



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Room 103, Lake Alfred. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. President David Howard called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Ned Hancock, Aaron Himrod, Greg Hodges, David Howard, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Pat Ouimet, Joshua Snively, Matthew 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 Edward Evans, Fred Gmitter, Deeley Hunt, Gio Ijpkemeule, Mike Irey, Jawwad Qureshi, Brian Scully, Shannon Shepp, Ed Stover, and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Howard opened with a review of the minutes from the October 26th Board meeting. Mr. Hancock moved to approve the October 26th Board meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Himrod seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard continued with a presentation recognizing the Board members whose terms were ending this calendar year, Mr. Hancock, Dr. Ouimet, and Mr. Snively. Mr. Howard and Mr. Dantzler expressed appreciation each's leadership and dedication to the Foundation's mission during their terms.

Executive Committee: Mr. Howard reported the Executive Committee met on November 3, 2021. The minutes from the November 3rd meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Hancock moved to approve the Executive Committee minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously. To summarize, Mr. Howard noted that the Executive Committee considered and approved four months of bridge funding of Dr. Stover's project 18-058C. Mr. Dantzler noted the concern of the Board and Committee regarding potential duplicate land use payments by PIs. It was confirmed that researchers are not charged for acreage to utilize the transgenics site. Finally, Mr. Howard reported the Committee approved the revised proposal for Dr. Dewdney's Project 21-012, noting the deletion of one objective and budget reduction as requested.

Finance and Audit Committee: Mr. Howard, in Chairman Ron Mahan's absence, asked Ms. Nowicki to report on the October and November Financial Statements. She noted that receivables and payables reflect nothing out of the ordinary, with the usual variances due to underspending on projects and invoice timing. Mr. Himrod moved for approval of the October and November financial statements. Dr. Mastrodicasa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler reported CRDF received approval of the FY 2021-2022 budget from the University

Board of Trustees. In addition, they indicated that a meeting would be held in the near future with members of the University, CRDF staff and the CPA. Dr. Mastrodicasa commented that the University was taking a close look at all of the DSOs, and meetings of this nature were standard procedure. The University Board of Governors has initiated an independent audit of all DSOs; CRDF has completed and submitted the preliminary questionnaire.

Governance Committee: Mr. Hancock reported that at the November 3rd meeting the proposed slate of officers for 2022 were named: Rob Atchley, President; Morgan McKenna, Vice President; Ron Mahan, Treasurer; John Updike, Secretary. Mr. Hancock moved for approval of the Slate of Officers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hancock reported that the Committee discussed and recommended the proposed consolidation of the Commercial Product Delivery Committee and the Research Management Committee, with potentially three subcommittees. They proposed the newly formed Research Management Committee would have 11 to 17 members, with a quorum consisting of over 50% participation. Mr. Hancock noted that Mr. Updike has been recommended to Chair the new Research Management Committee and members from both former Committees would likely have the opportunity to serve should they wish, as well as having open spots for new Committee members.

Mr. Hancock mentioned that the Chairs for the standing committees had been chosen and all were willing to serve in said capacities. Mr. Mahan would continue as Finance and Audit Committee Chair; Mr. Himrod as Governance Committee Chair; and Mr. Updike as the Chair of Research Management Committee. Mr. Hancock moved the Governance Committee's recommendation to merge the RMC and CPDC Committees into one Research Management Committee, with a maximum of 17 members and a minimum of 11, naming Mr. Updike Chairman of merged Research Management Committee, as well as Mr. Himrod Chair of the Governance Committee and Mr. Mahan the Finance & Audit Committee Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

The final matter discussed by the Governance Committee was the Conflict-of-Interest declarations. At the time of the Committee meeting there were no declarations that needed further review; however, Mr. Dantzer raised the matter of Board/Committee members who are CRAFT grower cooperators being identified on future and/or amended Conflict of Interest forms.

Research Management Committee: Dr. Ouimet reported that the Committee had not met. Mr. Dantzer recognized Brandon Page to give two presentations, one on transgenics and the second pertaining to trunk injection. Upon conclusion of Mr. Page's first presentation the Board discussed the potential for a transgenic trial hosted by CRDF at Picos Farm, using transgenics from Southern Gardens upon cleanup from DPI. The consensus of the Board was a direction to Staff to establish a small group to evaluate the material (rootstocks) that needed to be saved from Southern Gardens and further discuss trial design, costs, pros/cons, etc.

