

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Research Management Committee Meeting

August 21, 2013

A meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at the CREC Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by Chairman Bobby Barben. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members present were: Mr. Barben; Mr. Dooley; Mr. Farr; Mr. Howard; Mr. Jerkins; Mr. McClure; Mr. Simmons and Mr. Snively. Participating by phone was Mr. Barber. Mr. Larry Davis and Mr. Merritt were absent. Also present were Dr. Browning, Dr. Stansly, Dr. Rouse, Dr. Arnold, Dr. Roka, Mr. Joe L. Davis, Jr., Ms. Garrett, Mr. Neff, Mr. Sherrod, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton, Ms. Nowicki and Ms. Johnson. Also participating by phone was Dr. Turpen.

Mr. Howard moved to accept the minutes of the July 16, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Mr. McClure, the motion passed unanimously.

Being presented during this meeting are enhancements to current projects that would fall under guidelines of the legislative funding initiative for 2013-14. This funding timeline is July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. The CATP13 call for pre-proposals was announced on August 5th and project ideas resulting from this RFP will not fit the time frame of the legislative funding.

The first enhancement is for Project #614. Dr. Young proposed to test the hypothesis that enhanced nutritional applications sustain productivity in endemic HLB Florida grove situations. Approval would extend the project for 8 months beyond its current end date and provide an enhanced one-year budget of \$99,877. Mr. Jerkins made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$99,877 for data collection and analysis. Seconded by Mr. McClure, the motion passed unanimously.

The second project reviewed was Dr. Ehsani's Project #586, which is evaluating the use of thermal therapy to reduce infection in HLB-infected trees. This project enhancement involves addition of Dr. Ping Duan to continue his research in the Indian River and to expand the current research by Dr. Ehsani and Dr. Reyes. The additional funding request was \$229,618 for one year. This would be used to assist in adoption of this therapy on a larger scale and to further refine the temperature and time combinations that will be most effective. Mr. Howard made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of \$229,618 increase in budget for project #586. Seconded by Mr. Simmons, the motion passed unanimously.

The third project reviewed was Dr. Stansly's Project #447, a project submitted for consideration that addresses nutritional programs and other treatments targeted to young trees. The PI requested funds to start 4 new field experiments, and describes a three year plan for the research. Discussion focused on the funding period of interest being only one year, and whether the use of first-year funding would bring reportable results against the 3-year plan. Further, there was discussion about the appropriateness of funding the first year installation of new experiments with no consideration of how the subsequent years will be supported. Mr. McClure made a motion to recommend to the Board Dr. Stansly conduct a one year study with reflective mulch on grapefruit on the east coast. Seconded by Mr. Dooley, the motion passed unanimously. The committee asked Dr. Stansly to isolate the reflective mulch research element in a one-year plan to initiate the experiment in the Indian River and to show how progress in

year one could be obtained to justify the enhancement spending. The committee also recommended that he consider submission of the remainder of the request through the CATP-13 pre-proposal process.

The fourth project reviewed was Dr. Rouse's Project #179. This project had six components and was constructed to cover a three year period. Like the previous project, this request focused on several experiments relating to enhanced nutrition, but also contained various other objectives, all addressing mature citrus trees under pressure from HLB. Each experiment was evaluated and discussed, with the Committee making a recommendation for each.

- Experiment one: The series of field trials whose goal is optimizing ground and foliar nutrients, was proposed at an estimated cost \$165,880. Following discussion amongst the committee and with the PI, the committee recommended that this element be supported as proposed. If approved by the Board, a detailed budget and further details of treatment will be requested of the investigators.
Mr. Jerkins made a motion to recommend approval to the Board for experiment one as described above. Seconded by Mr. Howard, the motion passed unanimously.
- Experiment two: This project focuses on the benefit of vector control and foliar nutrition with a cost of \$109,000 as proposed. This project element involves 3 existing field trials as well as an additional trial proposed for installation in the Indian River area. The recommendation from the RMC was to support continuation of the three existing field trials, as they will yield useful data in the current year covered by the legislative funding. However, since the 4th trial is a new installation, the committee was not convinced that results would be coming from this trial in a timeframe that justifies support from this funding. The PI was encouraged to provide a detailed budget for the portion of this experiment that was approved. Mr. Howard made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the three existing trials. Seconded by Mr. Mr. Jerkins, the motion passed unanimously.
- Experiment three: Rehabilitation of HLB trees with pruning and nutritional therapy. This proposal spanned a three year period. Mr. Jerkins made a motion to recommend to the Board not to fund this enhancement but to have the PI submit the idea to CATP13. Seconded by Mr. Barben, the motion passed unanimously.
- Experiment four: Soil amendments to enhance foliar nutrient therapy programs on HLB infected grapefruit. The only deliverable for year one of this three year trial is to publish a document. The committee did not feel that this should be considered as an enhancement. The PI was encouraged to submit this plan to CATP13. Mr. Howard made a motion to recommend to the Board not to fund this enhancement. Seconded by Mr. McClure, the motion passed unanimously.
- Experiment five: Evaluating the efficacy of synthetic auxin (2,4-D) and enhanced nutritional programs to reduce fruit drop and improve tree health in HLB-affected groves. There are already trials on 2,4-D and the committee felt that it should not be funded in the short-term. Mr. Simmons made a motion to recommend to the Board not to fund this enhancement. Seconded by Mr. Snively, the motion passed unanimously.
- The committee recognized that since only a portion of the elements of this project was supported, the scope of effort to evaluate the economics should be less. Discussion led to the recommendation that Dr. Roka be encouraged to conduct this analysis with a budget not to exceed \$30,000. A detailed scope and budget for this portion should be submitted to CRDF. Mr. Jerkins made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of this portion of the project with a not to exceed budget of \$30,000. Seconded by Mr. Howard, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Turpen presented an overview of the request to expand Project # 582, an ongoing project to seek methods to interfere with HLB transmission in ACP. The request for expansion of the project life and budget emerged from the nuPsyllid project team meeting in April, when they discovered a critical gap in the NIFA project scope. The gap is the ability to transform ACP. Dr. Pelz-Stelinski's project provides supporting ACP colonies to conduct this work and therefore, this project is proposed for amendment to address this gap. The proposed modification to the project adds Dr. Al Handler with USDA, ARS in Gainesville as a sub-contractor. The budget request of \$386,479 over two years includes Dr. Handler's objective to transform ACP, and additional funding for Dr. Pelz-Stelinski to extend her research efforts for this period. The other \$250,010 contained in the transformation proposal is for the third year and will be reallocated from within the NIFA project grant. Mr. Jerkins made a motion to recommend to the Board approval for this enhancement with a strong recommendation to ask CRB to help co-fund this project with a cost of \$386,479. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClure and passed unanimously.

Research Management Committee member terms were addressed next. Florida Citrus Production Managers recommended Mike Stewart to replace John Merritt. Steve Farr and Jim Snively were recommended for reappointment. CRDF does not have a letter recommending someone to fill George Walker's position. Mr. Barber stated that he would have a letter forthcoming for this position. Mr. McClure made the motion to approve the recommendations from Florida Citrus Production Managers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Snively and the motion passed unanimously.

A September RMC meeting is anticipated and a poll will be forthcoming to schedule the meeting.

Other business: With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Diane Johnson