

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at the Bert J. Harris Agriculture Center, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring, FL 33875, in Conference Room 3. The meeting was called to order at 9:40 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 Ned Hancock, Aaron Himrod, Morgan McKenna, Audrey Nowicki, Pat Ouimet, Mike Sparks and Mathew Story.

Mr. Mahan moved to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2021 Executive Committee as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Discussion centered on the urgency of resolving greening and the deficiencies of CRDF's plant breeding funding over the years.

The following points were covered:

1. Whether the RFP had outlived its usefulness. That is, are the proposals we are receiving hitting the mark, and are we receiving proposals from all possible sources that might have answers? The point was made that all we do should be aimed at helping growers because fruit quality and quantity numbers are becoming significant issues for processors. It was discussed that if the RFP didn't result in proposals that the committee and board felt were needed, CRDF could write the experiments needed and put out to bid the execution of those experiments.
2. It was suggested that CRDF review all project in their portfolio and see if there are results that could provide immediate help for growers that simply didn't get out there.
3. There was discussion on whether CRDF could aggregate early results from researchers that looked promising and either get those data to growers prior to publication.
4. Does Bayer have something that will help growers some but not as much as the final analog will provide?
5. Should CRDF move more towards CRAFT-like research and test early results on a larger scale?
6. Should the focus be on applied research on existing trees of fruit-bearing age?
7. In the immediate future, over the next 10 days, a couple of projects be identified on drop and fruit quality that show success but that aren't quite finished and get cooperators to begin trying them.
8. Regarding plant improvement:
 - a. Get with Dr. Gilbert to find out where we are on the long-term plan.
 - b. Do we know all that we have created? Is there an inventory and data on each?
 - c. How much do other citrus breeding programs spend?
 - d. Are there other breeding programs that would begin working on citrus?

e. Emphasis should be on:

- (1) early or mid-season maturing juice fruit that exhibit high quality
- (2) breed to standards that can be mechanically harvested
- (3) develop plants and give them to someone else to test
- (4) invite Moira Sheehan to make a presentation to the board on what she does and to meet with Jude and Fred to identify synergies.

f. Is the new hire focused too much on horticulture and not enough on breeding?

g. Should CRDF consider hiring and paying for the horticulturist so IFAS could spend its money on a breeder?

h. Are there other biotechnology research organizations that can help?

9. There was discussion on how much money should be held in reserves, and the termination of projects?

10. How can we accelerate peptide research.

11. How can we assist companies with products seeking commercialization?

a. The committee recommended providing a letter of support to Elemental Enzymes for its application for a use permit.

Dr. Ouimet addressed the Board.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted and amended by A. Nowicki

Minutes accepted and approved in a motion by Mr. Mahan, seconded by Dr. Gilbert, at the CRDF Board of Directors meeting held Tuesday, March 23, 2012.