

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

A teleconference meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Board President David Howard called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Larry Black, Rob Gilbert, 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 Jeremy Adamson, Mike Aerts, Fred Gmitter, Matt Joyner, Andrew Meadows, Ernie Neff, Michael Rogers, Callie Walker, and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Howard opened with the approval of the May 19, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Atchley moved to approve the minutes of the May 19th Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and, with no discussion, it passed unanimously.

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

Research Management Committee: Dr. Ouimet reported that the Research Management Committee met on June 12, 2020 to review the sixteen preproposals received in response to the 2020 Nutrition RFP. The Committee reviewed the five preproposals which the SAB and RMC had unanimously voted to invite a full proposal, as well as three preproposals that both groups agreed not to invite a full proposal. Discussion followed on the preproposals which had split decision votes. At the conclusion of the discussion, ten preproposals were recommended for full proposals. Dr. Ouimet then moved to recommend them to the Board for submission of full proposals. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan. Brief discussion was had regarding anticipated costs of first year funding. With no other discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The next matter the Research Management Committee discussed was the concept project of Stage Three Field Trials on rootstocks. Dr. Ouimet reported that the Committee is in favor of the trials and even the possibility of advancement of the project to scion work in the future. Dr. Ouimet recommended that the application for Stage Three Rootstock Field trial work go forward. Mr. Dantzler then was given the floor to provide a brief background on what led to the creation of the Phase Three Field Trial concept. Mr. Howard then expanded further on the proposed timeline and budget of the project, noting that the Stage Three Field Trial concept was not an action item for Board consideration at this time, but asked for their input to give Mr. Dantzler and Staff direction to gather more detail and define the project scope. Discussion was had among the Board regarding CRDF being directly engaged in research and ultimately the concept being a team effort with CRDF working with researchers, breeders, and growers on all phases.

Mr. Black asked to go on record regarding the need for UF/IFAS hire of the horticulture position, which he considered critical for the citrus industry, and it is vital that the right person be hired. Dr. Mastrodicasa then gave an update from the University as to the status on the hire for the horticulture position.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Ron Mahan reported the Finance and Audit Committee met on June 12, 2020. Mr. Mahan then reviewed the Financial Statements for the fiscal year through May 31, 2020. Hearing no questions or comments, Mr. Mahan made a motion to approve the May Financial Statements as presented. Mr. Black seconded the motion, and without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahan asked Mr. Dantzler to explain the miscellaneous contracts recommendations. Mr. Dantzler briefly summarized the contracts and highlighted two in particular. Historically, CRDF has contributed \$10,000.00 to Citrus Expo, which is scheduled for mid-August. Due to extenuating circumstances regarding COVID, Mr. Dantzler recommended the contribution check be held until closer to the Citrus Expo. Mr. Dantzler also recommended maintaining the contractual relationship with Third-Party Registration, the wholly owned subsidiary of FFVA. He explained that the contractual agreement had been negotiated the previous year and the hours of service included with the monthly retainer payment. Mr. Mahan then moved to have the miscellaneous contracts and costs approved by the Board, with the caveat regarding the contribution check to the Citrus Expo to be held until August. Before a second to the motion could be heard, Mr. Dantzler reported there were two relatively new contracts added which needed to be brought to the Board's attention: drone data collection from AGERpoint, Inc. and field trial data collection by Henry Yonce, KAC Agricultural Research, Inc. Mr. Atchley seconded Mr. Mahan's motion of approval of the miscellaneous contracts and, with no discussion, it passed unanimously.

Finally, Mr. Mahan brought for discussion the 2020-21 proposed budget. He summarized the projections for the next fiscal year which included, but were not limited to, the cash carried forward, box tax funds, and co-funding monies from CRDF partnerships with CRB, Coca-Cola and Pepsico. Mr. Mahan also reviewed the administrative costs, research deliverable costs, and other expenses. Upon completion of his summary, Mr. Mahan made a motion that the proposed budget be approved by the CRDF Board of Directors for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Mr. Black seconded the motion. Brief discussion was had among the Board members regarding budget items and administrative costs. With no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Governance Committee: Chairman Larry Black reported the Committee met on June 22, 2020. The first item Mr. Black reported on was the Amendment to Research Project 19-029C, the CRAFT agreement. The amendment was drafted to accommodate the participants who would not have received trees for planting by the June 30th deadline in the contract. Mr. Dantzler, with the help of the CRAFT Foundation and FDACS, drafted the extension agreement. Mr. Black moved to recommend the amendment, as presented, to the Board of Directors for approval. Mr. Atchley seconded the motion. Discussion was had on the number of growers involved and expected timeline commitments. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Black moved on to the matter of the CRDF Bylaws which had been under review by the University of Florida Board of Trustees. Dr. Mastrodicasa gave an update and stated the bylaws had been reviewed and approved by the Chair of the Trustees and the President of UF, and the CRDF Bylaws were official.

