approved the recommendation by Dr. Browning on the next steps resulting from the Breeding and Engineering for HLB Resistance Knowledge Mapping session for Phase I to develop details of field plantings and evaluation, initiate a process for selection of best candidates, recruit a dedicated Project Manager, characterize details for the field sites, and develop proposals and detailed budgets. Mr. McLean made a motion to move forward with the Knowledge Mapping recommendations and plans. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and passed unanimously.

Mr. McLean reported the committee also discussed the advancement of RNAi technology to the development and commercialization stage. Mr. McLean made a motion to direct staff to further explore the details and costs of future field trials in cooperation with Southern Gardens for CTV. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newlin. Mr. Davis expressed concern with the project collaboration and long-term

results. Mr. Black shared those concerns along with the lack of a commercial partner driving the process. The motion passed, with Mr. Kress abstaining from the vote.

The addition of Dr. Brian Scully to the Commercial Product Development Committee was proposed to the committee. Mr. McLean made a motion to recommend Dr. Scully's appointment to the Commercial Product Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kress and passed unanimously.

Mr. McLean said it would be beneficial to have a brief summary of CRDF Board and Committee accomplishments to share with constituents. A draft will be circulated to the Board for edits prior to circulation and posting to the web page.

Industry Research Coordinating Committee: Chairman Wayne Simmons reported the committee will be moving forward with the bi-annual 2016 gap analysis. Dr. Browning said an inventory of all research is being compiled; at the same time the committee is collecting industry priorities which are not limited to HLB. The priorities will be compared with current projects with a list of gaps resulting. It is expected this process will be completed this summer.

COO Report: Dr. Browning reported at the MAC meeting it was reported the \$20 Million funds have been committed and heard first year progress reports on projects related to biological control support, the bactericide project that followed on CRDF funding, and thermal therapy scale-up. Discussions were initiated on the best use of new funds and will continue. Another point of discussion was a central point for an inventory of research on HLB. In conjunction with the preparation for the IRCC gap analysis, the opportunity exists for CRDF to assist with assembling and maintaining the inventory.

Dr. Browning reported the Project Managers will meet in January to review research progress and the need for ongoing research on any projects which are terminating. The Research Management and Commercial Product Delivery Committees will receive recommendations going forward on all projects, including to terminate those projects that are no longer relevant or are not able to meet their objectives, or requesting full proposals on specific projects. Consideration is being given to posting a notice to the web page that there will not be a general call for proposals but possibly specific topics upon recommendation by the Board, as well as directing researchers to other federal funding opportunities. Mr. Davis questioned if this presents a potential opportunity to reach out to current federally funded projects such as the zinkicide research or thermal therapy scale-up to pursue product development and delivery.

Dr. Browning pointed out the list of Board and Committee members included with the materials.

Dr. Browning requested all Board members sign the correspondence to EPA related to CRDF's endorsement of the Section 18 application on Tree Health.

Mr. Jerkins thanked Mr. Stambaugh for his years of service and dedication to the Board from its inception, and shared his pleasure to have served with him from the beginning with the development of the structure and governance issues, noting his passion and clear view of the issues that were faced. Mr. Stambaugh recalled the numerous and lengthy organizational meetings and expressed his appreciation of the cooperation by everyone involved in the process.

Future CRDF Meetings: Board of Directors meeting & photo – Annual Meeting January 26, 2016

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jerry Newlin