Mr. Page reported on the status of the trunk injection device he has been using. Mr. Dantzer thanked the Florida Department of Citrus for doing the leaf sampling. Mr. Hancock suggested that bactericides,

more specifically the focus on oxytetracycline, be revisited. Dr. Scully commented that the adjuvants being used are most important with bactericides. The Board discussed research programs currently under way and growers utilizing oxy and streptomycin with apparently positive results. Staff was directed to put together a “gameplan” on bactericides that would include a roundtable group of researchers and participants to answer questions regarding who is using antibiotics, how they were being applied, what were the adjuvants being used, and products already registered. In addition, the group should take into consider industry recommendations, registration and labeling issues, and injection and other means of application.

Mr. Howard recognized Dr. Scully to report on the December 3rd field day at Whitmore Farms. He noted that the field day was well attended and discussed the discovery of an existing tree made a few days prior to the event, a tree referred to as “Donaldson orange (ARS-91028),” that drew attention due to its apparent vigorous state and absence of HLB. NVDMC had already been contacted for acceleration for breeding and ARS would be propagating 20-50 bud sticks to be held on ARS property after DPI cleanup. Dr. Scully noted it could have great potential or it could just be a lucky tree; however, it had gone unnoticed for close to 40+ years. He and other attendees were impressed with the fruit and its quality.

Dr. Ouimet reviewed the revision of Dr. Alferez’s Proposal 21-007 for the Board’s consideration and approval. The Board previously requested a budget reduction and scope of work on the project and Dr. Alferez revised his proposal to meet the recommendations. Dr. Ouimet moved to approve the revised proposal for Project 21-007 for funding approval. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa. Board discussion continued regarding budget expenses for publications, data collection, and salary expenditures included on the project, as well as testing methods and gibberellic acid. Dr. Ouimet withdrew her motion for approval and recommended a second revision be requested from the researcher. Staff was directed to address these additional concerns with the researcher and ask that he re-submit his proposal.

Ms. Nowicki gave an update on the 2021RFP Contract agreements and approvals. Ms. Nowicki reported that all of the contracts had been sent, and that three of the six had been fully executed by the University.

Mr. Dantzler reported on the no cost extension (NCE) requests and current policies. Board members responded to policy questions and suggested a review of all first-year projects annually, which could be accomplished by the RMC Project Review subcommittee, if created. Mr. Dantzler reviewed each of the NCE requests.

Dr. Dewdney requested a 6-month extension of Project 18-006; the consensus of the board was the approval of a 4-month extension for collection of remaining data.

Dr. Qureshi requested a one-year extension Project 18-055. While the Board denied the NCE, there was a suggestion that the project could be beneficial in a CRAFT trial.

Dr. Mou requested an additional two years on Project 18-017. The Board denied extending the existing project and directed Staff to invite the researcher to apply for off-cycle funding or submit under the next RFP due the amount of work remaining.

The Board denied a six-month NCE request from Dr. Vashisth for Project 18-061C, suggesting the submission of a new proposal for funding.

The Board suggested the process be reconfigured where the researchers would be prompted to submit a new proposal either on an off-cycle basis or with the next RFP.

Commercial Product Delivery Committee: Mr. Updike reported that the Committee had not met.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler reported that the International HLB Conference will be held in California in the Fall of 2022 and noted that CRDF will be approached for consideration of sponsorship.

Mr. Dantzler also advised the Board that he had been asked to take the role of Project Coordinator on NIFA's Industry Relevancy Committee. This role would entail soliciting growers to sit on the panel and review 30-40 projects. He explained that the time commitment would not be excessive, and the task would likely be completed by March 2022. There were no objections by the Board.

Next, he apprised the Board of a proposed contract with AgerPoint for data collection using LiDAR technology. The previous year's contract for these services to CRDF was \$17,500.00; after contract discussions and negotiations, AgerPoint was proposing to provide the same services for the next three years at \$20,000 per year. Mr. Dantzler would like the Finance and Audit Committee to review the contract, weigh options and make a recommendation to the Board for approval before signing.

Mr. Dantzler reported that the Pathways document has been circulated, reviewed, and was discussed by growers and research leaders from industry and academia on November 18th. Suggestions stemming from that meeting had been noted and an additional million dollars added to the Legislative request.

He concluded by giving an update on the Plant Improvement Panel Review, reporting that the panel had met twice and had an upcoming meeting on December 13th.

Partnerships: Mr. Dantzler spoke on behalf of Mr. Sparks for the Citrus Mutual update, noting that the Legislative Committees have finished up for the session.

Dr. Mastrodicasa reported that Dr. Chris Gunter, UF/IFAS' Dean of Horticulture, would be replacing Dr. Rob Gilbert on the Board.

Extension Agent Report: None.

New Business: None

Public Comments: Mr. Hancock commented for future meetings that he would like to see more researcher presentations at the Board level, possibly three to four a meeting.

Future CRDF Meetings: CRDF Board of Directors, Tuesday January 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the UF-IFAS, Citrus Research and Education Center, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Lake Alfred.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.
Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary