



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at the Lake Placid Government Center Community Room, located at 1069 US Hwy 27, Lake Placid, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. President David Howard called the meeting to order at 9:02 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, Josh Snively, and John Updike. Also participating were Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Steve Futch, Jim Graham, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Jim Syvertsen, and Deidra Whatley. Other participants were Scott Angle, Bobby Barben, Kim Bowman, Kristen Carlson, Fred Gmitter, Jude Grosser, Deeley Hunt, Andrew Meadows, Kelly Morgan, Bill Poulton, Ray Royce, Brian Scully, Shannon Shepp, Joby Sherrod, Steve Smith, Ed Stover, Buddy Strickland, Rosa Walsh, and Tamara Wood.

Mr. Howard entertained a motion to accept the May 25, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Atchley moved to approve the minutes of the May 25th Board meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by John Updike and passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard introduced Sen. Ben Albritton and then asked the Board members to introduce themselves. Sen. Albritton spoke to the Board regarding important issues concerning nutrient management, BMPs, the “Right to Farm” bill, reorganization of the industry, and budgetary matters. Mr. Howard then gave a brief presentation on “Basic Science vs. Applied Research.” There was continued discussion between the Board and Senator Albritton.

Dr. Gilbert and Dr. Angle gave a combined presentation as an update on the plant improvement matter. Dr. Ouimet also reported on her involvement in the plant improvement update. Vigorous discussion followed but no action taken at that moment.

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

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Ron Mahan reviewed the May Financial Statement and Summary. He explained that the NIFA grant funding just passes through CRDF. He moved to accept the May Financial Statement as presented. Mr. Updike seconded the motion, and with no discussion, it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahan then discussed the FY2021-22 Budget line by line. Mr. Dantzler pointed out the contracts that CRDF uses throughout the year. Mr. Mahan moved to accept the FY 2021-22 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and with no discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler reported, on behalf of Mr. Sparks and Mr. Joiner, that MAC funding would be available for the upcoming fiscal year. \$8 million dollars would likely be allocated, and the three states would have the opportunity to submit proposals for funding.

Governance Committee: Chairman Ned Hancock reported that the committee would meet immediately following the Board meeting on June 22, 2021. Ms. Whatley reported there were sixteen Conflict of Interest forms outstanding. Mr. Hancock advised present Board and Committee members to return forms to the CRDF office and asked Ms. Whatley to send an electronic reminder. Mr. Hancock asked Mr. Dantzler to report on the upcoming Virtual Educational Sessions. Mr. Dantzler and Mr. Meadows, from FCM, mentioned the Educational Sessions would be held on July 21st, via teleconference, with presenters and videos highlighting field trails.

Research Management Committee: Dr. Ouimet reported that the committee met June 2nd with the main topic of discussion being the 63 preproposals submitted for consideration. Of the sixty-three preproposals, twenty-four had been recommended to be invited for full proposals. There was one project that had been fast-track funded leaving twenty-three to be invited. Mr. Himrod moved to invite the remaining twenty-three preproposals recommended by RMC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan and with no discussion the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard reported that with the 23 projects invited, there was one category of the RFP that wasn't getting addressed. Discussion followed regarding the projects addressing this topic, and the proper procedure moving forward. Mr. Atchley moved to invite Drs. Guzman, Vashisth, Alferez to submit full proposals for consideration, which were the pre-proposals addressing the category of the RFP not covered by the 23. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan and passed unanimously.

The discussion moved specifically to the plant breeding/plant improvement matter discussed earlier in the meeting, noting that the Grosser pre-proposal, which addressed the core breeding program of the University, had not invited for full proposal. It was pointed out that, if invited, the researchers would have the opportunity submit a full proposal and the Committee would review in detail. Mr. Hancock moved that the Department of Citrus hold the \$500,000 it had received from the Legislature for new varieties. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike. It was noted that Senator Albritton had said in his remarks that the proviso language which spoke to the \$500,000 made it available for citrus breeding programs. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion returned to plant improvement. Mr. Atchley recommended that Dr. Gilbert continue working on a new breeding platform and show the tie-in to the projects that the current breeders are currently involved. Dr. Ouimet also expressed the desire for cohesiveness between the plant breeding group. Mr. Atchley clarified and moved for Dr. Ouimet to work with Dr. Gilbert to organize the Plant Breeders to submit a full proposal that, based on conversations and presentations made, would be in line with a project CRDF would be willing to support. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hodges. Mr. Howard restated the motion for further clarity and stated the preproposal would be tweaked and submitted in full proposal format to reflect changes brought to light at the June 22nd Board meeting and would return to the Research Management Committee for consideration of funding. Mr. Dantzler

requested that he be the liaison to Dr. Gilbert because of Sunshine concerns. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Mr. Updike reported that the Commercial Product Delivery Committee met on June 15, 2021. He discussed the Committee membership and term expiration and renewal. There were two Committee members with expiring terms at the end of June 2021, Tim Eyrich and Kelly Friend. Mr. Eyrich would not be returning to the Committee due to relocation out of State, and Ms. Friend had been contacted and wished to remain on the Committee. Mr. Updike moved to accept Ms. Kelly Friend's CPDC term renewal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hancock and passed unanimously.

Next, the Committee reviewed Project 21-002C and the continuation of funding for the Southern Gardens testing lab. Mr. Updike moved to approve Project 21-002C for continuation of funding. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and, with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Updike made a motion, on behalf of the Committee, that the 2021 Large Scale Field Trial RFP be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hancock and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler updated the Board on the June 14th meeting of the Bayer NIFA Project Advisory Committee.

Mr. Updike reported that the CPD Committee did not move the 2Blades non-exclusive licensure matter to the Board for further consideration or action.

Brandon Page gave a power point presentation as explanation of the CRDF Scion Trial Budget for FY2021-22. Mr. Updike moved to approve the CRDF Scion Trial budget and Mr. Mahan seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously. On the same topic discussion, Mr. Updike raised a thought for consideration relating to a trial using scions cultivated with tissue cultures as a way to ramp up planting if the trials discovered a true winner.

Mr. Dantzler reported he had continued the portfolio review of current research under contract and provided a brief report of the 2019 projects. He will continue with the balance of the portfolio. There was discussion about a joint committee meeting with the Research Management Committee to discuss and review projects.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler reported he had executed and submitted the contracts with UC Davis for the peptide project with Drs. Jin, Dewdney, and McCollum. He also gave an update on the possible project with the trunk injection company from the Midwest.

Partnerships: Dr. Mastrodicasa reported that Commodity groups had begun to meet in person again.

Extension Agent Report: None.

New Business: None

Public Comments: None.

Future CRDF Meetings: CRDF Board of Directors, Tues., July 27, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.