



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

A teleconference meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. President David Howard called the meeting to order at 9:04 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, Mathew Story, and John Updike. Also participating were Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Steve Futch, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Mike Sparks, and Deidra Whatley. Other participants were Kim Bowman, Kristen Carlson, Mike Irely, Fred Gmitter, Andrew Meadows, Michael Rogers, Brian Scully, Shannon Shepp, Ed Stover, and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Howard entertained a motion to accept the April 27, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Mahan moved to approve the minutes of the April 27th Board meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by John Updike and passed unanimously.

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

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

Mr. Howard recognized Mr. Sparks to give a status update on the State budget. Mr. Sparks reported that the state budget appropriations process had finished and noted that the allocations between basic research and CRAFT-like projects had changed to \$3M and \$5M respectively. The budget had not been received by the Governor for review and execution; Mr. Sparks indicated that he did not anticipate any line-item vetoes for CRDF's portion.

Mr. Mahan discussed the long-term project commitments and the amount of funds that should be held in reserve. Mr. Dantzler reported he had begun the portfolio review of current research under contract and had provided his report of the 2020 projects. He will continue with the balance of the portfolio. Mr. Howard then discussed reaching out to the researchers for them to provide a brief synopsis of their progress and the potential for near-term results to benefit the industry.

Governance Committee: Chairman Ned Hancock reported that the committee met on May 25, 2021. After discussion, Mr. Hancock moved to approve the 2021 COO Review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hancock discussed the legislative proviso language directing consultation with the Florida Department of Citrus. He suggested that DOC could be provided CRDF's meeting minutes and monthly financial summaries for review. Ms. Shepp, on behalf on the Florida Department of Citrus, had suggested to Mr. Dantzler that an Advisory Committee be formed, comprised of Citrus Commission members and CRDF Board members, which would meet periodically to report on the activities of both organizations.

Mr. Hancock discussed the Amendment to the CRAFT Research Agreement 20-021C. Mr. Dantzler summarized the Amendment, explaining CRAFT's need for the request. Mr. Hancock moved to adopt the CRAFT Research Agreement Amendment to increase the payout of each program acre from \$1,000 per program acre to \$1,150 per program acre. The motion was seconded by Ron Mahan and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hancock asked Mr. Dantzler to discuss the proposed CRDF/FCM Virtual Education Sessions. Mr. Dantzler reported on his discussions with Mr. Meadows to hold two virtual events costing a total of \$10,000. Ms. Nowicki proposed including the allocation of \$20,000.00 for FCM educational sessions in the FY 2021-2022 budget, two in July and August at \$5,000 each, and \$10,000 for an in-person meeting in Bonita Springs in June 2022.

Research Management Committee: Dr. Ouimet reported that the committee had not met, but asked Mr. Dantzler to provide an update on the 2021 RFP. Mr. Dantzler reported that 63 preproposals had been received, that the Scientific Advisory Board had met and reviewed the preproposals on August 18th, and that the Research Management Committee would be meeting June 2nd to discuss and make its recommendations to the Board for invitations for full proposals.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Mr. Updike reported that the committee had not met but would be holding a meeting prior to the June BoD meeting.

At the previous request of Mr. Updike, Mr. Brandon Page gave presentations on previously compiled data from the Mountain Lake Rootstock and Babson Park Rootstock trials. Dr. Greg Hodges requested that Mr. Page provide the data on the Mountain Lake Rootstock Trial to himself and Mr. Ben Rossen for further analysis.

Mr. Dantzler noted that Committee attendance had been addressed with all members.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler gave an update on continued discussions with a Midwest company that manufactures a tree injection device, noting there are still uncertainties regarding what will be injected but determining how fast whatever was injected would be distributed throughout the phloem would be the first goal. He has been working with Dr. Christopher Vincent in discussions of initial trial injections. He requested approval for the injection company to come to Florida to test the device. Mr. Mahan made a motion for the Foundation to cover up to \$2,500 of expenses for the Midwest tree injection device company to travel to Florida to test the device. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler thanked Dr. Hodges and Mr. Rossen at FDACS DPI for their help in expediting the rootstocks and scion selections to be moved into the field for experimentation.

Lastly, he reported that Dr. Hailing Jin, UC Riverside, submitted a preproposal to the 2021 RFP requesting CRDF cover the materials cost of the peptide for Dr. Megan Dewdney and Dr. Greg McCollum, under her project. Mr. Dantzler outlined the preproposal and the industry's current interest in having the peptide applied at this time, prior to invitations for full proposals and subsequent Board approvals. It was recommended that RMC consider the funding request after presentations by Drs. Dewdney and Jin at their June 2nd meeting. Mr. Mahan moved for authorization of early funding to allow Dr. Jin to have the peptides applied by Dr. Dewdney and Dr. McCollum during the current growing season, contingent on approval by RMC. Mr. Hancock seconded the motion. The motion passed by a majority, with one opposing vote by Mr. Updike

Partnerships: Dr. Rogers reported on the search process for the new employee to the Plant Breeding Group. He gave an update on the three candidates and how to interact with the candidate seminar and industry screening process.

Extension Agent Report: Dr. Mastrodicasa reported the search for the Dean of Extension had been extended. She also mentioned that Juanita Popenoe, Extension Agent, had recently retired. Dr. Rogers interjected that there was a replacement position for the agent in Highlands County. Also, IFAS had lifted its hiring pause.

Dr. Mastrodicasa, at Mr. Howard's reminder, reported she had made progress on locating the Plant Improvement program review requested at the April 27, 2021 BoD meeting.

New Business: None

Public Comments: None.

Future CRDF Meetings: Box Tax Advisory Committee Meeting and CRDF Board of Directors Meeting, Tues., June 22, 2021 at beginning at 9:45 a.m.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.