

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

December 3, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at the UF-IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Room 103 in Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Board President Larry Black called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Mr. Black recognized Dr. Jude Grosser who explained the orange juice displayed for sampling. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Bobby Barben, Larry Black, Ned Hancock, Greg Hodges, David Howard, Ron Mahan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Bob Newsome, Thomas Obreza and John Updike. Also participating were Rick Dantzler, Steve Futch, Jim Graham, Jim Syvertsen and Deidra Whatley.

Also, in attendance were Mike Aerts, Megan Dewdney, Ed Dickinson, Jude Grosser, Aaron Himrod, Laurie Hurner, Ernie Neff, Brian Scully, Josh Snively, Callie Walker, Rosa Walsh, and Janice Zale.

Mr. Black recognized Josh Snively and Aaron Himrod as being new nominees to the Board of Directors who will be seated at the January meeting, and who would be approved by the University later in the week.

Mr. Black presented the board minutes from the October 22, 2019 meeting. David Howard moved to accept the minutes of the October 22, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by Bobby Barben, and with no discussion it passed unanimously.

Executive Committee: Mr. Black stated that the Executive Committee had nothing to report.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Ned Hancock presented the October 31 and November 25, 2019 Financial Summaries. Mr. Hancock noted that the FY 2019-20 FDACS contracts were executed on October 2, 2019, and the usual underspending of funded projects and staff payroll costs account for the greatest budget variances. He added that the agreement with the CRAFT Foundation had been fully executed and drew attention to the chart showing the projections of currently funded projects over the next three fiscal years. Mr. Hancock opened the floor for questions and there were none. Mr. Hancock made a recommendation to approve the October 31, 2019 Financial Summary, noting the incomplete November summary would be held for approval at the January meeting. The motion to approve the October Financial Summary was made by Rob Atchley. The motion was seconded by John Updike, and with no further discussion it passed unanimously.

Governance Committee: Chairman John Updike reported that the Governance committee had a brief meeting prior to the Board meeting to discuss the proposed slate of officers for the upcoming year and asked Mr. Dantzler to present them to the Board. Mr. Dantzler stated that the proposed slate of officers and committee chairs in 2020 are as follows: David Howard, President; Rob Atchley, Vice

President; John Updike, Secretary; Ron Mahan, Treasurer; Pat Ouimet, Chair of Research Management Committee; John Updike, Chair of Commercial Product Delivery Committee; and Larry Black, Chair of Governance Committee. Each of these persons have been contacted and each are willing to serve in this capacity. Mr. Updike made a motion to approve the proposed slate of officers as outlined. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa, and with no discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Updike discussed the updated Conflict of Interest form received from Rob Atchley and recently appointed board member Ron Mahan, noting there was no indication of conflicts and made a motion to accept the forms as presented. The motion was seconded by Ned Hancock, and with no discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Research Management Committee: Chairman David Howard reported that the Research Management Committee had not met prior to the Board meeting but directed the Board's attention to the Staff Analysis Report for Dr. Manjul Dutt's Project 18-007, which was slated for committee review for proof of concept after a year. Mr. Howard asked Mr. Dantzler to expound further. Mr. Dantzler stated that under the 2018 RFP Dr. Dutt had been approved for funding to determine if it was possible to upload resistance from transgenic rootstock into traditional scions. It was a three-year proposal and the RMC recommendation to the Board was to fund the project for the first year for proof of concept and invite the PI to report to the board on whether he had been successful in that regard before approving funding to continue the project with field testing. While Dr. Dutt has been able to show uploading at the molecular level, he has not been able to show a discernable reduction in titer, most likely due to the trees not being inoculated until October. Consequently, staff and the committee are recommending a six-month extension.

Since, to date, Dr. Dutt had spent approximately one-third of his \$159,363.00 first year budget a No Cost Extension can be granted. Mr. Dantzler also recommended that Dr. Dutt be permitted to transplant his trees into the field.

Dr. Dutt's project anniversary was November 30, 2019; the six-month extension would carry it through the spring. The hope is that with the extension, Dr. Dutt will be able to determine if there is a successful reduction in titer, in addition to the molecular level. Once the additional results are received, the committee will evaluate and recommend whether or not to approve continuation funding of the project.

