

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

March 24, 2020

A teleconference meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday March 24, 2020. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Board President David Howard called the meeting to order at 10:09 am. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Larry Black, Rob Gilbert, Ned Hancock, Aaron Himrod, Greg Hodges, David Howard, Ron Mahan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Bob Newsome, Josh Snively, and John Updike. Also participating were Rick Dantzler, Steve Futch, Jim Graham, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Jim Syvertsen, and Deidra Whatley.

Also participating were Mike Aerts, Ute Albrecht, Fred Gmitter, Ernie Neff, Chris Oswald, Michael Rogers, and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Howard asked if there were any edits to the board minutes from the February 25, 2020 meeting. There were not. Mr. Mahan moved to approve the minutes of the February 25th board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and, with no discussion, it passed unanimously.

Executive Committee: Chairman David Howard stated that the Executive Committee met on March 13, 2020 and asked Mr. Dantzler to report on the Bayer project agreement that was discussed at said meeting. Mr. Dantzler provided a brief background on the current Bayer project agreement and where the proposed co-funding agreements stood for the July through December extension. CRDF has received the executed co-funding agreement with the Citrus Research Board, a draft funding agreement from Coca-Cola, and verbal agreement from Pepsico. Mr. Dantzler noted that once he was assured of the co-funding from the three sources he would execute the Bayer extension amendment unless there was opposition from the Board. Mr. Howard inquired if additional board action was necessary; Mr. Dantzler replied that no action was required.

Mr. Dantzler gave an update on the NIFA grant schedule, noting that Mr. Howard learned from the USDA CDS that the USDA NIFA RFA is expected to be announced Wednesday, April 1, 2020, with thirty days to submit a preproposal followed by an undetermined review period. Staff has been working with CRB and Bayer on a draft of the preproposal in anticipation of the announcement. Mr. Dantzler felt the CRDF-Bayer preproposal submission will fit into the CAPs funding category, especially with involvement by Bayer, CRDF, CRB, UF, UC Davis and Texas A&M. Mr. Howard noted a workshop for the CAPs funding category to guide through the proposal process will be scheduled and he would update Staff with information as it is received.

Mr. Dantzler reported that Dr. Gmitter presented at the Executive Committee meeting and provided an update on the progress of Project 18-010. Dr. Gmitter explained the slow start of the project, apologized for his tardiness in submitting quarterly reports, and discussed the need for and status of hiring of a post doc for this project. The Executive Committee, satisfied with Dr. Gmitter's explanation of the progress, approved funding years two and three at fifty (50%) percent of the submitted budget, which was the direction of the Board. The University of Florida-IFAS CREC will be the co-funding partner, providing the other fifty (50%) percent.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Ron Mahan reviewed the Financial Statements for the fiscal year to date period ending February 29, 2020. Hearing no questions, Mr. Mahan made a motion

to accept the February Financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and, without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahan went on to discuss the long-term cash position as it relates to the five-year financial plan, noting there may be a need for modifications based on legislative funding levels.

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

Research Management Committee: Since Chair Pat Ouimet could not attend, Mr. Dantzler gave the report on her behalf.

The committee met March 18 to discuss the 2020 Nutrition RFP, with the priorities resulting from a compilation of notes and topics derived from meetings held by the Nutrition Working Group. The Staff Recommendations were shared with the leaders of the grower groups and with UF and USDA researchers who specialized in Nutrition, and received feedback, which was incorporated into the Updated Staff Recommendation prior to the RMC meeting. The RMC suggested added the testing of amino acids. Mr. Dantzler addressed a question received from Mr. Updike during the RMC meeting related to the CRDF white paper published July 10, 2013 that also addressed nutrition research needs. Mr. Dantzler reported that upon further investigation it was determined that the current priorities were sufficiently different to warrant further study.

Mr. Mahan made a motion to proceed with the 2020 Nutrition RFP as drafted. Mr. Black seconded the motion. Further background was provided by Mr. Howard on the grower meeting held in Lake Alfred in July 2013 and the resulting white paper. Dr. Syvertsen confirmed that the July 2013 white paper on nutrition research, although similar in focus, did not address specific deliverables of the priorities contained in the 2020 Nutrition RFP. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler discussed the new process for MAC projects and application language. The three Citrus Mutual's, from Florida, Texas, and California, will have a prominent role in the review of the applications. To determine which projects would be suggested to FCM, Mr. Dantzler explained that staff reviewed the nineteen proposals that were not funded in CRDF's 2019 RFP to determine if they were relevant to the new criteria. Seven of those projects have been identified along with one other potential, having to do with mechanical harvesting from Agromillora, that may satisfy the criteria under the new MAC guidelines.

