



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 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 Rob Atchley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Robert Atchley, Chris Gunter, George Hamner, Aaron Himrod, David Howard, Deeley Hunt, Ron Mahan, Morgan McKenna, and John Updike.

Also participating were Ute Albrecht, Kim Bowman, Peter Chaires, John Chater, Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Steve Futch, Fred Gmitter, Jim Graham, Gio Ijpkemeule, Mike Irey, Matt Joyner, Brad Moggs, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Michael Rogers, Shannon Shepp, Steve Smith, Jim Snively, Mike Sparks, Josh Steinbaum, Jim Syvertsen, Barbara Thompson, Callie Walker, Rosa Walsh, and Tamara Wood.

Mr. Atchley entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the February 22nd Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Dantzler noted a couple corrections: (1) at the time the Review Panel met, Dr. Chater had been hired, just had not started in his new position yet, and (2) in response to Mr. Howard's question whether members of the Review Panel have previously worked with other commodities that has such a huge inventory of new creations, Mr. Dantzler noted that Dr. Sheehan said they had worked with commodities that had similar high inventories. Mr. Himrod moved to approve the minutes from the February 22nd meeting with the edits pointed out. Ms. McKenna seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

President Atchley asked if there were any Public Comments. There being none, he proceeded to the committee reports.

Executive Committee: Mr. Atchley reported the Executive Committee had not met.

Finance and Audit Committee: Mr. Mahan requested that Ms. Nowicki summarize the February 2022 Financial Summary. Mr. Dantzler requested verification whether the projections shown in the financial notes included projections for the directed research projects; they were not included. Mr. Dantzler reminded the board that two of the five the directed research budgets have been received. Most of those costs will be incurred in FY 2022-2023. Mr. Mahan moved to approve the February 2022 financials as presented. Mr. Updike seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler reported that CRDF had established an account with the USDA National Science Laboratories to assist in creating data on oxytetracycline injection from CRDF-funded projects since that laboratory has the capability of measuring residue at the level required for a label application; Mr.

Dantzler was asking for board ratification of this business relationship. Mr. Hamner moved to approve the relationship with the USDA National Science Laboratories, seconded by Mr. Updike. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler discussed reverting back to single year contracting of research agreement budgets which was the process used in CRDF's early years of funding. Researchers would present their progress before subsequent years were funded. Mr. Howard moved to approve single-year research contracts going forward, with all requests for subsequent year funding coming before the Research Management Committee and Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod. Dr. Gunter questioned why a multi-year project would not be funded for the full requested term and felt it would be detrimental to the organization's commitment to the students and employees on the project. It was explained that the annual review will provide more structure to the funding process and ensure interaction with the researchers. Ms. McKenna made the analogy of this change to the ongoing issues and crises that citrus growers were facing at this time. The motion passed with one opposing vote.

Mr. Dantzler discussed having met with Peace River Citrus Growers Association and Florida Citrus Mutual and will soon meet with the Highlands County Citrus Growers Association to discuss the upcoming referendum, stressing that the vote will keep the mechanism in place. Mr. Hamner felt that the COO should back out of conversations and let the grower groups take the lead.

Governance Committee: Mr. Dantzler reported that the Governance Committee had not met.

Research Management Committee: Mr. Dantzler reported on the progress of the five directed research topics:

- U. Albrecht – oxytetracycline/injection devices; proposal has been submitted, she is available to respond to questions
- Gibberellic acid – met with Drs. Vashisth and Alferes; their proposal is forthcoming.
- Nighttime application of gibberellic acid and additional protocol outlining applications of 2,4-D

Mr. Howard asked if staff had been in contact with growers to find out what is working for them. As directed at the previous meeting, staff has been in contact with growers.

Mr. Updike suggested CRDF get trials started immediately utilizing the 2,4-D and Citrus Fix.

Mr. Hamner moved to authorize staff to advertise for crop consultants to take on the trials of 2,4-D and gibberellic acid at pre-determined rates and application times. The motion passed.

Dr. Gunter said to make sure the proper controls are in place with the replicated trials.

Mr. Updike suggested requesting growers share what is working in their groves to assist others.

- Dr. Alferes has been requested to provide a proposal for directed research on brassinosteroids and the effects on juice quality
- Dr. Santra is providing a proposal for continued research on the zinc-related products

Mr. Page gave an update on another round of OTC application with the representatives from Arbor Systems. The DOC will do the plant tissue analyses after one day, three days, then weekly.

