

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

A teleconference meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Board President David Howard called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Rob Gilbert, Ned Hancock, Aaron Himrod, Greg Hodges, David Howard, Ron Mahan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Morgan McKenna, Pat Ouimet, Mathew Story, and John Updike. Also participating were Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Steve Futch, Jim Graham, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Jim Syvertsen, and Deidra Whatley. Other participants were Mike Aerts, Scott Angle, Peter Chaires, Gary England, Fred Gmitter, Deeley Hunt, Andrew Meadows, Ernie Neff, Michael Rogers, Brian Scully, Jim Snively, Mike Sparks, Ed Stover, Buddy Strickland, Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Howard opened with the approval of the January 26, 2021 meeting minutes. Ron Mahan moved to approve the minutes of the January 26th Board meeting. The motion was seconded by John Updike and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard introduced Dr. J. Scott Angle, Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the University of Florida and IFAS. Dr. Angle shared his professional background and vision for the future of UF-IFAS.

Mr. Howard asked Mr. Dantzler to proceed with his presentation as modified from the one prepared for the Senate Appropriations Committee in January. The presentation highlighted CRDF's history, where we are currently, future research topics and questions of how CRDF can effectively move forward in the future.

Mr. Dantzler noted that the Governance Committee Chairman position was vacated with Mr. Black's departure from the Board and recommended the appointments of Mr. Hancock as Chair and Mr. Josh Snively to serve on the Governance Committee. Mr. Mahan moved to approve Mr. Hancock as Chair of Governance and the addition of Mr. Snively to the Committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler recommended that the assignment of new Board member Mr. Story for the Research Management Committee and Ms. McKenna for the Commercial Product Delivery Committee. Both had been contacted and agreed to serve on these respective Committees should it meet with Board approval. Mr. Hancock motioned for Mr. Story and Ms. McKenna to be placed on the Research Management Committee and Commercial Product Delivery Committee, respectively. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan and passed unanimously.

Executive Committee: Mr. Howard reported that the Executive Committee met on January 29, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss any final questions prior to submitting the pre-application for the scion trials NIFA CAPS grant. The Committee discussed the project at length and ultimately decided to move forward with the application submission.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Ron Mahan reviewed the January financial statement, as well as a snapshot of the long-term budget plan. There was discussion regarding carry-over funds, reserves, and potential legislative funds.

Governance Committee: Governance Committee had not met.

Research Management Committee: Dr. Ouimet reported the Research Management Committee met on February 12, 2021 and addressed two topics. First, the 2021 RFP, with the Committee clarifying new areas of focus and the addition of the mechanical harvesting topic. After Board discussion, it was decided to defer the RFP approval until the March Board meeting to give industry partners more time to submit research requests. The second matter the RMC Committee addressed was the NIFA pre-application, discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Dantzler said Staff has been working on the coordination of Board and Committee members to visit the Pantuso trials.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Mr. Updike reported that, while the Committee had not met, he would like to have a discussion of the peptide studies. It was suggested that a roundtable meeting on peptides be scheduled, as well as a CPDC meeting.

Select Committee on Plant Improvement: Mr. Dantzler reported that the Select Committee on Plant Improvement met on February 16, 2021, and asked Mr. Page to recap the meeting. He highlighted the two discussion areas: certified vs noncertified budwood, and the CRDF Scion Trial scion nominations. After in-depth discussion regarding the guidance for scion trials and nominations, Mr. Howard suggested taking the comments and revisions back to the Committee for additional review prior to the next Board meeting.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler reported earlier in the meeting.

Partnerships: Mike Sparks reported on his January trip to Tallahassee to speak on behalf of Florida Citrus Mutual and CRDF to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Mr. Sparks reported that CRDF's \$8 million budget request is included in the Governor's recommendation, but the ask is not guaranteed. Mr. Sparks also noted that the 2021 FCM Annual Conference had been cancelled; however, there would be a virtual educational session scheduled.

Dr. Mastrodicasa gave an update on Dr. Angle's travel schedule to the Research and Education Centers and Extension offices throughout the State. She also noted the interview process for an Extension Dean would begin early in March.

Dr. Gmitter noted that the Plant Improvement position, initially announced a year ago, is proceeding and several new candidates have applied. The application deadline is March 29, 2021 and the Search & Screen Committee will meet shortly after to make recommendations for interviews.

Extension Agent Report: None.

New Business/Public Comments: None.

Future CRDF Meetings: CRDF Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.