

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

April 23, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at the Turner Agri-Civic Center in Arcadia, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Board Vice-President Bobby Barben called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Bobby Barben, Larry Black (telephone), Ned Hancock, David Howard, Charlie Lykes, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Jerry Newlin, Bob Newsome, Tom Obreza, Pat Ouimet (telephone), and John Updike, Jr. Members that were absent were Greg Hodges. Also participating were Brandy Brown, Judith Brown, Rick Dantzler, Jim Graham, Audrey Nowicki, Chris Oswalt, Jawwad Qureshi, Michael Rogers, Jim Snively, and Mike Sparks.

Also, in attendance were Mike Aerts, Winsor Everland, Fred Gmitter (telephone), Alec Hayes (telephone), Mike Irely, Sean McCoy, Andrew Meadows (telephone), Bill Poulton, Kait Shaw, Shannon Shepp (telephone), Buddy Strickland, Dan Sweeney, Callie Walker and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Barben presented the board minutes from the March 19, 2019 meeting. Mr. Hancock moved to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and it passed unanimously.

Executive Committee: Mr. Dantzler reported the Executive Committee has not met.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Ned Hancock reviewed the March 31, 2019 Financial and Investment Account Summaries. He reported that spending is slightly behind on research projects just starting up, but expects it to catch up. Mr. Updike made a motion to approve the March 31, 2019 summaries as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hancock discussed the Wells Fargo Money Market changes that are taking place due to our account balance not being \$50 million or more. During the F&A Committee meeting, it was discussed that the UF will likely give a recommendation on where to move our account since CRDF has invested with UFICO in the past. Also, Mr. Dantzler has communicated with Center State Bank to determine if they are a potential bank to move our accounts to. At this time, no decision has been made.

Mr. Hancock reviewed the 2019 engagement letter from Bunting, Tripp, & Ingley (BTI), who handled the CRDF yearly audit and tax preparation for the past 10 years. The letter states that our payment for FY 2018-2019 will not exceed \$23,000, and for FY 2019-2020 will not exceed \$24,000 for next year, and \$25,000 the following year. The increase in cost is in line with the engagement letters we have received from BTI over the past 10 years, and BTI has served CRDF well during those times. Much of the increase was due to additional rules and regulations. Mr.

Urdike made a motion to approve the BTI engagement letter as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler discussed the purpose of the video service with Megapixel Pro LLC, with whom we are proposing to contract. He reported that as we go through the process of redesigning our CRDF website, there is going to be an area on the homepage that allows us to highlight certain research, as well as certain researchers. To do that we have determined that video is going to be the preferred media to highlight on our website. We have received two proposals, one from Dan Sweeney with Megapixel, which is included in the materials, and one from Gary Cooper with Southeast AgNet. Mr. Sweeney's proposal was much less expensive than Mr. Cooper's; however, Mr. Cooper's was much more comprehensive, so we are not really comparing apples to apples. Mr. Cooper has experience with podcasts and audio, which is something we are considering as a possible add-on to the website for the researchers we spotlight. We have invited Mr. Sweeney to handle the video of Dr. Judith Brown for our website to see how things go. The contract with Mr. Sweeney allows for us to terminate the contract if we determine we do not want to proceed in this manner. These videos are a way for us to be able to communicate better with the growers, which is a proviso request we received from the legislature last year. Mr. Urdike made a motion to approve the contract with Megapixel Pro, LLC (Dan Sweeney) for the initial video. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hancock gave an update on the Frankel Media website redesign, stating we are getting closer to the launch date. He reported that Ms. Nowicki will be scheduling training sessions in the first couple of weeks of May with Frankel, which will consist of navigating through the new website. Mr. Hancock emphasized that the new features to the website are hopefully going to be very useful to the growers and other users and that the information will be more readily available and beneficial to the citrus industry. Mr. Hancock asked for everyone to give as much feedback on the website once it launches, so that we can make the appropriate changes.

Mr. Dantzler gave an update on the CRaFT program, reporting that a couple of weeks ago he received communication from UF that they had concerns on how CRDF would be involved in contracting with the federal agency, and how we would be administering federal money and administering the CRaFT program. This communication prompted Mr. Black and Mr. Dantzler to travel to Gainesville to meet with Dr. Jack Payne, the UF General Counsel, and the Vice-President of Research. After the meeting, Mr. Dantzler met with Mike Sparks and Mike Joyner to inform them that CRDF would not be playing the role with CRaFT that was anticipated. He reported then an idea that has surfaced is to create a special purpose DSO under the Florida Department of Agriculture specifically for the CRaFT program.