Mr. Hancock asked if Dr. Dutt had provided a revised budget, to which Mr. Dantzler answered he had not been requested to. Discussion ensued regarding revised budgets and no-cost extensions. Mr. Black asked to entertain a motion for a no-cost extension and ask staff to work with Dr. Dutt to identify any budget reductions. Mr. Howard made a motion for approval of a no-cost extension and request that Dr. Dutt provide a revised budget with potential reductions on project #18-007 in order to bring the matter forth for discussion. The motion was seconded by Rob Atchley. There was discussion regarding the budget for the next six months, as well as for years two and three. Mr. Dantzler asked Dr. Grosser to respond to Bobby Barben's question regarding transgenic rootstock being planted in a regulated field. The motion passed unanimously.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: In Dr. Ouimet's absence, Mr. Dantzler addressed the Transformation Lab topic which the CPDC met to discuss on December 2, 2019. He gave background on the Transformation Labs and history of funding provided by CRDF. In response to the 2018 RFP, Dr. Vladimir Orbovic submitted proposal #18-066C for a 3-year project for the immature tissue transformation lab, and Dr. Janice Zale submitted proposal #18-067C for a 3-year project for the mature tissue transformation lab.

The CPDC's recommendation to the board was to fund the labs for the first year and during that time assemble an outside panel of experts to review the labs and the operation of same. This outside panel was comprised of five scientists who were experts in the field of transformation labs. These scientists spent two days at the UF Research Center, during the early months of 2019, observing and interviewing the researchers who utilize the transformation labs as well as those who conduct their own transformation work in their own labs. That panel then issued a report of their findings and recommendations on April 26, 2019 for CPDC review, which was delivered to the University on May 17, 2019.

Most of the committee were not pleased with the tardiness of the UF response which was not received until November 11, 2019. The UF response proposed the creation of an advisory committee that would address the recommendations outlined in the report and attempt to implement them.

After vigorous discussion among the committee and attendees of the meeting, the CPDC recommended that the board approve year two funding on projects 18-066C and 18-067C, and requested that the committee or working group to be convened by the University provide a six-month interim report to include their findings and intended actions in response to the Report of the Citrus Tissue Culture and Transformation Laboratories Review Panel. At that time the CPDC and CRDF can begin discussions on whether to fund year three.

Mr. Black asked for the budget. Mr. Dantzler did not have a concrete budget but was able to verbally give approximations from years past. Mr. Atchley made a motion to extend funding for both transformation labs for one calendar year, and to notify UF that the deadline for the committee's formal response to CRDF outlining the University's actions in response to the review panel recommendations and what the fee schedule would look like by March 31, 2020. Mr. Howard seconded the motion.

Mr. Dantzler, referring to the response from the University, said he believed the University was sincere in their response to the recommendations in the report and would make changes where they could.

Mr. Hancock made a statement regarding funding projects vs. programs and deciding whether to continue funding projects or continue funding programs and developing consistency throughout the projects CRDF funds. There was then discussion among the board regarding annual funding to the University to support their projects or programs.

A request was made for clarification of the motion as to whether the second-year funding of the two transformation lab projects would be cut off mid-year if CRDF did not receive the requested University committee's report by March 31, 2020. Mr. Black and Mr. Dantzler clarified that, if the

motion is approved, the second-year funding would continue through December 31, 2020, which would give the PIs ample time to wind down or attempt to obtain funding elsewhere. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler reported that Gee Roe spoke to the CPDC regarding the possibility of IR-4 considering an OTC trunk injection modality project. Mr. Roe has a registrant in Palm Beach County who is willing to make the recommendation to IR-4, and is seeking letters of support from different citrus industry groups. The committee suggested that he appeal to the Florida Citrus Processors Organization for their endorsement of an IR-4 application to develop an OTC trunk injection device for citrus. It would be a Section 3. While he initially hoped that CRDF support the concept, after the discussion it was decided that the processors should be consulted initially and then come back to CRDF. Mike Aerts spoke to the calendar deadlines and the registration priority steps for a Section 3 application. Mr. Dantzler stated there was no action required by the board at this time.