Mr. Black spoke briefly on the consensus of the Governance Committee regarding project consultants and should it fall within the confines of the budget, Mr. Dantzler would have the authority as COO to engage with additional consultants as needed. Should it be warranted, Mr. Dantzler would seek guidance from the Governance Committee and the Board.

Mr. Black then allowed Mr. Dantzler to report on requests for letters of support received by CRDF from PIs seeking NIFA funding for their projects. Mr. Dantzler briefly discussed the projects and/or PIs who had requested the letters of support and asked for guidance from the Board regarding decisions on whether to provide them. CRDF had been invited to submit a full proposal for the NIFA CAPS grant and there were projects that had requested an endorsement from CRDF which were applicants competing for the same pool of money. Mr. Black made a motion that the Governance Committee's recommendation would be to ask for a copy of the full proposal from each support requestee, that CRDF Staff would then review full proposal, and the decision would be made for endorsement based on several factors and possibly a special committee. Mr. Mahan seconded the motion, and with no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Mr. Updike reported that the CPDC met on May 14, 2020 and heard from Dr. Lauren Diepenbrock regarding an off-cycle proposal entitled "Developing near and long-term management strategies for Lebbeck mealy bug in Florida citrus." Mr. Updike discussed the questions and concerns raised during the review process of the proposal. Mr. Updike and Dr. Futch presented the list of questions to Dr. Diepenbrock prior to the meeting and the Committee heard her detailed explanations of the concerns from the SAB panel and Staff. Mr. Updike also mentioned his appreciation with the format of interaction between the PI and the Committee. At the conclusion, Mr. Updike stated that the CPD Committee recommended Dr. Diepenbrock's off-cycle project for approval by the Board. Dr. Hodges seconded the motion, and with brief discussion regarding the first-year budget, the motion passed unanimously.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler recognized and welcomed Mr. Jeremy Adamson from Certis USA. Mr. Adamson, on behalf of Certis USA, virtually presented \$20,000.00 donation to CRDF to continue to find solutions for HLB, grow a healthy citrus crop, and work with Florida growers as they face other challenges in their groves. Mr. Howard and Mr. Dantzler thanked Mr. Adamson and Certis for their donation and continued support of Florida citrus.

Mr. Dantzler reported that NIFA had invited the Bayer CAPS preproposal to submit a full proposal and, as he had previously mentioned, the deadline for full proposals is July 14, 2020.

Next, he mentioned the off-cycle presentation process that was attempted at the last CPDC meeting. While the interaction between the PI and Committee members was positive, the time commitment of having a larger number of presenters could be problematic.

The 2020 Nutrition RFP format was changed for the preproposal cycle to include three general priorities with additional defined sub-priorities. Mr. Dantzler stated that, while the new format worked well, there was room for improvement.

Mr. Dantzler reported on the status of FDACS settlement agreement, with the amendment having been approved and signed. The funding to be received, approximately 1.2 million dollars, had been built into the budget approved earlier in the meeting.

He also had spoken to Mr. Matt Joyner regarding the status of the budget. Mr. Joyner had no new news, nor did he indicate that the CRDF budget was on the veto list.

Moving on, Mr. Dantzler spoke on the Working Group on Plant Improvement meeting which took place in early June. He stated that the consensus of the group and individuals he has spoken to are to look for a paradigm shift. He then began to explain that if CRDF took a greater role in Phase Three Field Trial testing, the framework of an agreement might possibly evolve, and could make it all work

within the context of a Standing Committee to oversee budgetary matters and ensure the proper protocols were followed.

Partnerships: Mr. Andrew Meadows reported there was no indication from Tallahassee on when the Governor will sign the budget.

The virtual program for the educational presentations that were cancelled because the Annual Grower Conference has been scheduled for July 22, 2020. Mr. Dantzler had spoken with Mr. Meadows regarding scheduling three or four presentations. He has planned a grower forum, as well. Mr. Meadows felt a virtual platform for the Education Session presentations would attract 100-125 grower participants.

Dr. Mastrodicasa and Dr. Gilbert discussed the University's plan for reopening for students and researchers.

Extension Agent Report: None.

New Business/Public Comments: None.

Future CRDF Meetings: Teleconference CRDF Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, July 28, 2020 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.