

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of the

Research Management Committee Meeting

Friday, February 12, 2021

A Zoom teleconference meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Friday, February 12, 2021. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Chairman Pat Ouimet. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were Tim Dooley, Aaron Himrod, Sean McCoy, Pat Ouimet, Daniel Scott, Joby Sherrod, Wayne Simmons, Buddy Strickland, and Forest Taylor. Also participating were Rob Atchley, Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Steve Futch, Jim Graham, Catherine Hatcher, David Howard, Mike Irey, Morgan McKenna, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Jim Syvertsen, and Deidra Whatley.

Dr. Ouimet opened the meeting with the approval of the minutes of the November 23, 2020 RMC meeting. Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strickland and Mr. McCoy and, without discussion, passed unanimously.

Dr. Ouimet mentioned the draft topics for the 2021 RFP had been included in materials for committee review and comments. Mr. Dantzler reported he had reviewed the RFP topics during a Florida Citrus Mutual monthly meeting and was asked to include a topic on mechanical harvesting. He read the remaining topics and asked Dr. Graham to discuss each in greater scientific detail. Dr. Ouimet noted the specificity of the RFP topics and language and urged the Committee members to provide their input into whether top working would be successful and whether additional nutrition proposals would be useful. Dr. Graham noted that since black spot is embedded in the tree branches, mechanical harvesting could spread the disease. Mr. McCoy moved to amend the 2021 RFP topics to include mechanical harvesting.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to recommend the 2021 RFP as amended be moved to the Board for approval. Mr. Scott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler informed the committee that the Select Committee on Plant Improvement and CRDF Board approved proceeding with the Stage 3 rootstock trials, using ten rootstocks which will include as standards 942, X639, Kuharske and Swingle, substituting Swingle with sour orange on the east coast, and USDA 12 and C54. CRDF will cover the cost of the trees, the wraps and a portion of planting costs to grower cooperators. In addition, the need for Stage 3 scion trials was discussed. Mr. Dantzler reviewed the NIFA grant pre-application that CRDF submitted recently, which includes scion trial work. Whether or not an invitation is received for a full NIFA proposal, CRDF will proceed with the scion trials. Mr. Dooley asked if grower cooperators would be reimbursed for capital expenses on said project in addition to a potential payment for caretaking expenses, and whether fresh grapefruit candidates would be considered to include in the trials. Mr. Dantzler will work with Mr. Dooley to determine specific costs being referred to so that the NIFA guidelines can be reviewed for direction

on the inclusion of such costs. Grapefruit scions are not currently included in the considerations. It was noted that the scion trials may well be high risk due to the lack of Phase 2 data. Additional information will be provided as the project is outlined. Mr. Dantzler reviewed the NIFA CAPS pre-application submitted in greater detail; CRDF will know in April whether a full proposal is invited.

The Breeding and Selection Program Outline compiled by Mr. Ireby was included in materials and will be emailed to all. Mr. Ireby reviewed the details of the program.

Mr. Dantzler noted that \$8M for CRDF currently in the appropriations request.

Mr. Sherrod requested the status of peptide research. Mr. Dantzler reported on current discussions with Invaio and Elemental Enzymes, their claims on efficacy against canker, fruit drop and phytophthora, and where they stand with the regulatory process.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Deidra Whatley