Revisiting the previous discussion of Dr. Albrecht's proposal, she is ready to start in April. Mr. Updike stated the cost per tree should be calculated during the project since it will be needed later. Mr. Hamner made a motion to approve Dr. Albrecht's proposal for the oxytetracycline and injection devices, seconded by Mr. Updike. Mr. Atchley noted his appreciation that the budget was well thought out and reasonable. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler reported that CRAFT denied the applications submitted by the two growers, on the East Coast and flatwoods sites, who are participating on the CRDF rootstock trials. A potential third grower cooperator would participate if Hamlins were not in the trial; as it stands, Hamlins are included.

The financial incentive to each cooperator would increase from approximately \$66,000 (CRDF covers cost of trees and wraps) to \$112,000 (also includes per/acre caretaking costs) if funded as a CRAFT project. The grower cooperator also requested the rootstocks be reduced from 16 to 10. Mr. Updike asked if a portion of the legislative large-scale field trial budget could be utilized for CRDF's field trials. Ms. Shepp suggested a discussion with Mr. Dantzler and Mr. Joyner regarding the legislative language coming forward that could be a potential source for the additional funding for the grower cooperators. It was determined that additional discussions should be held before moving forward.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler reported on progress with Elemental Enzymes; they received the 45-day letter from the EPA relative to their Section 3 application and indicated they would receive a decision by June 15th. Brian Thompson will be presenting on June 16th at Florida Citrus Mutual's Annual Meeting and will have an update.

Mr. Dantzler reported that there is a new requirement in the language in the bill that passed regarding Chapter 601 which will require CRDF to provide a report on the commercialization status of CRDF research to the Florida Department of Citrus.

Mr. Dantzler reported that he responded to the FDOC when questioned about escape trees: Dr. Gmitter was funded previously which resulted in few if any leads. Besides posting a request to report these trees on the CRDF website, Matt Mattia and Dr. Chater have been requested to include the assessment of escape trees in the proposal they are developing to evaluate current inventory produced by the breeders. CRDF will assist with formalizing a process to address the escape trees that are identified.

Dr. Graham reported on the Tobias tree in Brazil that was thought to be HLB tolerant, noting the tolerance was not as good as originally thought.

Dr. Gmitter summarized his work on the CRDF project, in Florida and China, where the trees succumbed to HLB after a few years. They received numerous calls informing them of escape trees, but none were true escapes.

Mr. Dantzler reported that the second item discussed was their impression that CRDF has a tendency not to finish projects. He noted there is a final report on every project and all progress reports are shared on the website.

Mr. Dantzler noted the Pathway document continues to drive CRDF priorities. Questioned if any of the Pathway priorities were falling by the wayside, he noted that the genomics and CRISPR projects were not among the priorities recommended by the Review Panel. Mr. Howard requested that staff keep apprised of the progress on these even if not a funded project and report progress to the board. Mr. Hamner asked if Soilcea provides updates on their progress, and suggested Mr. Dantzler or Dr. Dawson keep in communication and provide updates to the board.

Mr. Dantzler reported that he and Mr. Atchley met with Dr. Angle to keep him apprised of activities. He also noted that FDOC announced their appointment, Mr. Joby Sherrod, to the CRDF Board of Directors.

Partnerships: Mr. Matt Joyner, Florida Citrus Mutual, reported on a successful year in Tallahassee, noting the 601 revisions that passed, increasing the Citrus Commission members from 9 to 11, districts from 3 to 6, and one grower member with 5,000 acres or more. Lastly, anyone receiving funds from the state will be included on CRDF's report of the progress of research twice a year or at the commission's request to keep growers at large informed. New language provides that New Varieties Development will give the FDOC or its designee the first right of refusal on any new variety that is of interest to Florida growers.

Another bill dealt with BMPs, and site-specific nutrient management ability which will provide for a certified crop adviser who can assist with specific needs that deviate from the BMPs.

He provided details of the \$37M funding that is being recommended in the governor's budget.

Extension Agent Report: None.

New Business: None

Public Comments:

Ms. Shepp clarified discussions from the Commission meeting which emphasized the importance of escape trees and that CRDF should continue to follow up on. FDOC is quickly acting on the Donaldson tree and wants to find any others at other locations.

Future CRDF Meetings: CRDF Board of Directors, Tuesday April 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. co-host Highlands County Citrus Growers Association at the Lake Placid Government Center, Lake Placid.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.
Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary