



Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 3, 2021

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at the Citrus Research and Development Foundation Office, Conference Room, 700 Experiment Station Road, Building 7124, Room 24, Lake Alfred, FL. The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.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 were Rob Gilbert, Ned Hancock, Mike Irely, Audrey Nowicki, and Deidra Whatley.

The Executive Committee minutes from the August 12, 2021 meeting had been approved at the August 18, 2021 Board of Directors meeting.

The first matter for discussion was bridge funding and revised budget for Dr. Stover's Project 21-025, which is a continuation project of 18-058C. The current project 18-058C would expire on December 31, 2021 and the Board had moved to defer Project 21-025 until the Plant Improvement Review Panel issued its report. Dr. Stover's bridge funding request, an additional four months of funding, totaled approximately \$35,000.00. The budget was reviewed by the Committee and questions were asked regarding potential payments made by contributing institutions. Mr. Dantzler reported that Dr. Stover was not aware of payment being made by institutions utilizing the property and Ms. Whatley had reviewed several proposals finding no mention of payment to the site in those budgets. Mr. Atchley moved to approve the bridge funding budget, as presented, for Project 18-058C. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

The next matter discussed was a revised budget for Project 21-012 from Dr. Dewdney. The Board, at its last meeting, recommended that Dr. Dewdney reduce the budget for Project 21-012 by the elimination of two objectives. Dr. Dewdney submitted a revised proposal with the eliminated objectives and revised total budget of \$272,344. The revised first year budget presented was \$86,389; the original was \$152,108, resulting in first year savings of approximately \$65,000. Mr. Atchley motioned to move Project 21-012 forward for funding approval as presented. Mr. Mahan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

In other business, Mr. Dantzler reported that a roundtable discussion was in the process of being put together with industry research leaders and academia to discuss the latest version of the Pathways to a Sustainable Citrus Industry document. He explained this exercise would be important before sending the final document to Mr. Sparks for dissemination and presentation to the Legislature.

Mr. Dantzler also gave a brief update on the Plant Improvement Review Panel's first meeting on November 2nd. He asked how involved committee members thought CRDF should be in the panel's meetings, and the consensus was not much, that it was important for the Panel to stay as independent as possible.

Mr. Dantzler reported that the bi-annual Bayer Project Advisory Group meeting was getting close. He reminded the Executive Committee that Larry Black and Dr. Ouimet were serving on the PAG, Mr. Black as a previous Board member representative and Dr. Ouimet as a Board member and industry representative. Mr. Black had agreed to remain on the Advisory Group at the discretion of the Board. No action was taken to replace Mr. Black or Dr. Ouimet with another Board member at this time. Mr. Dantzler also made note that Dr. Bill Dawson had joined the Advisory Group for his knowledge regarding fruit drop and metabolomics to fight fruit drop.

Mr. Howard suggested that Mr. Updike would be a good Chair of the Research Management Committee. Mr. Updike agreed to serve in said capacity.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Deidra Whatley