Mr. Howard asked Mr. Dantzler to discuss the three-person project review panel suggested at the previous Board meeting. That model would be comprised of a three-person panel to meet with the PIs on their project anniversaries to review progress, confirm objectives were being met timely, and make recommendations for improving deficiencies. An alternative option would be for the PI to present annually to the Committee that recommended the project for funding.

Mr. Dantzler reported that when he spoke to researchers at CREC, he conveyed the Board's desire to be better informed of a project's status. At a staff level, the quarterly report instructions are being amended to reflect a more accurate account by requesting four sections: a restatement of the project's objectives, an explanation of the work done during the preceding quarter that addresses the objectives, plans for the next quarter to address the objectives, and, per the FDACS requirement, the percentage of the objectives that have been met on the project.

Mr. Dantzler reported he has not reached anyone within Smith Kline Beecham's agriculture source, as Dr. Ouimet previously suggested, nor has he had a response from the United Soybean Board. Mr. Snively offered to contact the USB on CRDF's behalf through his contacts at ADM.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Chairman John Updike reported that the Committee had not met. Mr. Dantzler reported on a field trial he visited recently where Tom Minter has partnered with a company to develop a trunk injection device to deliver nutrition products, OTC, and other products. Citing a need for basic research with a UF researcher, they have requested CRDF's participation, including a commercialization study. A CPDC meeting may be convened to discuss this and other potential projects.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler reported on his conversations with Dr. Kate Evans, who runs the only apple and pear breeding program in Washington state, which has been cited by some Florida growers as a program that might have components worth emulating. This recommendation stems from CRDF's efforts to assemble a standing committee on Plant Improvement, which would convene regular meetings with the plant breeding community and the industry.

Mr. Dantzler learned that Dr. Evans created an advisory committee to give her guidance on what cultivars to create. It is purely advisory. He also told s of the three phases of Dr. Evans' the breeding program, and the fact that a third party collects all data from the trials.

Dr. Futch has been working on an outline for consideration when the working group on plant improvement convenes, possibly mid-April.

Mr. Dantzler reported that Dr. Albrecht's large-scale field trial still has Valencia data that must be collected for this year, but due to UF's travel restrictions under the current guidelines of COVID-19, there is the fear that she is going to lose the ability to retrieve the data, setting the project back a year. Dr. Gilbert addressed the work stoppage, essential personnel, and that Center Directors will identify essential projects. He welcomed solutions to harvest the on-location data, if it could be done safely. Dr. Albrecht reported that they collected the data currently available, counting fruit, in anticipation of a shut down.

Partnerships: Mike Sparks, Florida Citrus Mutual, was not present for the meeting. Mr. Dantzler noted that he had covered the legislative budget and the MAC proposal previously in the meeting.

Dr. Michael Rogers spoke of the cancellation of all extension programs around the State, and noted they are actively making plans to keep the growers and industry partners informed and involved through expanded updates on the UF/IFAS website and other platforms. He also reported that, while day to day operations for most individuals from Centers throughout the State are continuing working remotely, essential personnel are permitted on campus to ensure the critical needs for research are being maintained.

Dr. Rogers noted that the University is proceeding with the Plant Improvement Faculty hire, with candidate interviews scheduled in mid-April, via Zoom; the interview information will be provided to those interested.

Dr. Rogers updated the Board on the status of UF's report on the progress of the Plant Transformation labs, which is due by March 31, 2020. He reported that, based on the Board recommendations and advice, Dr. Manjul Dutt was selected as the supervisor to oversee the coordination of both labs. An oversight committee was also implemented to help streamline the effectiveness of the labs' practices,

how users are charged for the services, assist the labs with funding mechanisms, increase the customer base within the labs, and IFAS marketing to communicate the capabilities and prices of each lab, which could lead to seventy-five percent self-funding.

Extension Agent Report: Chris Oswalt thanked CRDF for its support for the Florida Citrus Growers Institute that was scheduled for April 14, 2020 but that it had been cancelled. He encouraged all to review the emails received from the County Agents. Mr. Oswalt also reported on the nutrition box program, noting that the second set of foliar leaf samples had come back; the team will be providing all recommendations electronically.

New Business: No new business.

Future CRDF Meetings: Details and location of the next board meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2020, will be announced later.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.