

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the

Commercial Product Delivery Committee Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2019

A telephonic meeting of the Commercial Product Delivery Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Monday, March 11, 2019. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 2:33 pm by Chair Pat Ouimet. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were Larry Black, Holly Chamberlain, Alec Hayes, Greg Hodges, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Pat Ouimet, Shannon Shepp and John Updike, Jr. Committee members not in attendance were Tim Eyrich, Kelly Friend, Jerry Newlin, Brian Scully and Tom Stopyra. Other participants were William Castle, Ron Cave, Rick Dantzler, Johnny Ferrarezi, David Howard, Haiyan Jia, Audrey Nowicki, Gee Roe, Peter Spyke, Jim Syvertsen and Rosa Walsh.

Dr. Ouimet and Mr. Dantzler welcomed the Research Director candidate Dr. Jia who was on site because of an interview earlier.

Dr. Ouimet moved to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and, with no discussion, passed unanimously.

Dr. Ouimet opened with discussion of Dr. Ferrarezi's proposal #18-037C Millennium Block. Mr. Dantzler noted that when the project was considered with the 2018 RFP there was a recommendation to scale down from grapefruit, navels and mandarins to grapefruit only. The PI revised the budget but did not revise the scope of the project. The budget was reduced by approximately \$224,000.

At its last meeting, the Board of Directors directed that the proposal be re-considered by this committee.

Mr. Black moved to recommend Board approval of the revised proposal #18-037C; the motion was seconded by Dr. Hodges and discussion followed. Mr. Updike expressed interest in funding the grapefruit portion of the project but expressed concerns on the maintenance of the field trials based on what he observed during a recent tour. Dr. Cave, IRREC Center Director, explained research groves do not always receive the optimum level of maintenance, with the focus more on achieving the research objectives over maintaining production quality. As well, irrigation problems and limited personnel issues sometimes take time to resolve. This is a research grove, not a commercial farm.

Mr. Black agreed with Mr. Updike that the project has potential for a slightly different model. Dr. Cave noted the largest part of project is grapefruit and the importance of resurrecting the fresh fruit industry in the Indian River; if research is not successful reviving in grapefruit, the navel and mandarin research will provide a fresh fruit backup plan for growers.

Mr. Spyke explained the Millennium block as designed was 100% devoted to profiling UFR rootstocks. Mandarins and navels express important traits useful in evaluating tolerance to HLB and contribute greatly to the quality of the experiment. He admitted that the groves had been somewhat neglected with the departure of PIs that used them previously; personnel costs are included in this project to enhance grove care as the project ramps up and equipment is being upgraded. A new Ag engineer has also been hired who will assist with the irrigation issues. Regarding questions on the number of rootstocks, all UFRs were included to obtain information for comparison of traits over a larger planting; there are no other trials that include all the UFRs. With no further discussion, the motion passed, with Mr. Updike opposing.

Dr. Ouimet initiated discussion of Dr. Qureshi's request for additional funding in the amount of \$83,048 for project #18-055C. The proposal had been discussed by the Board at its February meeting; and after concerns that the project wouldn't answer questions that were sufficiently new, had been sent to CPDC for consideration.

Mr. Dantzler stated this proposal was originally submitted by Dr. Stansly, but upon his death was reassigned, with Board approval, to Dr. Qureshi. CRDF staff asked Dr. Qureshi to elaborate on the need for the .5 FTE request, as well as to provide additional detail regarding several project components. Based on lack of convincing rationale for the increase, staff recommended that the funding increase be denied.

Mr. Black moved to decline approval of the proposed increase for the .5 FTE personnel and continue with the project as originally funded. Ms. Shepp seconded the motion. Ms. Shepp noted this research has been funded previously and questioned whether funding the project again just to obtain an additional year of efficacy fits CRDF's current priority mold. Mr. Updike agreed and stated these funds could be used for a future CRAFT project instead. Mr. Dantzler cautioned that the contract with UF for Dr. Qureshi's project had already been signed, and he wasn't sure it could be terminated simply because the committee had changed its mind.

Mr. Black expressed that he is not opposed to continuing the project as contracted, but modifications to include increasing plot sizes should be made as well as utilizing the Southern Gardens lab to realize a savings. Dr. Hodges questioned the qualifications of the PI, associating Dr. Qureshi with biocontrol work. Mr. Dantzler suggested deferring action on the decision until he has had an opportunity to speak with Dr. Qureshi to address the committee's concerns. Ms. Shepp withdrew her second to the motion; Mr. Black agreed to withdrawing his motion. Dr. Ouimet stated the decision is tabled until additional information is provided to bring the request forward at that time.

Dr. Ouimet started the discussion of the 2019 RFP priorities and noted that the RFP had been tabled previously to give growers and grower organizations and ARS an opportunity to comment. Mr. Dantzler reported that he received comments from Mr. Smith, Gulf Citrus Growers, which had to do with measuring yield in bactericide studies. Mr. Dantzler reported that he discussed this request with Mr. Smith, and Mr. Smith was satisfied that the language, as drafted, captured his concerns.

The other change in the RFP was to separate “Citrus diseases other than HLB, including diseases not yet in Florida” to stand alone as priority 6.

Dr. Ouimet asked if Mr. Dantzler had received any input on the discussion of the term that a project would have to have commercial impact for the industry to be considered a CPD project. To date, no specific term has been specified.

Mr. Updike clarified that the RFP is generally for Research proposals; Mr. Dantzler indicated that if a proposal is received that falls under Commercial Product Delivery, the project managers would refer it to this committee rather than RMC.

Dr. Ouimet moved to approve the 2019 RFP process and proposed timeline. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed with no opposition.

Dr. Ouimet asked if there was any other business. Mr. Gee Roe expressed his desire for a formal discussion with the committee on trunk injection of oxytetracycline to control HLB which has shown some efficacy and would fit the short-term solution timeframe of the CPDC. He questioned what type of additional studies the committee would like to see in order to get a labeled product in the hands of growers. What does the CPDC feel is most important to move forward: more efficacy results, practicality for growers to perform, or residue levels from the fruit and plant tissues? Mr. Gee would like this topic included on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Dantzler indicated that Dr. Wang is already doing studies for efficacy and will also be performing residue studies. In the interim, staff can determine where Dr. Wang is on the project, what other projects are underway addressing the issues, and have the discussion at the next meeting.

Dr. Syvertsen reminded the committee that the Project Managers’ Quarterly Report as of December 31, 2018 was included in the materials and he and Dr. Graham were available to answer any questions.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Audrey Nowicki