

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the

Commercial Product Delivery Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

A teleconference meeting of the Commercial Product Delivery Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on November 17, 2020. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman John Updike, Jr. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were Larry Black, Alex Brown, Holly Chamberlain, Kelly Friend, Greg Hodges, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Brian Scully, Shannon Shepp, and John Updike. Also participating were Rob Atchley, Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Steve Futch, Jim Graham, Catherine Hatcher, David Howard, Audrey Nowicki, Jim Syvertsen, Rosa Walsh, Deidra Whatley, and Janice Zale.

Mr. Updike presented the minutes from the September 18, 2020 meeting for review. Ms. Friend asked for a correction to the minutes to note that she abstained from all voting for the off-cycle proposal projects. Mr. Black moved to accept the minutes with said correction. Dr. Hodges seconded the motion and with no discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Updike asked Mr. Dantzler to report on the Transformation Labs. Mr. Dantzler noted that the University of Florida has made significant strides in achieving the recommendations of the Review Panel's report. While the transformation labs have begun transitioning into self-sustaining business models, both labs are requesting the third year of funding from CRDF with approximately a 60% reduction of their original budgets submitted at the start of the projects; the University, as a measure of good faith, is subsidizing a portion of the projects as well. Dr. Scully moved to recommend the Board approve funding for Year 3 in the amount of \$53,316 for Project # 18-066C, V. Orbovic's Immature Tissue Transformation Lab, and funding in the amount of \$139,805 for Year 3 for Project #18-067C, J. Zale's Mature Tissue Transformation Lab, for a total of \$193,121. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and with no discussion the motion passed unanimously. CRDF would realize a savings of \$289,682.00 from the original Year 3 budgets on these two projects.

Mr. Updike asked Dr. Syvertsen to give a summary on the Culturing Panel Discussion which took place on November 5, 2020. The compilation of the panel for discussion on the culturing of CLAs grew from a previous CPDC meeting where Dr. David Gang's biofilm culturing proposal was tabled with the recommendation of convening a group of blue-ribbon experts to discuss current culturing research. During the meeting of the experts, each panelist gave a virtual presentation highlighting their progress made in culturing CLAs, followed by discussions to identify knowledge gaps. The panel agreed to collaborate in their efforts and work on a joint proposal for culturing the CLAs biofilm.

In addition to Dr. Gang's off-cycle proposal received previously, Dr. Dean Gabriel, a member of the panel, submitted an additional off-cycle proposal for his individual efforts on culturing. Mr. Black

moved to again table Dr. Gang's individual proposal that was originally being considered until a more definitive plan for a collaborative effort between the researchers could be determined. The motion was seconded by Dr. Scully, and with no further discussion, the motion passed by a majority, with one abstention from Ms. Friend.

Mr. Updike asked Mr. Dantzler to provide an update on the CRDF Large-Scale Field Trial RFP. Mr. Dantzler reported that CRDF received one response, which was from CRAFT, requesting \$3,000,000.00 as outlined in the Legislative proviso language. Dr. Scully moved to recommend the Board approve funding for the CRAFT project. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and, with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Updike then moved to the off-cycle proposals to be discussed. Dr. Graham summarized proposal #20-013C, submitted by Dr. Ute Albrecht, "Control and Suppression of *Candidatus liberibacter asiaticus* in citrus trees by trunk injections of a novel anti-bacterial compound," and provided the SAB reviews and Staff Analysis. Discussion followed regarding contingencies to discuss with the researcher. Mr. Black moved to decline the advancement of proposal #20-013 for funding. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hodges, and with no discussion passed by a majority vote, with one abstention by Ms. Friend.

The next off-cycle proposal for discussion was project #19-020, Dr. Mark Ritenour, for continued funding to place the fruit sorting equipment funded by CRDF into use. Dr. Futch and Mr. Dantzler reviewed the proposal and Dr. Ritenour's request for continued funding to utilize the equipment. The Committee felt there could be merit to the project, but thought the budget was steep and the project had veered off course from its previously approved proof of concept. Mr. Black moved not to advance the proposal to the Board to be considered for funding. The motion was seconded by Ms. Shepp, and the motion passed, with one vote of opposition, and one abstention.

Mr. Updike reiterated that Dr. Gang's proposal #20-009C, "Optimization of psyllid-based CLAs in vitro biofilm cultures and their use in testing Koch's postulates via psyllid transmission," had been tabled until a more definitive plan for a collaborative effort between the panel of researchers from the November 5th discussion could be determined.

Next, the first off-cycle proposal for consideration was from Elemental Enzymes for its peptide VisMax™. Dr. Dawson discussed the objectives and noted the proposal does call for subcontracting a UF-IFAS researcher, Dr. Evan Johnson, to perform greenhouse analysis using the spray application of the peptide. The committee agreed the \$823,000 budget for the entire project was not feasible. Mr. Black moved to recommend that the Board fund the greenhouse study portion only, which would be included as a subcontract to Dr. Evan Johnson in the proposal, with input from Staff, in the amount of \$61,200. The motion was seconded by Dr. Scully and, with an abstention from Ms. Friend, passed.

Dr. Syvertsen presented the next off-cycle preproposal from Dr. A. Limayem, "A Targeting-Nanotherapeutic Design Toward the Eradication of Citrus Greening Disease Originating from *Candidatus Liberibacter Infection*," an antimicrobial treatment for HLB. The Committee identified a

few major components which would cause roadblocks in the study, as well as a concern with the project being quite expensive at \$264,000. Staff agreed to take the comments from the Committee back to the researcher for response and possible revisions of the proposal to be considered at a later date. The preproposal did not advance for Board consideration as it failed for lack of a motion.

Dr. Futch presented the final preproposal from M. Machata, Chemhedge LLC, for “Development of bactericide foliage spray applicator to follow hedger/topper after fresh cuts.” This proposal had been received a week or so prior to the November 17th meeting, requesting \$500,000 for a 3-year study on a hedger that had been converted into a sprayer applicator. The product is patented. It was noted that the concept had been tried on the East Coast. The Committee chose to take no action on this preproposal since there had not been sufficient time to fully vet the concept. Staff will request that Chemhedge refine its preproposal and proof of concept and provide more detail with the budget. A full proposal may be entertained at a later date.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Deidra Whatley