Mr. Dantzler reported that he anticipates that we will hear from the legislature in proviso language that at least \$2 million of the appropriation we receive must be directed to large-scale field trials.

To stay informed of progress on the CRaFT program, Mr. Dantzler, Jim Graham, and Brandon Page have attended several meetings related to CRaFT to learn about the policy guidelines and other mechanics of the program. It is still unclear how CRDF will be involved with CRaFT, if at

all. Mr. Sparks discussed details of Florida Citrus Mutual's involvement with the CRaFT program and ideas of how they plan to move forward, perhaps including how to use the special purpose DSO.

Dr. Mastrodicasa read an email from the UF General Counsel pertaining to possible new DSO requirements for CRDF. The Board had lengthy discussion of their disappointment with CRDF not being allowed to participate in CRaFT.

Mr. Dantzler reported that we are still waiting for UF to approve the revisions made to the CRDF by-laws. Also, he has requested a meeting with the Board of Trustees to discuss the concerns the DSO status of CRDF.

Mr. Hancock reported that CRDF received a request from the Florida State Horticultural Society (FSHS) for continued sponsorship of \$5,500 as has been done the past several years. Mr. Newlin made a motion to approve support for the sponsorship request of \$5,500 to the FSHS. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hancock gave a status update on the FY 2019-20 budget. He reported that the budget is progressing, and it is assumed that we will receive \$8 million from the legislature. However, \$2 million of that funding may have to be directed towards large-scale field trials, so we need to take that into consideration when finalizing the budget. The total amount for approved projects moving into FY 2019-20 is \$7.8 million, which does not include the \$2 million for large-scale field trials or CRaFT.

Mr. Dantzler reported on the FFVA/TPR contract and stated that we received the signed contract back from Mike Aerts this morning. He also thanked Mike for his service and the willingness of FFVA to be our partner on regulatory matters.

Governance Committee: Chairman John Updike, Jr. reported that Brandy Brown will be emailing the FY 2019-20 Conflict of Interest (COI) forms out tomorrow and asked that all COI forms be completed and returned by Friday, May 3.

Research Management Committee: Chairman David Howard gave an update on the process and timeline of the 2019 RFP. He stated that April 15 was the deadline to submit pre-proposals and 91 pre-proposals were received. The pre-proposals have been distributed for review and ranking. The SAB will meet on May 6 to do a review and ranking of the pre-proposals. The RMC will meet on May 15 for their review and ranking of the pre-proposals, then the recommended pre-proposals will be brought forward to the Board for approval, and those approved will be invited to submit full proposals.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Mr. Dantzler gave an update on project #18-055C by Qureshi. At the last board meeting, there was discussion if Dr. Qureshi would consider slightly modifying the proposal to accommodate a CRaFT proposal. The thinking of the board was that if we are directed to spend \$2 million on CRaFT proposals, this proposal could be one to get it started. Mr. Dantzler met with Drs. Qureshi and Morgan about this idea, but they were reluctant to walk away from the base part of the proposals, but they would consider it. Mr. Dantzler spoke with Dr.

Morgan last week, and he said that they would prefer to keep the proposal as is. At this point we need to give Dr. Qureshi an answer on the additional funding requests, and there are a couple of options. There is a contract already in place so if we take no action at this time, then Dr. Qureshi can use his 0.5 FTE for the 1st year; if he has made progress and comes back to us before the end of the calendar year with a request for the 0.5 FTE for years two and three, we could then entertain the request, or we could go ahead and approve the additional funding in years two and three. The board decided to leave the project as it was initially approved.

Select Committee on Plant Improvement: Chairman Jim Snively gave a brief update of the Select Committee on Plant Improvement. He reported the committee and plant breeders came together in the meeting and discussed what the committee's goals would be, and the different definitions of tolerance. All in all, he thought the committee was off to a good start and that next meetings would likely involve visiting the research centers to see what breeders had in the pipeline, and to visit with each team separately.

