

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at Lake Placid Government Center, 1069 US Hwy 27N, Lake Placid, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. President David Howard called the meeting to order at 10:23 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, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Mike Sparks, Jim Syvertsen, and Deidra Whatley. Other participants were Kim Bowman, Melanie Burns, Kristen Carlson, Pamela Fentress, Fernando Alferez, Fred Gmitter, Andrew Meadows, Michael Rogers, Brian Scully, Moira Sheehan, Shannon Shepp, Ed Stover, and Rosa Walsh.

In celebration of the first in-person meeting since COVID struck, Deidra Whatley sang the national anthem. After that great start, Mr. Howard requested a motion to accept the March 23, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Hancock moved to approve the minutes of the March 23rd Board meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Rob Gilbert and passed unanimously.

Executive Committee: Mr. Howard stated the Executive Committee had not met.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Mahan reviewed the March Financial Statement and Summary. He moved to accept the March Financial Statement as presented. Mr. Hancock seconded the motion, and with no discussion, it passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard asked Mr. Sparks to give an update from Tallahassee. Mr. Sparks reported the State's budget had been finalized and moved to the Governor's desk for review and approval. The budget appropriated by the legislature for CRDF, barring no line-item vetoes from the Governor, would be \$8 million, with \$3 million sectioned out for CRDF research and \$5 million for large-scale field trials, most likely CRAFT. Discussion followed regarding the proviso language for consultation with the Department of Citrus. Mr. Dantzler suggested CRDF extend an invitation to Senator Albritton to attend a CRDF Board meeting, and Mr. Sparks agreed.

Mr. Mahan discussed CRDF's long-term project commitments, and the amount of funds that should be held in reserve. Mr. Hancock suggested a deep dive review of the research portfolio, to include all fifty-seven projects currently funded to ensure project objectives are being met. The board agreed that this would be a good exercise.

Governance Committee: Chairman Ned Hancock stated the Governance Committee met April 27, 2021. Mr. Hancock reported that the Committee reviewed the FY2020-21 Conflict of Interest Declarations and discussed Dr. Dawson's annual patent payment. Board members suggested

monitoring the future delegation of projects having to do with CTV to avoid a conflict for Dr. Dawson. Mr. Hancock mentioned formal correspondence will be sent to the University confirming that the FY 2021/2022 COIs have been reviewed and accepted.

Mr. Hancock noted that the FY2021-22 Conflict of Interest forms would be sent out by the CRDF Office Staff and there would be a return date prior to the June Board of Directors meeting to meet the deadline of July 1, 2021.

He then discussed the annual COO Review and advised Board members they would receive the review forms to fill out and return.

Mr. Hancock discussed the Staff salary review items; the Committee recommended reclassifying Mrs. Nowicki's position from Admin II to Admin III and requesting a one-time, non-recurring, special bonus payment to Brandon Page to recognize his work with CRAFT and the new CRDF rootstock and scion trials. Mr. Hancock motioned to reclassify Mrs. Nowicki to an Admin III and to make a one-time, non-recurring, special bonus payment to Brandon Page. The motion was seconded by Ron Mahan and passed unanimously.

Special Presentation: Dr. Fernando Alferez gave a presentation on his CRDF-funded project #18-032C, "Preventing young trees from psyllids and infection with CLAs through use of protective netting".

Special Presentation: Dr. Moira Sheehan, Breeding Insight Director, USDA-ARS at Cornell University, gave a presentation on "Securing the future of citrus".

Research Management Committee: Mr. Dantzler, on behalf of Chair Dr. Ouimet, updated the Board on the status of the RFP, with fifty-nine RFP preproposals received to date. He briefly discussed a meeting in which, at the request of Dr. Angle, a group of growers and industry leaders met to talk through UF's plan to hire a horticulturist. He noted that Dr. Ouimet would be presenting to the Board at a future meeting on this matter. A question was raised regarding an internal audit performed twelve years or so ago on the breeding program. Does it exist and what happened with the program when it was received? Dr. Mastrodicasa volunteered to search for said audit.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Mr. Updike reported that, while the CPD Committee had not met, getting a quorum had become an issue. Mr. Dantzler stated that the members of CPD would be contacted directly regarding their desire and commitment to remain on the Committee. Mr. Dantzler reported on the status of peptide use and the meetings he and Dr. Dawson have had with researchers and companies since the last Board meeting. Mr. Dantzler noted that there were preproposals received that had stemmed from conversations regarding peptides. There was discussion regarding CTV technology and development of different transfer methods.

Select Committee on Plant Improvement: Mr. Dantzler reported that the Select Committee on Plant Improvement had not met.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzer gave a Bayer project update. He mentioned the project production timeline has advanced to 5-7 years versus the original lengthier timeline.

Mr. Dantzer noted a supplemental budget request has been received from Dr. Grosser in the amount of \$167,000 for his core breeding project and suggested the budget request be handled by the Commercial Product Delivery Committee at its next meeting.

Concluding his report, Mr. Dantzer updated the Board on the status of the 2Blades Foundation work and where CRDF stood in exercising its rights under the contract for the exclusivity license. It was agreed that this would be a good discussion for CPDC at its next meeting.

Partnerships: Dr. Rogers shared the UF/IFAS Centers continued gradual openings and ability to hold smaller meetings on campuses. He provided the dates and accessibility for the Florida Citrus Show. Dr. Rogers reported that CREC planned to hold larger in-person meetings beginning in the Fall, with a Packing House Day in August, and a Field Day event in September/October.

Dr. Scully gave a quarterly update on behalf of USDA-ARS. He began by updating the Board on Dr. Greg McCollum's peptide project and then discussed Dr. Shatters' MAC Grant award – he and Dr. Niedz are using the detached leaf assay to identify other molecules that may prove to have efficacy against HLB – “crowdsourcing of molecules”. He discussed the Oak Leaf project and noted that a Lead PI had been identified who is located at IRREC, with a co-PI being with USDA ARS. A vendor has been secured who had developed the projects; there would also be a cooperative piece in the lab and field trials beginning. Dr. Scully briefly reported that CRAFT Program had already begun the work in preparation for the third phase of the project and where the focus was headed. Dr. Shatters and Dr. Scully would stay on the TWG, but Dr. Fernando Alvarez would replace Dr. Scully as chairman, and Dr. Rhinehart would be the contact at ARS for the breeding team. Dr. Scully also reported on the Whitmore Foundation, where the team is preparing to plant round two of the rootstock seed production blocks in May and have reviewed “not released material” of the cultivar display block as well.

Extension Agent Report: None.

New Business: Dr. Kim Bowman gave a brief presentation regarding “Using Field Performance of 300 rootstocks in replicated field trials to identify superior new rootstock now and direct future breeding for resistance/tolerance to HLB.” Dr. Bowman requested a letter of support from CRDF, which was agreed to.

Mr. Howard posed recent questions from growers to the Board for their consideration and recommendations. Discussion was had among the Board regarding research project specificity and periodic project updates on currently funded projects.

Public Comments: None.

Future CRDF Meetings: CRDF Board of Directors Meeting, Tues., May 25, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.