

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

## **Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**March 19, 2019**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at the UF-IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Room 101 in Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Board President Larry Black called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Bobby Barben, Larry Black, Ned Hancock, Greg Hodges (telephone), David Howard, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Jerry Newlin, Tom Obreza, Pat Ouimet (telephone) and John Updike, Jr. Members that were absent were Charlie Lykes and Bob Newsome. Also participating were Mike Aerts, Brandy Brown, Rick Dantzler, Steve Futch, Audrey Nowicki, Gee Roe, Mike Sparks and Jim Syvertsen.

Also, in attendance were Dan Casper (telephone), Sharon Garrett (telephone), Cody Lastinger, Andrew Meadows (telephone), Ernie Neff, Brandon Page, Shannon Shepp (telephone), Buddy Strickland (telephone), Callie Walker and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Black presented the board minutes from the February 26, 2019 meeting. Mr. Hancock moved to accept the minutes of the February 26, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and it passed unanimously.

**Executive Committee:** Mr. Black reported the Executive Committee has not met.

**Finance and Audit Committee:** Chairman Ned Hancock reviewed the February 28, 2019 Financial and Investment Account Summaries and reported that CRDF will make every effort to spend the entire \$8 million, as per legislative instructions. He reported that the budget is slightly under on the new contracts that began in January 2019, and with the vacant positions, the salaries remain below budget as well. F&A and staff have begun to look ahead to prepare for the 2019-20 fiscal year, as well as looking at the funding needs for the CRaFT program. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve the February 28, 2019 summaries as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler gave an update on the APHIS/CRDF contract, which would cover the Citrus Research and Field Trial (CRaFT) program, which is the successor program to GRIP. Mr. Dantzler reported the CRaFT proposal is intended to develop an economically viable and sustainable Florida citrus industry in the presence of HLB and the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) through the implementation of applied best management practices. This will include conducting large-scale field trials and demonstration projects. Mr. Dantzler reported that the CRaFT program is intended to result in 5,000 new citrus acres planted and to assist growers in that effort. To be able to qualify for funding, there must be a research component to the effort. To more accurately describe the work that will be done, “demonstration projects” has been incorporated into the documents as part of the scope of work.

Mike Sparks gave an update on discussions occurring in DC regarding the CRaFT program. He reported there is a lot of support for this program and it is moving forward, and everyone wants to see the program get started quickly.

Mr. Dantzler reviewed the current draft contract, to include the staff and budget justifications, which were provided in materials. He reported that the CRaFT program is going to be a huge commitment for CRDF. Mr. Dantzler reported that the deliverables are going to be key and will need to be spelled out in the contract. He is working with staff to create specific forms for reporting purposes, as well. Mr. Atchley made a motion to support the Governance Committee's recommendation to direct the COO to continue to negotiate the agreement with APHIS on the CRaFT program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barben and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hancock reported on the results of the Communication Survey and thanked Mr. Sparks for handling the survey for CRDF. There was value in the outcome of the survey and the results, and it also gave insight to what the growers are looking for. Information from the survey, is being used and incorporated into the redesign of our new website for communication purposes. Mr. Hancock reported that the summaries of the survey are encouraging and gives us something to build upon as we continue to move forward, as well as areas that we can improve on.

Mr. Hancock gave an update on the current status of the CRDF website. We are continuing to move forward with Frankel Media Group, and the anticipated launch of the re-designed website is May 2019. The website is going to have significant improvement, from design to functionality, and be easier to access for research information and other topics.

