

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

A teleconference meeting of the Executive Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman David Howard. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Executive Committee members present were Rob Atchley, Larry Black, Rick Dantzler, David Howard, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, and John Updike. Also participating were Bill Dawson, Gary England, Steve Futch, Fred Gmitter, Aaron Himrod, Hailing Jin, Audrey Nowicki, Pat Ouimet, Brandon Page, Jim Syvertsen, and Deidra Whatley.

Mr. Howard opened the meeting with the review of the Executive Committee meeting minutes from March 13, 2020. Mr. Howard entertained a motion to approve the Executive Committee minutes from March 13, 2020 as presented. A motion to approve was made by Larry Black and seconded by John Updike. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard turned the floor over to Mr. Dantzler for the next item on the agenda. The matter at hand was the proposed membership for a Committee on Plant Improvement. Mr. Dantzler prefaced the matter by giving a brief background on how the CRDF came to the conclusion a re-constituted committee was needed, how proposed committee members were chosen, and how he felt it was time to begin moving in this particular direction with Plant Improvement. Before a motion was entertained, Mr. Dantzler made clear that he has not been in touch with any of the proposed individuals to see if they would be willing to serve, and that he had included a couple of alternates just in case there was anyone (or two) who would not be willing or able to serve on the Committee. Mr. Black then moved to appoint the proposed list to serve as membership on the Committee on Plant Improvement. The motion was seconded by John Updike, and with no discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler moved forward with the next agenda item, the CRAFT contract language. He shared, in detail, with the Committee how the matter came to him, and although it was not a matter the Committee needed to act on at this time, he did feel he needed to get the sense of the Committee. The matter at hand was to change the deadline date of June 30, 2021 to a later date or keep the originally assigned date. Mr. Dantzler discussed the goals of CRAFT. There was discussion regarding the language of the contract and CRDF's second RFP. Mr. Dantzler reported that he and Mrs. Nowicki have been in discussion with FDACS regarding awarding CRAFT the full \$3,000,000.00 (assuming CRAFT is the recipient of the RFP) and allowing CRAFT to pay the growers upon planting, but FDACS was not keen on that option and that CRDF should maintain the original deliverables in the contract with CRAFT. Mr. Dantzler reported that Ms. Carlson said September 1st would be the earliest CRAFT would know if the 3,000-acre goal of year-2 would be met. Mr. Atchley asked if it was possible to wait until the amount of enrolled acreage was clear. Mr. Dantzler said it was, and that there would be time to change the language of the agreement to make sure the acreage goal was met, if necessary.

The consensus of the Committee was to defer until a later date, but that a hard deadline for deliverables was necessary in order to have finality.

Next, Mr. Dantzler brought up for discussion the invoice for the Virtual Education Session. Quickly, he gave the Committee the background of the financial commitment CRDF has made to Florida Citrus Mutual for the Annual Conference over the years. Historically, CRDF budgeted \$10,000.00 for the Annual Conference. The FY20-21 Budget allocated \$10,000.00 for the Annual Conference but the meeting in Bonita Springs was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns prior to a contract being drawn up and entered into by both parties. The Virtual Educational Session was presented and very successful, having altogether 202 participants according to Zoom. Mr. Dantzler, throughout Mutual's process of facilitating the event, made clear that CRDF would assist with expenses. After receiving a draft invoice for an amount higher than the amount approved in the budget, the Committee agreed to what had been budgeted, which Mutual had agreed to accept as full payment. While COVID had presented a unique circumstance, the Committee reinforced the need for contracts to be in place prior to proceeding with events. Mr. Howard asked that the payment for the invoice at hand reflect the Educational Session and communication to the grower community.

Moving on to the Citrus Expo invoice received, Mr. Dantzler reported that although the in-person event had been cancelled the Expo had now been moved to a virtual event. There had been discussion and direction from the Board regarding the sponsorship for the live event, but with that not taking place the funds had been not been distributed. However, CRDF had been listed as a sponsor for the Virtual Expo, so Mr. Dantzler had contacted Robin Loftin regarding CRDF's financial commitment. Mr. Dantzler told the Committee that he did not feel comfortable recommending the full \$10,000 sponsorship fee but didn't think CRDF should be listed as a sponsor if we weren't paying a sponsorship fee. Mr. Black spoke about the importance of the event, the sessions, and CRDF's commitment to outreach. He suggested contributing \$5,000.00 along with the communication regarding grower outreach, and moved to recommend that CRDF make a \$5,000.00 sponsorship contribution to AgNet for the Virtual Citrus Expo and to include communication that provided the appropriate language regarding outreach to the grower community. Mr. Updike seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding what other sponsors were paying for similar placement. Mr. Black then withdrew his motion and made another motion, this time to contribute at least \$1,500.00 but not to exceed \$5,000.00, with an invoice that language would be included making it clear that this was for grower outreach. The motion was seconded by John Updike, and with no further discussion, passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler reported CRDF had received a request from Dr. Ariel Singerman for CRDF's raw field trial data for economic analyses he is conducting. Since CRDF did not typically release all of its raw data, Mr. Black suggested a confidentiality agreement between the University for Dr. Singerman and CRDF, and for CRDF to release the data. Another suggestion would be to release the quality and quantity data without releasing the raw data so that the economic analysis study could be performed. No one had a problem releasing quality and quantity data. Brandon Page reported that a small sample of analyzed data had been sent to Dr. Singerman. The Committee decided to arrange a non-disclosure/confidentiality agreement between Dr. Singerman and CRDF, if necessary, but to work with Dr. Singerman to get him what he needed.

Special Researcher Presentations: Hailing Jin, Ph.D. of University of California-Riverside, gave a presentation regarding the Identification of a citrus-derived Stable Anti-Microbial Peptide (SAMP) from HLB-tolerant citrus relatives.

Upon the conclusion of Dr. Jin's presentation, discussion was had between the Committee members and Dr. Jin regarding next steps, funding, and off-cycle proposal requests.

Moving forward, Mr. Howard discussed off-cycle projects. The Committee was directed to an excerpt from the bylaws which highlighted why the CPDC exists and how that Committee was the proper group to handle off-cycle proposal requests. Mr. Dantzler then outlined the ten off-cycle projects in the offering. Mr. Dantzler also reported on MAC funding decisions. Florida did not fare well, except for CRAFT. There may be some of the projects, which were not funded through MAC, that could be considered off-cycle. The decision for off-cycle projects would come after the Nutrition RFP projects have been decided and funding available for the rest of the year clarified.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Deidra Whatley