

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Research Management Committee Telephonic Meeting

September 23, 2013

A telephonic meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Monday, September 23, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Chairman Bobby Barben. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating by phone were: Mr. Barben; Mr. Farr; Mr. Howard; Mr. McClure; Mr. Sherrod; Mr. Simmons and Mr. Stewart. Members not participating were Mr. Barber, Mr. Larry Davis, Mr. Dooley, Mr. Jerkins and Mr. Snively. Also participating were Dr. Browning, Dr. Turpen, Dr. Dukowitz, Mr. Newlin, Ms. Nowicki and Ms. Johnson.

Mr. McClure moved to accept the minutes of the August 18, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Simmons, the motion passed unanimously.

Enhancements to current projects were discussed that would fall under guidelines of the legislative funding initiative for 2013-14. This funding timeline is July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

Presented for final review was Project #179. The question was raised as to the difference in the proposal presented today and the proposal discussed at the previous RMC meeting. The only difference is Dr. Roka's analysis for this project has been removed. Mr. Howard asked if the closing of the Immokalee research center would affect the projects being conducted there. Dr. Browning talked with the IFAS Dean and the center will continue while in transition over the next year. This enhancement would extend the project for an additional six months. The project would add experiments in the Indian River Region and also include grapefruit. It would also continue three trials in oranges in southwest Florida to evaluate economic benefit of insecticides and foliar nutrients. The Committee questioned the need for purchasing a motherboard and computer equipment in the latter stages of this project. Dr. Turpen will follow up on this. Mr. Simmons made a motion to recommend to the Board approval to extend this project for six months and approve a budget increase of \$252,196. Seconded by Mr. McClure, the motion passed unanimously.

The second enhancement for final review was Project #447. This project enhancement is to conduct a one year study on reflective mulch on grapefruit on the east coast. Mr. Howard made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$148,159. Seconded by Mr. McClure, the motion passed unanimously.

The following enhancements are a result of communicating with PI's that have existing projects that would fall under the Legislative funding.

Dr. Gmitter's Project #537: Propose to increase the number of scion samples to be propagated which requires more materials to be replicated, propagated, and tested in the greenhouse and explore the nature of the rootstocks on which the surviving trees are found. The cost of this addition is \$20,000. The question was raised as to the process for reporting survivor trees. Survivor trees should be reported to your extension agent who then reports to Dr. Gmitter and Dr. Wang. Mr. McClure made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$20,000. Seconded by Mr. Simmons, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Grosser's Project #548: Proposes to conduct a more extensive top-working experiment to evaluate performance of selected new sweet orange clones when grafted to HLB-infected scaffold branches of existing field trees. Mr. Howard made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$16,229. Seconded by Mr. Stewart, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Mankin's Project #567: Proposes to purchase 3-5 commercial bird distress call speaker systems and modify them to produce female psyllid response signals. This project would also need a six month extension. The practicality of this was questioned and Dr. Turpen assured the committee that preliminary studies have shown that this may be worthwhile. Also questioned was the need for a full time post-doc. The post-doc would be designing customized circuit boards needed for traps and sound production systems. Mr. McClure made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$115,000. Seconded by Mr. Simmons, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Mizell's Project #570: Proposes enhance psyllid attraction from natural host chemistry and it adds unlimited opportunities to add other available technology and addresses rapid deployment and adaptability combined with a trap designed to be both a "fungal delivery mechanism" and an "efficient trap for quantifying psyllid treatment responses". This enhancement would extend the project for an additional two months. The question was raised as to whether this overlapped with Dr. Mankin's project. Dr. Turpen explained that these two projects are different. The question was also raised as to whether CRDF should be purchasing a computer for the project. Dr. Turpen will follow up on the computer. Mr. McClure made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$97,108 and extension of this project for two additional months. Seconded by Mr. Farr, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Pelz-Stelinski's Project #581: Proposes to test the hypothesis that ACP's move to and "shelter" in poorly managed groves or the alternative hosts during winter months before dispersing to more actively managed groves in the spring. The committee thought it would be good to know how best to fight the psyllid in the winter. Mr. Simmons made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$11,868 and extension of this project for two additional months. Seconded by Mr. Farr, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Pelz-Stelinski's Project #582: Proposes to determine the impact of cool temperatures, and expression of melanization genes, on ACP vector competence. They will also investigate melanization gene expression in response to entomopathogenic fungal infection at different temperatures. Mr. Simmons made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$28,368 and extension of this project for two additional months. Seconded by Mr. Farr, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Powell's Project #584: Proposes to field test formulations that will efficiently deliver molecules effective against CLas into citrus phloem. The question was raised as to whether the PCR tests for HLB are being sent out or are they being done in the CRDF-funded projects. Dr. Turpen will check on this. Mr. Simmons made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$81,610. Seconded by Mr. Howard, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Roger's Project #590: Proposes to examine the concentration of Neonicotinoid pesticides in citrus nectar when applications are made at different time intervals prior to bloom. Mr. Howard made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$45,368. Seconded by Mr. Farr, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Stelinski's Project #603: Proposes to enhance the throughput of assays by dedicating more labor to psyllid colony maintenance. Mr. Simmons made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$30,336 and extension of this project for three additional months. Seconded by Mr. Stewart, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Stelinski's Project #604: Proposes to add a similar experiment within a planting of mature citrus trees with a mix of HLB-infected and non-infected trees. This new experiment would be composed of mature uninfected and HLB-infected trees. Mr. Simmons made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$28,368 and extension of this project for three additional months. Seconded by Mr. Farr, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Wang's Project #608: Proposes to expand field testing which will include two field trials in two locations, larger scale field test, test more beneficial microbes, and test different approaches to enhance survival of the beneficial microbes in the soil. Mr. Simmons made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$97,076. Seconded by Mr. Farr, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Allan's Project #701: Proposes to optimize attraction of psyllids to visual targets which will provide directly applicable information for field use. She also proposes to begin year two of the project early to accelerate towards solutions. The question was raised if this work was to just identify and trap or kill and why the increase in budget money if she is only moving year two work to year one. Dr. Turpen explained that the experiment was to trap and identify and kill. He will check with Dr. Allan on the additional money. Mr. Howard made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the budget increase of \$70,708. Seconded by Mr. Farr, the motion passed unanimously.

Other business: There was no other business.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Diane Johnson