

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

February 25, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday February 25, 2020 at the UF-IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Room 103, Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Board President David Howard called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Larry Black, Rob Gilbert, Ned Hancock, Aaron Himrod, David Howard, Ron Mahan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Bob Newsome, Patricia Ouimet, and Josh Snively (via telephone). Also participating were Rick Dantzler, Steve Futch, Jim Graham, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Jim Syvertsen, and Deidra Whatley.

Also in attendance were Mike Irey, Ed Leotti, Sean McCoy, Chris Oswalt, Bill Roe, Jim Snively, Tripti Vashisth, Chris Vincent, Callie Walker and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Howard presented the board minutes from the January 28, 2020 meeting and Mr. Mahan moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and, with no discussion, it passed unanimously.

Executive Committee: Mr. Howard stated that the Executive Committee met February 12, 2020 and asked Mr. Dantzler to discuss the topics of that meeting. Mr. Dantzler updated the status of the Research Director search, noting that the candidate declined the offer presented to him due to his desire for more focus on plant breeding than the administrative role of the position. Consequently, the effort to fill the Research Director position will be suspended a. He proposed alternatives to the Board that could supplement current project management activities.

Mr. Dantzler first suggested developing a three-person panel to meet with the PIs on the anniversaries of their projects to review progress, confirm they were meeting the objectives timely, and make recommendations for improving deficiencies. Another idea would be for the researcher to present annually, not to the Board, but to the Committee that recommended the project for funding.

Mr. Dantzler said researchers will have an opportunity to weigh in on these suggestions when he speaks to them at a UF CREC Seminar on Friday, February 28, 2020.

Mr. Howard invited comments on these processes v. hiring a Research Director.

Dr. Ouimet suggested another option would be to contact a firm like Smith Kline Beecham that assisted the United Soybean Board in its project management process.

Mr. Howard suggested the Board give Mr. Dantzler precise direction.

Dr. Gilbert shared his experience with the Sugar Cane model and expressed the need to be thoughtful about the about the panel makeup and the need to preserve flexibility with projects. Mr. Atchley made a motion to authorize staff to move forward with developing options for a three-person panel model and outline the review process and potential outcomes in detail. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan. Mr. Newsome suggested that Mr. Dantzler contact SmithKline Beecham to explore how they can assist and potential costs. Mr. Howard clarified Mr. Atchley's motion stating that it directs Mr.

Dantzler to pursue the independent evaluation firm option, as well as the three-person panel. With no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler moved on to the co-funding agreement between the Citrus Research Board and CRDF for a six-month continuation of the Bayer project. Mr. Howard asked if CRDF is certain of the position of the other funding partners. Mr. Dantzler indicated that Pepsi has stated its support, and that Coke has said it supports the project but can't make a definitive commitment at this time. Dr. Ouimet made a motion for Mr. Dantzler to execute the co-funding agreement between CRDF and CRB. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan and, with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler reported on the current status of the Bayer project. He has been in the process of drafting language of the July through December 2020 continuation agreement with Bayer's attorney, noting that they were proposing that CRDF guarantee payment of approximately \$1.6 M for the six-month bridge funding. Dantzler told Bayer that he would not be comfortable signing a contract committing CRDF to pay such a sum without assurance from the other funding partners, so Bayer has agreed to allow CRDF to postpone the signing of the amendment. No action is necessary at this time; an Executive Committee meeting will be called if action is needed prior to the next Board meeting.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Ron Mahan reviewed the Financial Statements for fiscal year to date ending January 31, 2020. Mr. Black made a motion to accept the January Financial statements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hancock and, without further discussion, passed unanimously.

Governance Committee: Chairman Larry Black reported the Committee did not meet.

Research Management Committee: Chair Ouimet reported that the Committee met February 12, 2020. Dr. Ouimet brought a recommendation to the Board regarding reappointment of four RMC members whose terms expired in June 2019: Mr. Jim Snively, Mr. Steve Farr, Mr. Daniel Scott, and Mr. Joby Sherrod have all agreed to serve another term. Mr. Mahan moved to reappoint Mr. Jim Snively, Mr. Farr, Mr. Scott and Mr. Sherrod for another term on the Research Management Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hancock and, with no discussion, passed unanimously. Mr. Dantzler reported that Mr. Howard would be stepping off RMC, and that Mr. Himrod will serve on RMC in his place.