Mr. Black asked Mr. Aerts to update the Board on the Section 18 Authorization for Streptomycin in Citrus. He explained that the current Section 18 expires December 31, 2019. He reported that EPA is processing the renewal of the approval, and will make a decision prior to the expiration date.

Researcher Presentation: Dr. Megan Dewdney gave a presentation of her CRDF-funded Project 16-010 C, “Enhancement of Postbloom fruit drop control measures,” which terminated in July, 2019.

Select Committee on Plant Improvement: Chair Bobby Barben reported that the committee did not meet. Mr. Dantzler mentioned that the Interim Report from the Select Committee on Plant Committee is being finalized and the only items still needed are a list of rootstocks from Dr. Bowman. Once those are received and incorporated into the document, a committee meeting will be convened to review it and follow up with their report to the Board.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler reported on his recent meeting with the administrator for APHIS and his senior level staff in Washington, DC, where he introduced the idea of federal funding of the Bayer project continuation. He is scheduled to return to Washington, DC after the board meeting to meet with the funding agencies, CRB and FAAR, to help NIFA lay out its funding plan for the next five years.

Research Director: Mr. Dantzler stated that there had been 23 applications for Research Director, most of whom have a pharmacology or medical background. He noted that further discussion is needed regarding the benefits of having a Research Director and CRDF funding projections.

At the previous board meeting, Pat Ouimet requested a list of projects funded by CRDF by category. While this had not yet been completed but Mr. Dantzler stated that CRDF had funded 457 projects and spent close to \$150 million. Originally, the portfolio of projects were sorted into 13 categories; currently projects are sorted into five categories for ease of locating progress reports on the website. One interesting note regarding funding, over half of the funds received throughout the years has come from growers.

The CRDF office is scheduling a Nutrition Working Group meeting in December. The group has been provided two documents, a list of all the notes taken in the first meeting and a rough cut of an RFP drafted by staff. It may be that the PIs who have submitted proposals go back and amend what they had submitted in order to fit with the recommendations of the Nutrition Working Group, although that would not be the most ideal situation because of time.

The next Board of Directors' meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2020. Mr. Dantzler said he would like to have a board retreat following the Board of Directors' meeting.

Mr. Dantzler recognized Bobby Barben and thanked him for his time and commitment to CRDF. This would be Mr. Barben's last official board meeting, although he would still be involved with the Research Management Committee. Mr. Dantzler also recognized Mr. Black and his time as President of CRDF, which was also ending at the conclusion of this meeting.

Partnerships: Dr. Scully gave an update regarding the FFAR meeting in Washington, DC, taking place December 3-5, 2019. USDA, IFAS, CRDF, CRB, etc., are participating.

Whitmore Farm have CUPS structures that were damaged in Hurricane Irma and have made the decision to tear them down, as well as discontinue CUPS research due to the lack of ROI.

Dr. Scully thanked CRDF and Dr. Futch for assisting on a MAC trial. The Whitmore Foundation Board will meet on Thursday, December 5, 2019, to discuss seed supply of rootstock and Peter Chaires will be putting a final proposal together for a cultivar display block with only released materials in it.

Extension Agent Report: Laurie Hurner, Extension Agent from Highlands County, reported growers are seeing fruit drop and fruit splitting in Highlands County. She shared the success of the Nutrition Box events and positive responses from citrus growers, so much that a fourth site was added in Highlands County in November. Extension Agents are meeting on a monthly basis with Dr. Tripti Vashisth to go over the soil tests as they come in.

Dr. Obreza added, as an addendum to Laurie's report, that Ajia Paolillo was hired as Extension Agent to replace Dr. Futch.

New Business: No new business.

Special Presentation: Dr. Denise Manker – Bayer Ag Project #16-026C, “Establishment and application of tools to allow a systematic approach to identify and characterize hits with confirmed in planta HLB activity.”

Future CRDF Meetings: The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at 10:00 am, at UF/IFAS IRREC in Ft. Pierce, FL.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Rob Atchley, Secretary.