

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2021

A teleconference meeting of the Executive Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Thursday, January 14, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Chairman David Howard. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Executive Committee members present were Rob Atchley, Rick Dantzler, David Howard, Ron Mahan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, and John Updike. Also participating were Steve Futch, Audrey Nowicki, Pat Ouimet, Mathew Story, and Deidra Whatley.

Mr. Mahan moved to approve the Executive Committee minutes from November 23, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and, with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard started the discussion of two potential paths for the scion field trials.

Mr. Dantzler explained the request from PIs Dr. Stover and Dr. Gmitter for CRDF to make the application for a Federal NIFA CAPS grant to fund more extensive studies on existing scion trials, a scaled down version of the application made by CRAFT to NIFA last year. Since this application deadline is January 29, 2021, CRDF decisions needed to be made prior to the January 26th Board of Directors meeting. The main goals to be achieved, should NIFA funding be awarded, are to significantly study all existing scion trials to determine which offer the most potential to growers, add planting of twenty acres of new scions each year of the four-year project, and finally, perform significant phenotyping on the combined data from the old and new trials, which has not been utilized extensively in the citrus industry. The Committee discussed that while this extensive study would allow more cultivars to be tested each year of the trial, identifying potential winners and at the same time weeding out non-producing scions as the study progressed from year to year. While CRDF does not have adequate staff to take on a project of this magnitude, the cost of a Program Director and their expenses would be budgeted in the application along with any other costs CRDF would be expected to incur. Mr. Mahan moved to approve moving forward with the pre-application process of the NIFA grant on scion trials. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and with brief discussion regarding commitment after application, the motion passed by a majority vote with one opposition by Mr. Updike.

Mr. Dantzler discussed that the second potential for scion trials would be for CRDF to engage in a trial on its own, similar to the planned rootstock trials. The scions to be planted would be determined using the template designed from the CRDF Phase III rootstock trial. The grower cooperators would plant the top twenty scions, nominated by the Select Committee on Plant Improvement, on three rootstocks over four replications. The advantage of a CRDF-run scion trial would be significantly less costs, estimated to be \$425,000.00 over three years. After discussion on both activities, Mr. Updike moved to recommend to the Board for consideration the concept of

a CRDF Scion Trial, similar to the CRDF Phase III Rootstock Trial. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan and, with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard discussed the planned Board Retreat and a potential date of February 23, 2021. He also mentioned that Dr. Scott Angle, UF/IFAS, was interested in attending the Board Retreat, as well as the Board meeting that immediately proceeded. Dr. Mastrodicasa will discuss Dr. Angle's availability with him. It was discussed that the Board of Directors meeting for February 2021 would be available only by Zoom to the public; Board members, along with CRDF Staff, would attend in person. In the meantime, Ms. Whatley would also check with Dr. Angle's assistant on his availability, as well as travel restrictions imposed by the University.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Deidra Whatley