Researcher Presentation: Mr. Dantzler introduced Dr. Judith Brown, a Professor in the School of Plant Sciences with the University of Arizona. Dr. Brown has her M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology, as well as her undergraduate degree in Horticultural with a minor in Plant Pathology. Mr. Barben heard one of Dr. Brown's presentations and believed inviting her to speak at one of the CRDF Board meetings would be beneficial to the citrus industry. Mr. Dantzler reported that Dr. Brown is working on a project with Dr. Qureshi, which they will report on together. He thanked both Drs. Brown and Qureshi for joining us.

Dr. Brown thanked Mr. Dantzler and Mr. Barben for the invitation and thanked the audience for attending while she and Dr. Qureshi made their presentations. Dr. Brown gave a presentation on "A study system for discovery and development of dsRNA biopesticides as potential components of HLB/ACP management." Following, Dr. Qureshi gave a presentation on "Psyllid and HLB Management Biopesticidal dsRNA, laser delivery and impact."

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler gave an update from the Transformation Lab Panel meeting, reporting that the panel had finished its report and are working on final touches, after that they will share it with Dr. Rogers as a professional courtesy and the PI's, giving them an opportunity to respond. Mr. Dantzler hopes that by the next meeting he will be able to share the report with the industry.

Mr. Dantzler reported on the status of the Research Director position. Due to the DSO situation, he believes it would be unfair to interview any candidate until the issues with the DSO settle, so we will not publicize that hire at this time. Instead, we have a potential individual who is willing to take on this position on a time-limited basis. Mr. Dantzler expressed his opinion that this person would be an excellent fit for the position or in some other capacity to assist CRDF. We are working on administrative matters to see if this person is able to work with CRDF. The anticipation for this person is for them to assist Drs. Graham and Syvertsen during the 2019 RFP process and helping with the review of the 91 pre-proposals, and possibly take on other projects that CRDF is working on. This person would fill this position on a 6-month basis and then we would reevaluate it at that point.

Mr. Dantzler reported that he attended a meeting last week on “Redefining the Orange,” and one of the things he learned was that the taxonomy of how we define an orange is not valid. He stated there was discussion on thoughts of redefining the orange by its chemistry and its sensory analysis. How it smells, tastes, what color it has, etc. This will possibly be a topic that our Select Committee on Plant Improvement will discuss at a future meeting. Grower input on this topic is going to be very important to this discussion.

Partnership Updates: Mr. Mike Sparks gave a brief report on research funding and legislative matters. He reported that they have heard from Tallahassee and we are in good shape to receive the \$8 million in funding. He reported that DC is also in good shape and discussed details of the Farm Bill. Mr. Sparks reminded everyone about the Annual Citrus Conference in Bonita Springs that starts with the CRDF Board meeting on June 12, followed by the Education Session and Legislative Luncheon on June 13. He mentioned that there is a block of rooms being held at a low \$138 a night rate, which will increase on May 1.

Dr. Michael Rogers reported that the Citrus Institute was held in April and the summaries will be posted on the website for viewing. The IRCHLB Conference summaries and presentations by UF employees will be on podcast and available to listen to next week. Following the Citrus Institute, UF held a Citrus Retreat for IFAS facility in Sebring and a lot of planning took place in that meeting which involved changes to the Expo and more grower interaction.

Dr. Rogers was asked to relay a message from the UF researchers on the 91 pre-proposals that CRDF will be reviewing and ranking in the next few weeks. He asked that CRDF give a rigorous look and to be honest if a pre-proposal stands a chance to get funding, and if not to reject it immediately, so that time wasn't spent preparing a full proposal if it didn't have much chance of being funded.

Dr. Rogers made an announcement that Dr. Payne has allowed for a new hire for another Research Plant Breeder.

Dr. Chris Oswalt gave an update from the Citrus Extension Agents. First, he thanked CRDF for its support and sponsorship to the Citrus Institute. He then gave a report on Valencia and Post Bloom Fruit Drop. He also reported that the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings are being held on May 2, the Annual Farm Safety Day will be on May 3, and National OJ Day is May 4.

New Business: There were discussions on whether CRDF needed to start looking at options with the DSO situation and their relationship with UF. It was suggested to possibly make our key partners in the legislature aware.

Future CRDF Meetings: The next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 10am in Lake Alfred.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 pm.

Minutes submitted by Rob Atchley, Secretary.