

**CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.**

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**March 28, 2017**

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 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 9:33 a.m. 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; Mr. Joe Davis, Jr.; Mr. Ned Hancock; Dr. Greg Hodges (telephone); Mr. Tom Jerkins; Mr. Ricke Kress; Dr. Jeanna Mastrodicasa; Mr. Ben McLean; Mr. Jerry Newlin (telephone); Mr. Wayne Simmons; and Mr. Hugh Thompson. Also participating were: Dr. Harold Browning; Mr. Tim Eyrich; Dr. Catherine Hatcher; Mr. Andrew Meadows; Dr. Pat Ouimet; Dr. Stephanie Slinski; and Dr. Tom Turpen (telephone).

Also in attendance were: Ms. Brandy Brown, Dr. Jim Dukowitz (telephone); Ms. Sharon Garrett (telephone); Ms. Brandi Goller; Ms. LeAnna Himrod; Ms. Audrey Nowicki (telephone); Dr. Michael Rogers; Mr. Steve Smith; and Dr. Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Hancock moved to accept the Minutes of the February 28, 2017 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

**Executive Committee:** Chairman Tom Jerkins gave an update on the request from CRDF for greater cooperation from the research community on development and delivery of HLB resistant plant material. Dr. Browning gave an update on the Bayer Partnership.

**Finance and Audit Committee:** Chairman Hugh Thompson reviewed the Financial Summary and Accompanying Statements. Dr. Browning discussed progress in improved compliance on funded projects that are behind in spending compared to their approved budget plans. Mr. Simmons moved to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

**Long Term Research Funding and Legislative Matters:** Mr. Andrew Meadows gave an update on the State and Federal funding programs, including status of the FY 2017-18 funding request for support of HLB research at both state and federal levels

**Governance Committee:** Chairman Ricke Kress stated the Governance committee met and discussed five items. Upon review of the Conflict of Interest Declarations as received, Mr. Kress reported that all affected Board and Committee members, staff and contractors had returned the declaration forms. The Governance Committee reviewed the declarations and determined that there were a number of responses that warrant management during the coming year. Mr. Kress elaborated on respondents' statements of those who declared potential conflicts of interest with decisions made by and for the Foundation. Following this discussion, Mr. Kress requested a motion to accept the short list of declarations for staff to maintain in an active file and manage appropriate interactions as committees and board consider decisions with which potential conflicts could arise

Mr. Kress excused Dr. Browning and CRDF staff from the meeting for discussion on the COO evaluation. Mr. Kress advised the Board that he would review directly with Dr. Browning the comments

as received from the Board of Directors for his input and comments. A final report will be provided at the April Board meeting.

Mr. Kress discussed the Board Term Limits and possible revision of the bylaws, indicating that discussion of modifications to the by-laws to accommodate a more gradual rotation of board members who will be competing their consecutive terms. Over the next three years, 9 of the 10 appointed board members will complete their terms, raising the question if this is in the best interest of the Foundation to lose the institutional knowledge in such a short time frame. Mr. Kress reported that there are no revisions to the bylaws recommended at this time to change term limits. Mr. Black and Mr. Davis addressed the idea of creating Emeritus Board Status to keep former board members engaged and aware of CRDF activities and functions in a non-voting role. The discussion suggested that such a role for former board members should be added to the bylaws. The Governance Committee will develop a revision to incorporate Board Emeritus Status and bring it to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Kress discussed a letter from Dr. Mastrodicasa seeking assistance from CRDF in managing contracting, business, and financial transactions and reporting for the recently formed Florida Cattle Industry Direct Support Organization. The committee discussed the needs and how CRDF was positioned to assist, and ultimately indicated that CRDF would not be able to take on this additional role. However, CRDF will continue to advise and help train and answer any questions the new DSO has in relation to our business processes and procedures.

Mr. Kress discussed growing challenges in meeting Committee quorums, and reported that the Governance committee recommended to staff to contact committee members who have not been participating in meetings to get continuing commitment to participate in CRDF activities or to discuss transition to alternative participants,

**Research Management Committee:** Chairman Bobby Barben reported on the letter sent to UF and USDA, ARS plant improvement Investigators regarding their participation in efforts to better understand and support field trials of rootstocks and scions with promise for improved survival in the presence of HLB Specific requests for information were included in the letter with a 30-day response.

Dr. Browning reported on discussion at RMC of project #16-007 Duan “Field evaluation of the selected variants of Ruby Red grapefruit volunteer seedlings for greater HLB resistance/ tolerance”, previously approved in December with a budget of \$296,000 for three years. The parties involved are working towards resolution of a Material Transfer Agreement. The committee recommended the project move forward. Mr. Barben made a motion for the board to approve activating the project when the IP issues are resolved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and passed unanimously.

Dr. Turpen discussed the 2018 nuPsyllid White Paper Draft. The Board asked questions about the research and about project spending.

**Commercial Product Delivery Committee:** Chairman Ben McLean reported on the March 27<sup>th</sup> CPDC Meeting and gave project updates and recommendations.

Dr. Slinski presented project #17-006C Triplett “Monitoring of Citrus Groves for non-target antibiotic resistance prior to and after application of streptomycin and oxytetracycline” with a one-year budget of

\$178,099. It was suggested that Dr. Browning communicate with the registrants to request cost-share of this project, as it is a requirement of the Section 18 Special Registration. Mr. McLean made a motion to approve funding for project #17-006C, Triplett proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis passed with two opposing votes from Mr. Barben and Mr. Thompson.

Dr. Slinski presented project #17-005C Vincent “Effects of heat treatments on antimicrobial uptake and translocation in citrus tress” with a budget of \$64,372. Mr. McLean made a motion to approve funding for the #17-005C, Vincent proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and passed unanimously.

Dr. Slinski presented project #16-025.1C, 16-025.2C, and 16-025.3C Phillips/Booker/Wang “Comparison of chemical uptake with laser ablation and conventional foliar application-Phase One”. The proposal has two phases with Phase one scheduled to be completed within 4 months with a total budget of \$112,176. Phase two will be developed as Phase one is completed. Mr. McLean made a motion to approve funding for phase one of the 16-025 for 4 months in the total amount of \$112,176. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hancock and passed unanimously.

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

**COO Report:** Dr. Browning gave updates on the following: RNAi candidates progressing to advanced evaluation and CRDF Role in IP; Contract Renewal Considerations; IRCHLB and Grower Day coming up on April 21; and NIFA SCRI CDRE and USDA, APHIS MAC federal HLB funding programs.

**Future CRDF Meetings:** Board of Directors meeting – April 25, 2017 in Lake Alfred

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Minutes submitted by Brandy Brown