



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, August 18, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2021, at the Lee Civic Center, Davidson Building, 11831 Bayshore Rd., North Fort Myers, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. President David Howard called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Aaron Himrod, Greg Hodges, David Howard, Ron Mahan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Pat Ouimet, Josh Snively, Mathew Story, 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 Ron Cave, Dr. Gunter, Mike Irely, Matt Joyner, Ray Royce, Brian Scully, Shannon Shepp, Steve Smith, Rosa Walsh, Tamara Wood, and Tim Wood.

Mr. Howard opened the meeting with a review of the July 27th Board of Directors meeting minutes. Mr. Atchley moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and Dr. Hodges and passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard suggested, in the essence of time, to use the Executive Committee minutes as the outline for the meeting. Once the Committees, covered in the Executive Committee minutes and were finished with their respective reports, he would entertain a motion to approve the Executive Committee minutes from the August 12th meeting.

Executive Committee: Mr. Howard reported that the Executive Committee met on August 12th in Sebring. He noted that the September Board of Directors meeting would be held in Vero Beach at the Heritage Center on September 28th, with a Board Retreat to follow. The Executive Committee also discussed delaying the final decision on funding full proposals from the 2021 RFP until October 2021 in order to get a clearer picture of the budget and the path forward for Plant Improvement.

Finance and Audit Committee: Chairman Ron Mahan stated that the Finance and Audit Committee met on August 12th and discussed the long-term model which he briefly summarized for the Board. The long-term plan was a topic to be discussed in greater detail at the Board retreat.

Mr. Mahan reported that the audit for FY20-21 was completed and currently being reviewed by Bunting, Tripp & Ingley staff for compliance with new processes initiated by the University system. He stated there were no issues that he was aware of.

Mr. Mahan reviewed the July Financial Statement and Summary. Mr. Mahan moved to accept the July Financial Statement as presented. Mr. Atchley seconded the motion, and with little discussion, it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahan reported that the Finance and Audit Committee discussed 3% merit pay increases for office staff offered by UF for all staff members other than the COO. The Executive Committee recommended the acceptance of the merit increases by the Board. Mr. Mahan moved to approve 3% merit increases for Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, and Deidra Whatley. Dr. Mastrodicasa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Governance Committee: Governance Committee did not meet. Mr. Dantzler reported that there was progress on the possible establishment of a review panel regarding Plant Improvement. Mr. Dantzler explained that he had asked Dr. Sheehan to pull together a preliminary budget by September 27th so that the Board could review it at the meeting and retreat. Although there were questions of interference with a current RFP proposal, Mr. Dantzler had recommended not to hold up the funding process for any possible review panel report. He also stated that the review panel, if established would review both programs, UF/IFAS and USDA.

Research Management Committee: Dr. Ouimet reported that the committee had not met since the prior Board meeting. Mr. Dantzler reported on the status of the 2021 RFP, noting the Scientific Advisory Board is meeting August 25 and 26, and reiterated that the final recommendations for funding have been postponed until the October Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Dantzler reported that he had been requested to make a presentation to the Department of Citrus on August 24th. He had been given a two-hour time allotment, followed by a 45-minute question and answer session. Ms. Shepp interjected that she did not expect him to speak and/or present for the full two hours. She also considered the meeting the first of many consultation meetings.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Mr. Updike reported that the Commercial Product Delivery Committee met on August 12th. Mr. Updike stated the primary areas of discussion were two provisions of the CRAFT proposal. The first was the proviso language requiring new trees in the ground, whereas CRAFT was seeking to include projects that would involve trees planted in December 2017 forward. In the spirit of compromise, the CPDC suggested that, if CRAFT intended to fund projects covering trees already in the ground, that it would be prudent to require CRAFT to provide documentation from those who wrote the proviso and/or those who would interpret how CRDF complied with the proviso, saying that it was permissible to do so. This was acceptable to CRAFT. The next matter surrounded the timing of payments to CRAFT. CRAFT envisioned receiving the entire \$5 million dollar appropriation and divvying out the funding to growers over potentially a five-year period. CRDF suggested, instead, that the contract language should provide that the disbursement of funds to CRAFT be made as CRAFT entered into contracts with growers that specified the exact amounts they would receive, plus a pro rata share of costs for testing and drone service (no administrative costs), and that CRDF be invoiced for such amounts. Mr. Updike moved to recommend that the payment to CRAFT will be based on deliverables outlined in the proposal and contract to include executed grower contracts. For projects involving trees other than new trees in the ground, CRAFT will provide documentation that paying for such projects does not violate legislative proviso which states that such funds are to be spent on “new plantings”. He included that the Board approve

the CRAFT Proposal with the aforementioned conditions, with total funding will not exceed \$5,000,000. Mr. Updike noted he would present the guidelines to the CRAFT Board for revisions to their proposal. Mr. Mahan seconded the motions.

Mrs. Wood spoke to her appreciation of CRDF's continued support. With no further discussion or comments, the motion passed with a majority vote and one abstention by Dr. Ouimet.

The last matter the Committee considered was an invoice for payment on Project 19-001C, due to a final bill for sample testing, 12,000 samples, in the amount of \$41,000.00. Mr. Updike moved to approve the payment of the \$41,000 invoice from Southern Gardens. Mr. Mahan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Updike discussed the Southern Gardens conversation at the Committee meeting and the consideration of amending current and/or future contracted service agreements. He also mentioned that Staff will do a deep dive on the utilization of the lab.

Mr. Atchley moved to approve the Executive Committee minutes from August 12, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler spoke of the Board Retreat following the Board meeting in September. He asked the Board members to contact him with pertinent topics they feel need to be addressed or discussed in greater detail.

The Select Committee would be meeting prior to the next Board meeting, as well, for an orange block tour and discussion on the scion trials spec sheet.

Partnerships: Matt Joyner reported that he is currently planning the Legislative Planning meeting in September.

Dr. Mastrodicasa introduced Dr. Gunter and mentioned Dr. Angle was in attendance at the Expo.

Extension Agent Report: None.

New Business: None

Public Comments: None

Future CRDF Meetings: CRDF Board of Directors, Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Heritage Center in Vero Beach, to be followed by the Board Retreat.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.