

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

A teleconference meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday May 19, 2020. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Board President David Howard called the meeting to order at 9:06 am. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Larry Black, Rob Gilbert, Ned Hancock, Aaron Himrod, Greg Hodges, David Howard, Ron Mahan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Pat Ouimet, 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, Ron Cave, Gary England, Fred Gmitter, Ernie Neff, Ajia Paolillo, Gee Roe, Michael Rogers, Mike Sparks, Callie Walker, and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Howard opened with the approval of the previous meeting minutes. Mr. Updike moved to approve the minutes of the April 28th board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and, with no discussion, it passed unanimously.

Executive Committee: Chairman David Howard stated that the Executive Committee had not met.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Ron Mahan reviewed the Financial Statements for the fiscal year through April 30, 2020. Hearing no questions, Mr. Mahan made a motion to accept the April Financial Statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hodges and, without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Dantzler reported that the cash receivable amount was high since payment for the settlement agreement with FDACS has not been received but expects to receive an answer soon on the status.

Governance Committee: Chairman Larry Black reported the Committee did not meet. Mr. Dantzler informed the Board that Conflict of Interest forms for FY 2020-21 will be emailed soon. All Board and Committee members, subcontractors and Project Managers are required to complete a new form for each fiscal year per the UF Internal Audit.

Research Management Committee: Dr. Ouimet reported that Committee had not met. Mr. Dantzler reported that there were sixteen preproposal submissions, with another potential preproposal being granted an extension to submit.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Mr. Updike reported that the CPDC met on May 14, 2020. He noted that terms which have expired were Holly Chamberlain, Brian Scully, and Shannon Shepp. The terms coming up for expiration June 30th are Larry Black and Greg Hodges. All have been contacted and are willing to serve for another term. Three members of the Committee have resigned: Dr. Hayes since he is no longer with Coca-Cola, Dr. Ouimet since she is now Chair of the Research Management Committee, and Mr. Stopyra due to relocation out of country. Alex Brown, President and CEO of Indrio Brands, and Josh Snively of Archer Daniels Midland and CRDF Board of Directors member, have been asked to fill the openings. Mr. Updike moved to appoint Mr. Brown and Mr. Snively to the Commercial Product Delivery Committee and to reappoint Mr. Black, Ms. Chamberlain, Dr. Hodges, Dr. Scully, and Ms. Shepp for another three-year term to CPDC. Mr. Mahan seconded the motion, and, with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Updike discussed the University's response to CRDF's request for an update on the progress of a committee to oversee and coordinate the work of the Transformations Labs. The University has considered the suggestions from the review panel and instituted an Oversight Committee, which has met twice. A business model is being developed to establish a plan for the labs to become self-sustaining and Dr. Manjul Dutt has been assigned as the supervisor overseeing both labs. The CPDC requested that the UF Oversight Committee provide an updated report to CRDF by October 31, 2020, to allow time to review prior to consideration of continued funding, which currently expires December 31, 2020.

Mr. Dantzler reported on the Bayer project, explaining that the agreements were in place with our funding partners and that the NIFA CAPS application was submitted on May 4, 2020. If the Bayer project is not invited to submit a full proposal and ultimately awarded federal funding, the Board and co-fund partners will have to determine the future of the project.

Mr. Dantzler reported on an off-cycle proposal from Soilcea and summarized the evaluations of the three SAB members assigned to review it. After discussion among the CPD Committee members, the project failed to move forward for lack of a motion.

Mr. Updike reported that the committee heard presentations by Dr. Eric Triplett on his CRDF funded projects, 16-009 (terminated June 2019) and 18-024.

Other presentations were given by Elemental Enzymes on its proprietary peptide ; Invaio on its patent pending, minimally invasive trunk injection module; and CitruSaver on its fertilizer product. . Brandon Page discussed proposed large-scale field trials by CRDF.

Mr. Updike reported to the Board that Dr. Lauren Diepenbrock has been asked to submit an off-cycle proposal for research funding for managing Lebbeck mealybugs.

Mr. Howard assured the Board that Mr. Dantzler does not make unilateral decisions for CRDF, regardless of what a couple recent news articles had reported. Mr. Howard stated that it was his decision to allow all the presenters who spoke during the meeting the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Dantzler spoke to the possibility of a second RFP for 2020 calendar year, noting that it would depend on factors such as the number of Nutrition RFP proposals that were funded as well as outcome of legislative appropriations. This will influence the CRDF 2020-21 budget, as well.

The Board discussed the need for a policy for handling off-cycle funding requests to determine whether they should be moved forward to presentation to a Committee.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler reported on discussions with Andrew Meadows to hold a virtual program for the educational presentations that were cancelled because the Annual Grower Conference was not held due to COVID-19. He is proposing the program be scheduled towards the latter part of July with three or four presentations, as well as a grower forum. Mr. Meadows felt a virtual platform for the Education Session presentations would attract 100-125 grower participants.

Mr. Dantzler discussed an idea proposed by a Board member regarding evaluating the status of older trees on new rootstocks such as 942, 812, OLL-20, etc.). If the trees are still in the ground and if the growers are still maintaining them, this would be interesting information.

Mr. Dantzler reported that the Working Group on Plant Improvement meeting was in the process of being scheduled.

Mr. Dantzler addressed Dr. Rogers' suggestion of updating CRDF's website, specifically the "Submit Research Idea" section, noting that he and Dr. Syvertsen had revised the language to better explain what the possibilities were for those who submit ideas to CRDF.

Mr. Dantzler reported that he and Mr. Howard had made a request for the new UF Vice President of Agriculture, Dr. Scott Angle, to present at a CRDF BoD meeting when his schedule allows.

Partnerships: Mike Sparks reported there is no indication from Tallahassee on when the Governor will sign the budget.

Dr. Michael Rogers reported that researchers at CREC remain busy as the Center begins to open during the Phase One operating schedule. He has been working with Dr. Gilbert and Dr. Norton to obtain approval of requests for the field collection of critical data, and to carry on with research in the labs under UF guidelines. He also took note of the October 31, 2020 deadline for the Oversight Committee report.

Extension Agent Report: Ajia Paolillo reported that various Extension offices have opened on a limited basis, by appointment only. Pesticide testing will resume as county offices open and offer the test online; Hardee County has begun offering online testing. Third quarter leaf sample tests should begin arriving in July.

New Business/Public Comments: None.

Future CRDF Meetings: Teleconference Box Tax Advisory Committee and CRDF Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, June 23, 2020 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.