**Governance Committee:** Chairman John Updike, Jr. reported that the Governance Committee met to discuss the current Research Management Committee Non-Board Appointment Policy and Procedures that were adopted by the CRDF Board in 2010. The RMC met last week and revised the document, which was included in materials. Mr. Dantzler discussed two changes to the guidelines, which included the term limit provision beginning in 2021 and the addition of Florida Citrus Mutual to assist the Florida Citrus Production Managers Association in recommendations of Non-Board Appointments to the RMC. Mr. Hancock made a motion to adopt the revised RMC Non-Board Appointment Policy and Procedures Guidelines. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler discussed the staffing needs for the CRaFT program, which will include a Program Administrator and an Administrative Assistant. Mr. Atchley made a motion to authorize the CRDF COO to open and advertise the positions as described in the APHIS contract for the CRaFT program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Updike asked Mr. Dantzler to give a status update on the Research Director position. Mr. Dantzler reported 13 applications were received for the Research Director position and on February 25, the Search and Screen Committee conducted five phone interviews, and of those five, two candidates were invited to come for in-person interviews. Those two candidates were Dr. Luke Farno, who interviewed on Thursday, March 7, and Dr. Haiyan Jia, who interviewed on Monday, March 11. Mr. Dantzler gave a brief background description of both candidates. During their

interviews they met with several UF researchers and the Search and Screen Committee. Mr. Dantzler received feedback from the researchers and the committee members and their impressions of the two candidates. He reported he believes that Dr. Jia is the best qualified candidate for the position. Members of the Search and Screen Committee gave comments on their impression of Dr. Jia and concurred with Mr. Dantzler. Mr. Hancock made a motion to approve the hire of Dr. Haiyan Jia to the Research Director position. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and it passed unanimously.

**Research Management Committee:** Chairman David Howard reported that the committee met on March 15 to discuss the revisions to the draft 2019 RFP process and timeline. Comments and suggestions were requested from CPDC, RMC, grower organizations and federal partners, and were to be submitted to Mr. Dantzler and Mr. Howard by February 28, 2019. The revised document was provided in materials for Board review and discussion.

Mr. Dantzler discussed the minor revisions made to the 2019 RFP process and reported that Mr. Steve Smith was the only person he received comments from, and Mr. Dantzler addressed Mr. Smith's comments to his satisfaction. The timeline was also discussed, and it was reported that staff will be communicating with the SAB members soon. Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the 2019 RFP process and timeline as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard reviewed the structure of the Select Committee for Plant Improvement and asked Mr. Dantzler to discuss in detail the directives and responsibilities of the Select Committee. Mr. Dantzler reported that the goal is to make sure the Plant Improvement team has a clear understanding of what the citrus industry wants them to be working on, that the data being collected is what growers need in order to make planting decisions and how to get that data out to the citrus industry as quickly as possible. Mr. Dantzler addressed the questions that have come up during discussions about how the Select Committee would participate during the 2019 RFP process. It was clarified that the comments and views of the Select Committee would be brought forward to the RMC for consideration, but the Select Committee would not have funding or project approval decision-making authority. However, members of the Select Committee who are also on the RMC would share with RMC any knowledge or perspective gained while serving on the Select Committee. Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the CRDF Plant Improvement Select Committee members and the committee's directives and responsibilities as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard reported that the committee structure of the RMC and the Non-Board member appointments guideline revisions were previously discussed by Mr. Updike during the Governance portion. He reported that the current grower member reappointments are Tim Dooley from Fort Pierce and Wayne Simmons from La Belle, and to fill the at-large industry appointments, the nominations are Juan Carlos Motamayor Arias with Coca-Cola and Sean McCoy with Tropicana. Mr. Howard made a motion to reappoint Tim Dooley and Wayne Simmons, and to appoint Juan Carlos Motamayor Arias and Sean McCoy as members to the Research Management Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and it passed unanimously.

**Commercial Product Delivery Committee:** Chairman Pat Ouimet reported on the Ferrarezi Millennium Block project, proposal #18-037C. The original proposal was not funded by CRDF due to concern about costs and the focus not being solely on Grapefruit. The PI submitted a revised budget, but the focus of the project remained on Grapefruit, Navel and Mandarin. Dr. Ouimet made a motion to approve Ferrarezi project for funding in its revised form. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barben. There was a lengthy discussion and concerns addressed about the project as well as the level of funding. Mr. Newlin made a motion to amend the original motion and to add an additional \$600 per acre for caretaking costs for the 24 acres, with a budget total of \$417,597. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barben. There was further discussion about caretaking costs in the proposal by the PI, and after discussions ended, the motion was restated. Concern was expressed about the condition of the trees and the benefit of possibly using contract caretaking services. The motion passed with Mr. Hancock and Mr. Updike opposing and Drs. Mastrodicasa and Obreza abstaining.

