

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 10, 2019

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Chairman Larry Black. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Executive Committee members present were Rob Atchley, Larry Black, Ned Hancock and Jeanna Mastrodicasa (telephone). Also participating were Brandy Brown, Rick Dantzler, David Howard (telephone), Michael Rogers (telephone) and John Updike, Jr.

Mr. Black reported that the minutes from the June 6 meeting were provided in the materials and noted that one correction was needed. In the third paragraph on line 5, it was stated “why the two changes to the by-laws as proposed by CRDF wouldn’t work for the citrus industry,” should be changed to read “proposed by UF.” Mr. Hancock made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2019 Executive Committee meeting with the correction. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and, with no further discussion, it passed unanimously.

Chairman Larry Black opened the meeting by asking Mr. Dantzler to give an update on the CRDF/UF-IFAS DSO status.

Mr. Dantzler reported that he traveled to Gainesville on June 26 and met with Amy Haas, who is the UF General Counsel, David Norton, who is the UF Vice-President of Research, and Mark Kaplan, who is UF’s Vice-President for Government Relations. During the two-hour meeting, Mr. Dantzler and the UF reps came to an agreement on several primary issues which Mr. Dantzler had shared with the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. Mr. Dantzler reported that the proposed agreement would allow CRDF to continue funding research wherever the Board felt that we must to get the answers to greening and other threats to the citrus industry. However, UF suggested that it might be better for the statute to be changed in the next legislative session to confirm that this is allowed. This change would affect CRDF only, not all DSOs.

Mr. Dantzler represented that CRDF did not object to the office of the UF Vice-President of Research reviewing CRDF contracts for form compliance and not for scientific review.

Furthermore, CRDF would accept a bylaw revision that states that CRDF is in compliance with UF governance standards.

Another change would be that a member of the UF Board of Trustees would be appointed to the CRDF BoD.

Mr. Dantzler reported that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be signed that documented the agreement. There would be a conference call with Stephanie Gray and Mr. Dantzler to discuss the language of the MOU between UF and CRDF.

Mr. Dantzler reported that the Bayer project was discussed. He explained to Ms. Haas that it was promising and how he believed the board would want to proceed to Phase II. There were also discussions about why a healthy research portfolio would include both private and public sectors because each has its strengths. The concern about the Bayer contract being a confidential agreement was addressed and David Norton reported that his office handles confidential agreements all the time.

Mr. Dantzler reported that since we are working with UF towards a resolution to the DSO issue that the UF BoT would not discuss decertifying CRDF at the September meeting. He requested that UF representatives attend our July BoD meeting to discuss the DSO matters and the MOU. The MOU as drafted by Mr. Dantzler made it effective until June 30, 2020, which would allow CRDF to get through the next legislative session.

Mr. Black asked Dr. Mastrodicasa to give an update on the search for the new Senior Vice-President. Dr. Mastrodicasa reported that UF would be publicly advertising the position for the new Senior Vice-President since Dr. Jack Payne announced his plans to retire in June 2020. To date, UF has not announced the members of the search committee, nor has the position been posted.

Mr. Dantzler continued with the review of the UF Governance Standards. MOU discussion points included the need for clarification on ownership of CRDF assets and liabilities in the event UF decertified CRDF, the appointment of the additional UF member from the BoT to the CRDF board, and UF's review of the research agreements. It was noted that the MOU must be in CRDF's best interest for a long-term relationship with UF in order to prevent a recurrence of this situation.

Mr. Dantzler reported that he attended the Florida Citrus Processors Association HLB breeding workshop, and he has heard frustration with the current breeding program. He believes the private sector needs to be more involved in our research model, which was also discussed at the last Select Committee on Plant Improvement meeting. Mr. Black added that, although we may be frustrated with how slow things get, we need to remember that the land grant research model does work.

Another concern was if the two parties do not agree to the terms of the MOU, there would be a need to prepare for a transition to another agency. The current assessment of the 12% indirect cost (IDC) by UF was brought up. Mr. Dantzler indicated that asking UF to do away with the IDC could delay the process of moving forward. It was suggested that keeping the IDC at 12% be documented in the MOU.

It was suggested that the MOU reflect that the industry brought forward the idea that CRDF should be a DSO, and that this was not a case of the University of Florida bringing forward the idea to satisfy UF needs. CRDF and UF were to be partners, and CRDF grew from the industry.

Mr. Dantzler wrapped up the meeting confirming the key issues the committee wants clarified in the MOU.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 pm.

Minutes submitted by B. Brown