Dr. Ouimet gave a brief background of Dr. Gmitter's sequencing Project 18-010, noting its value is not just for greening, but in the future as breeding for molecular markers. Mr. Dantzler reported that he recently received a commitment from Dr. Rogers that IFAS was willing to be the co-funding partner for years two and three of project. While Dr. Gmitter's progress reports are up to date at this time, Mr. Dantzler also relayed to him that the Board would like a status presentation on the project, so the intention would be to invite him to speak at the March Board meeting. Dr. Gilbert shared an email with the Board on behalf of Dr. Gmitter regarding progress on the project and going forward. Mr. Black recommended not waiting until the next Board meeting, but instead deferring the matter to the Executive Committee to hear Dr. Gmitter's presentation. Mr. Hancock made a motion to provide funding for Project 18-010, years two and three, contingent on equal UF co-funding and approval by the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan and, with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Ouimet asked Mr. Dantzler to discuss the report from the Select Committee on Plant Improvement, which was accepted by RMC with its recommendation that it be approved by the Board. Mr. Dantzler reported the RMC took specific action on one item of the report, the formation of a working

group/standing committee on plant improvement. This standing committee would be modeled after the Sugar Cane Industry model, which Mike Irey and Dr. Gilbert have both been involved with, noting it could result in greater collaboration and communication between the plant improvement researchers, growers and the industry. Dr. Ouimet made a motion to form a Standing Committee/Working Group to outline the model for the Plant Improvement Committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gilbert. Mr. Snively continued the discussion of a grower-funded breeding program that extends beyond a three-year timespan. Dr. Ouimet spoke of the CHAMP program and the participants' willingness to consider rolling it into a large plant improvement effort. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Ouimet noted the RMC discussed the upcoming RFP priorities resulting from the Nutritional Working Group. Mr. Dantzler discussed the meetings of the NWG and the documents before the Board, having been vetted by the group, shared with UF and USDA researchers, and summarized in the Staff Recommendations. Board recommendations will be reviewed by the RMC for the 2020 Nutritional RFP. Mr. Dantzler was directed to share the documents with the regional citrus groups.

Mr. Dantzler reported on the project approved in 2019 for Dr. Ritenour to purchase a machine that will assist in sorting greening-affected fruit from non-affected fruit. The equipment has been purchased and Dr. Ritenour has prepared his MAC application for submission once the process is open.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Chairman John Updike was not present; the committee had not met. Mr. Dantzler noted that the upcoming RFP regarding nutrition will likely have some CPDC jurisdiction. There may be proposals for products that will be reviewed by the CPDC.

Mr. Dantzler also mentioned that there are three committee members whose terms expired at the close of 2019: Holly Chamberlin, Brian Scully, and Shannon Shepp, but there was no action needed by the Board as the Committee would consider this at its next convening.

Mr. Howard brought forth the topic of the "target team" brainstorming effort with researchers, and discussion followed.

Researcher Presentation: Dr. Christopher Vincent gave his presentation on completed Project 16-020: Dyed Kaolin to repel Asian Citrus psyllid in field conditions.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler noted he is working with Florida Citrus Mutual to line up presenters for the Education Session at the Annual Conference in June. He also shared the new guidance MAC funding will be adopting, to fund projects that have the potential to get out of the laboratory or greenhouse and into the field to work on a commercial scale. CRDF may suggest that PIs on certain projects apply for MAC funding. The Florida, Texas and California Citrus Mutuals will have a role. CRDF has identified potential projects for submission to FCM.

Mr. Dantzler then shared an update on the NIFA grant process as it relates to the Bayer project, noting the announcement for proposal submission has not yet been made. He is in close contact with Michelle Esche regarding the announcement. Dr. Graham and Dr. Denise Manker will be working together to pull the application together. The Citrus Research Board was also invited to have input in the drafting of the application.

Mr. Dantzler noted that UF has taken action on the transformation lab report.

Mr. Dantzler spoke on behalf of Mr. Sparks, Florida Citrus Mutual, noting there are three weeks to go. The Governor had included \$8 M to CRDF in this recommended budget. The Senate budget includes \$8 million to CRDF with the proviso that \$3 M be used on large-scale field trials. On the House side, we are in at \$8 million with no proviso language.

Partnerships: Dr. Jeanna Mastrodicasa, on behalf of the University of Florida, spoke to a Select Committee out of Tallahassee which is looking into foreign involvement in research universities and DSOs of Universities. Also, there will be four candidates for the VP of Agriculture and Natural Resources coming in March to be interviewed.

Extension Agent Report: Chris Oswalt brought Florida Citrus Growers' Institute brochures and thanked CRDF for their support for the Institute, scheduled for April 14, 2020. Videos of the seminars will be available afterwards. Mr. Oswalt discussed the freezing of citrus leaves during the winter to discover citrus acclimation, the types of leaves he froze this past season, and where the data is located. He reported on the nutrition boxes, noting recommendations are being made on the first set of samples that have come back. He also discussed soil pH and the calibration of meters.

New Business: No new business.

Future CRDF Meetings: The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2020 in Lake Alfred.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.