Mr. Dantzler reported on project #18-055C Qureshi and the status for the additional funding request. There was discussion about how this project will differ from the previous project that was already funded. Concern was raised that the main question the project seeks to answer has already been answered. Options were discussed, including converting the project to a CRaFT proposal. It was decided that Mr. Dantzler would discuss this with Dr. Qureshi to see if he thought it was possible and if he would be willing to do so.

Dr. Ouimet reported that Dr. Syvertsen gave a review of the December 31, 2018 quarterly project managers' report that was included with the board materials. Mr. Hancock made a motion to approve the December 31, 2018 quarterly project managers' report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler asked that Gee Roe, a grower with W.G. Roe and Sons, Inc., be given an opportunity to speak to the Board about an idea for trunk injections. Mr. Roe discussed with the Board what research needs or concerns the CPDC would need addressed for a trunk injection project. Mr. Dantzler asked Mike Aerts to explain how a registrant would need to be involved for trunk injections. Mr. Aerts discussed what would be involved, especially the collection of residual data.

**COO Report:** Mr. Dantzler reported that FFVA has agreed with the revisions that were made to the contract and is pleased to have FFVA/TPR as a critical partner for CRDF.

Mr. Dantzler gave a review on the IRCHLB VI meeting he attended in California from March 12-15. While he was there, he met with Angela McMellen-Brannigan with USDA-APHIS, Tom Bewick, the California Research Board (CRB), and other potential funders of research to discuss the funding under the farm bill and the specialty crops' budget. He said the funders may come together soon to discuss a more coordinated plan for spending the funds.

Mr. Dantzler reported that CRDF has approached CRB to co-fund the Gmitter project #18-010 that was approved for funding for year one of the three-year project. He hopes to have an answer from CRB by the end of the week on whether they will co-fund years two and three.

During the IRCHLB meeting, Mr. Dantzler was asked about better communication from CRDF with the growers and researchers. He discussed the idea of holding quarterly meetings and facilitating a group discussion with four researchers and a large group of growers. Roughly 20 growers would meet with one researcher to discuss what the researcher is doing. Each discussion would last about 45 minutes and then the researcher would rotate to the next group of growers. This type of setting allows for a focused discussion between the researchers and growers.

**Partnership Updates:** Mr. Mike Sparks gave a brief report from the meeting he attended in DC on research funding and legislative matters.

Dr. Steve Futch gave an update from the Citrus Extension Agents. He reported that the Citrus Growers Institute will be held on April 2 at the Avon Park State College. While attending the meeting in California, Dr. Futch spoke with several people interested in the current citrus report, which included updates on the citrus bloom and postbloom fruit drop. Also, in his report, he discussed that the harvesting of Valencias is under way, pound solids are averaging between 5.8 to 6.4 and 250-300 boxes to the acre, and that psyllid counts are not very high.

**New Business:** Mr. Updike asked for an update on the cranberry extracts. Mr. Dantzler gave an update on the request from Ocean Spray, which was for CRDF to pursue a Section 18 for cranberry extracts. There was a meeting to discuss this request and due to the Section 3 that has been granted for Oxytetracycline there is an issue in moving forward with pursuing a Section 18 for the cranberry extracts. Also, there is an IR4 option being pursued by Ocean Spray for a 10-acre project between Ocean Spray and a grower-cooperator. As of now, there is no definite answer on what will happen with the cranberries that are available.

Mr. Dantzler discussed a report presented by Dr. Ann Simon that took place at the IRCHLB conference, and he asked her if she would be willing to speak at an upcoming Board meeting.

**Future CRDF Meetings:** The next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 10am, co-hosted by Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association, at the Turner Ag Center in Arcadia, Florida.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Minutes submitted by Rob Atchley, Secretary.