



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, May 17, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. EST at the UF-IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Room 101, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, FL 33850. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. President Rob Atchley called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Board members attending were Rob Atchley, Chris Gunter, George Hamner, Aaron Himrod, David Howard, Deeley Hunt, Ron Mahan, Morgan McKenna, Joby Sherrod, and John Updike.

Also in attendance were Rick Dantzler, Steve Futch, Fred Gmitter, Jim Graham, Mike Irey, Cody Lastinger, Audrey Nowicki, Orlene Guerra Peraza, Brandon Page, Michael Rogers, Shannon Shepp, Mike Sparks, Jim Syvertsen, Barbara Thompson, Rosa Walsh, and Tamara Wood.

Mr. Mahan made a motion to accept the minutes from the April meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamner and approved with no further discussion.

Public Comments: None.

Executive Committee: Did not meet.

Finance and Audit Committee: Mr. Mahan presented the April Financial Statement for April 30, 2022. He reported net assets of \$2.4 million and noted that revenue is approximately \$2 million less than budget projections. As well, billings for research projects are \$3.1 million behind projections through April. Mr. Mahan moved that the financial reports be approved as presented. There was a second by Mr. Updike and the motion passed.

Mr. Dantzler relayed to the Board the recommendation from the RMC Committee to provide a graphic of the budget or some other way to showing funding availability as projects are considered for funding.

Mr. Dantzler also noted that board members needed to be considering their recommendation to FDACS as a box tax rate at the June 15 Advisory Committee meeting in Bonita Springs.

Governance Committee: Did not meet.

Research Management Committee: The RMC met on May 11, 2022, at the Grove House in Lake Wales. Mr. Updike, Chairman, brought their recommendations to the Board as follows:

1) Diepenbrock request for Year 3 extension and funding on 20-002C, ‘Developing near and long-term management strategies for Lebbeck mealybug (*Nipaecoccus viridis*) in Florida citrus’

The project failed by a vote of 6-6 at the RMC meeting. Since then, Dr. Diepenbrock has stated that she can cover part of the post-doc’s salary with another grant, which would reduce the funding needed to approximately \$58,000. Mr. Himrod and Ms. McKenna noted that they were “no” votes in the committee but would support voting “yes” after getting the additional information. As part of the project, Dr. Diepenbrock will be granted a no-cost extension to keep the project going for the next few months. Also, travel for the Vancouver BC meeting was approved for \$3,500 as a special request. The meeting was originally scheduled for the U.S. and then relocated after the submission of the proposal, and at least one of Dr. Diepenbrock’s doctoral students will be speaking.

Mr. Hamner made a motion to approve \$58,000 for Year 3. The motion was seconded by Ms. McKenna, and with no further discussion it passed unanimously.

2) Recommendations for Directed Research Proposals:

a) S. Santra proposal 22-002, ‘Management of tree health and huanglongbing disease pressure using advanced Zn formulations’

This project would be testing three products, two of which are either available or will soon be available. The third is a nano Zinkicide product that is probably a couple years away before it will be available commercially. The Scientific Advisory Board review thought this project was about \$100,000 too expensive. The project was submitted for \$478,000.

The RMC recommended first-year funding with the contingency of having a grower cooperater in each of the three citrus growing regions. Also, there will be a review of the project at the 10-month mark before extending funding.

Mr. Hamner made a motion to approve Dr. Santra's proposal as discussed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod. The motion passed with one opposing vote by Mr. Updike.

b) F. Alferez proposal 22-003, ‘Determining best timing for Brassinosteroid application to achieve maximum beneficial effects on citrus tree health and fruit yield and quality’

Dr. Graham presented the proposal background, noting that this could advance the maturity of fruit by one month. Mr. Updike made a motion to approve first-year funding with the recommendation that Objective 3, working with mature trees, receive the most focus. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan, and with no further discussion it passed unanimously.

c) T. Vashisth proposal 22-004, ‘Hormonal therapy to improve productivity of HLB affected sweet orange’

After much discussion, Mr. Hamner made a motion to recommend this proposal be submitted by Dr. Vashisth at a later time due to spray timing issues. The motion was seconded by Ms. McKenna, and with no further discussion it passed unanimously.

3) Recommendations for Proposals submitted for the PGR Evaluations RFP (4 submissions)

Mr. Curtis had the lowest bid at \$18,400 for each of six trials, which would total \$110,400. The highest bid was \$40,000 for each trial. Mr. Updike made a motion that Mr. Curtis be used for all six trials. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamner, and with no further discussion it passed unanimously.

4) