



Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting Thursday, August 12, 2021

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at the Bert J. Harris Agriculture Center, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring, FL 33875, in Conference Room 3. The meeting was called to order at 10:23 a.m. by Chairman David Howard. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Executive Committee members present were Rob Atchley, Rick Dantzler, David Howard, Ron Mahan Jeanna Mastrodicasa, and John Updike. Also participating Ned Hancock, Catherine Hatcher, Mike Irey, Matt Joyner, Audrey Nowicki, Ed Stover, Rosa Walsh, Deidra Whatley, and Tamara Wood.

Mr. Mahan moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2021 Executive Committee as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard began by suggesting the September Board of Directors meeting include a Board retreat, where such matters as Plant Improvement, the RFP, directed research, and the CRDF financial position could be discussed in greater detail. Mr. Howard also mentioned delaying the final decisions for the 2021 RFP until the October Board meeting so that the budget reality would be clearer. Mr. Dantzler spoke to varied pushback received regarding the revision of the Millennium block project and mentioned the possibility of touring the trial site during the Retreat. There was no objection by any Committee member on the recommendation to hold a Board Retreat following the CRDF September Board of Directors meeting on September 28, 2021.

Mr. Dantzler reported on Dr. Sheehan's preliminary review of the Plant Improvement process. She is willing to serve on a review panel. Mr. Howard added that the review would include all breeding programs. He also mentioned revisiting the discussion at the retreat to provide feedback to Dr. Sheehan from the industry side as she gives her perspective from a scientific standpoint. Discussion among the Committee centered around the implementation of the upcoming review panel's comments and the funding to accomplish such goals. The Committee asked for a rough draft of Dr. Sheehan's structured proposal and fee schedule so that the matter could be brought before the Board for more discussion.

Mr. Howard moved on to the upcoming Department of Citrus meeting on August 24th. He asked Mr. Dantzler to expound on the topics he will be discussing during the time allotted for his presentation. Mr. Dantzler explained that New Varieties and CRDF had been asked to give presentations. Each have been given two hours to present with 45 minutes for questions afterwards. NVDMC will have presentations from the breeders they fund. Mr. Dantzler's presentation will focus on the history of CRDF and its decision-making processes. He mentioned that the consultation language of the proviso would be touched on as well.

CRAFT was brought for discussion next. Mr. Howard recognized that Tamara Wood was present and had been a part of conversations with CRDF regarding concerns relating to CRAFT's proposal for the 2021 Large Scale Field Trial RFP.

The first area of concern was surrounding the definition of “new plantings.” Mr. Dantzler contended that it required new trees in the ground. In the spirit of compromise, he suggested that, if CRAFT was going to fund projects covering trees that might not be new trees in the ground, it would be prudent to require CRAFT to provide documentation from those who wrote the proviso and/or those who will interpret how CRDF complied with the proviso, saying that it was permissible to do so.

The second concern was that, as the proposal was received, CRAFT envisioned receiving the entire \$5 million dollar appropriation and divvying out the funding to growers over up to a five-year period. The agreed upon resolution was that CRDF would disburse funds to CRAFT dollar-for-dollar as CRAFT submitted to CRDF contracts with growers that specified the exact amount of funding that would go to the growers plus a pro rata share of costs such as testing and drone service (no administrative costs). Ms. Wood expressed her support for this payment process and said that a minimum of 750 acres was anticipated.

A vigorous discussion over these two items followed, including the nature of such “rejuvenation projects” that might trigger payment for projects other than new trees in the ground. There was also discussion of incentivizing growers for planting early and mid-varieties since that might be required to get growers to do it.

The conversation regarding the CRAFT proposal, which would be considered at the Commercial Products Delivery Committee meeting later in the day, was wrapped up by Mr. Dantzler reiterating there would be no established monetary compensation per acre in the open application which growers submit to be a part of Cycle III of CRAFT as there was with Cycles I and II. Perhaps disagreeing, Ms. Wood said Cycle III would be equivalent to Cycles I and II with additional compensation per added risk.

Mr. Howard mentioned that CRDF’s financial position had been discussed in length at the Finance and Audit Committee meeting earlier that morning. He asked Mr. Mahan to recap the discussion for any Board members and audience who were not at that meeting. Mr. Mahan reported that CRDF would require \$3 million dollars in legislative appropriations for the FY2022-23 to meet research commitments, and that would be with the assumption that the Box Tax is voted on, approved, and the forecast remained at least 57 million boxes.

There had been discussion in the Finance and Audit Committee meeting regarding formal merit raises, which UF had recently authorized in an amount up to 3% for the category of employees which included Ms. Nowicki, Ms. Whatley, and Mr. Page. Mr. Atchley moved to approve the actions of the Finance and Audit committee concerning the formal merit raise question. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and Dr. Mastrodicasa, simultaneously, and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler shared that Mr. Irely had approached him with the desire to present the results of peptide research to a small group of Board and Committee members. Mr. Dantzler explained that Non-Disclosure Authorizations would likely be needed. He also said he had checked with the University’s attorney regarding whether the meeting could be allowed under the Sunshine law, and they both believed that as long as the meeting was about education, it would be permissible.

Mr. Howard inquired after new business and Mr. Updike asked to speak on matter coming before the Commercial Products Delivery Committee later in the day. Mr. Updike explained that Project 19-001C had ended and final billings were in; however, there was an overage in sample testing in the amount of \$41,000.00 Mr. Updike, as chairman of the CPD Committee, was looking for direction and points of

consideration to pose to the Committee. He asked for guidance in moving forward and should there be amendments to the current contract with Southern Gardens such as going from bi-annual to annual. Mr. Ireby, who was on the call, explained the differences in price based on market trends and that there were two employees whose salaries were allocated into the price per sample. A hearty discussion among the Committee proposed multiple points for further consideration such as cost sharing among third-party researchers, in-depth tracking so not to exceed certain values, etc.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Deidra Whatley