

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the

Research Management Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2019

A telephonic meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Thursday, September 19, 2019. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm by Chairman David Howard. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were Bobby Barben, Tim Dooley, David Howard, Sean McCoy, Bob Newsome, Tom Obreza, Joby Sherrod, Jim Snively, Buddy Strickland, and Forest Taylor.

Also participating were Rob Atchley, Rick Dantzler, Steve Futch, Sharon Garrett, Fred Gmitter, Jim Graham, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Michael Rogers, Jim Syvertsen, John Updike, Jr., and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Snively made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2019 RMC meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor, and with no further discussion it passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard opened the meeting by asking Mr. Dantzler to report on the Commercial Product Delivery Committee meeting held the day before. Mr. Dantzler reported that five large scale field trial proposals were received in response to the RFP and discussed by the CPDC. The Gabriel proposal was not recommended for funding because it didn't meet the criteria outlined in the RFP. Of the other four proposals considered, the Carlson/CRAFT Foundation proposal was approved for funding; and Dr. Albrecht's proposal, UF, was recommended for funding contingent on revisions staff was directed to request.

Mr. Dantzler outlined the funding available for the proposed new RMC projects. The Ritenour proposal may qualify for MAC funding but it wouldn't be approved before January. However, the project requires the machine in the field in the spring and considerable cost savings on electronics can be realized if funded promptly. Mr. Barben made a motion to approve bridge funding to cover the equipment cost of \$108,000 until the MAC funding can be obtained. The motion was seconded by Mr. Snively and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler and Dr. Graham discussed the three nutritional projects for which the PIs were asked to combine the proposals into one. After discussing the matters with Drs. Morgan and Rogers, it was determined that 19-011 Kadyampakeni should remain a stand-alone proposal; the 19-014 Killiny and 19-022 Vashisth proposals could be combined. PIs were requested to provide their revisions by September 14. Dr. Kadyampakeni's revised proposal 19-011 was received September 16, with a considerable budget reduction resulting from dropping one important field site from the proposal. Drs. Killiny and Vashisth's (19-014-revised) proposal revision was received on September 18.

19-014-revised from Killiny/Vashisth was reviewed by staff who determined that it was more of a layering of their separate projects under a single heading rather than a combination of the projects as directed; the addition of Dr. Schumann strengthens the Vashisth study. Mr. Howard questioned if it is a strength or distraction having so many researchers on a single project.

Mr. Strickland made a motion to reject the 19-014 revised Killiny and Vashisth combined proposal. Mr. Dooley seconded the motion. Dr. Syvertsen indicated that staff would appreciate comments from the committee to give feedback to the PIs. Mr. Strickland agreed the revised combined proposal still reads like two separate projects with additional collaborators and preferred to see a more specific project with recommendations of specific amounts of product to use. Mr. Barben agreed with the assessments of the combined proposal but felt they could provide much-needed answers if they could just put the projects together properly. Mr. Howard asked if it would be appropriate to have an advisory committee work with the researchers as is required on NIFA projects. Dr. Syvertsen agreed the PIs would benefit from additional grower input from the committee and was willing to participate in those discussions. He also pointed out that while hydroponics stimulates root hair growth, it is unrealistic for citrus grown in soil and was not dropped from the project. Both Mr. Dooley and Dr. Obreza indicated their initial recommendation to decline funding have not changed. With no further discussion the motion to decline funding of the 19-014-revised proposal passed, with one opposing vote by Mr. Howard.

To Mr. Howard's remark that this is desperately needed research, Mr. Dantzler said it would be relatively easy to pull together a working group of center directors, researchers and growers to consider this proposal at a later date. The working group could outline questions that growers need answered and propose experiments to get those answers. Mr. Barben felt that this CRDF-directed research is needed. Mr. Barben made a motion to recommend the board direct the COO to put together a working group which combines the components of projects 19-014 and 19-022 as well as other nutritional issues. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strickland and passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard asked Dr. Syvertsen to review the requested revisions submitted by Dr. Kadyampakeni on proposal 19-011. Dr. Syvertsen reported this researcher did a much better job responding to the committee's suggestions for revisions, reducing personnel, travel and materials significantly, primarily by dropping the flatwoods site down south from the project. However, Mr. Strickland pointed out that this created a flaw in the revised proposal since some of the evaluations are dependent on different soil types and environment.

The objective related to nitrification inhibition and hypothesis of HLB-infected trees having a reduced ability to do nitrification inhibition. It was thought that this needed some proof of concept before being included in a proposal. Scheduling of irrigation is an issue. Dr. Futch added the young trees in the study will not provide yield data and reinforced the need for the flatwoods site. The proposal details were not clearly laid out. Mr. Howard clarified that the committee did not request the elimination of the flatwoods site to achieve the budget reduction. Dr. Obreza agreed the site should not be dropped. The controlled release fertilizer choice is critical and is not specified.

Mr. McCoy moved to accept proposal 19-011 Kadyampakeni for funding in its revised form. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barben. Mr. Barben and Mr. Howard indicated an interest in having both sites included if the project were funded. Mr. McCoy withdrew his original motion and moved to fund proposal 19-011 Kadyampakeni contingent on the Flatwoods soils being included, with budget reductions achieved elsewhere. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barben. Mr. Strickland emphasized the importance of the flatwoods being included in the project and directed staff to meet with the PI to review the budget to include the flatwoods. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard requested a single motion for Board action on the nine proposals recommended for funding. Mr. Strickland made a motion to recommend Board approval of nine proposals (including the revised 19-011 Kadyampakeni). Mr. Snively seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With regard to 19-020 Ritenour and the rejected 19-014 revised proposal from Killiny and Vashisth, each will be handled separately when addressed at the board meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by A. Nowicki.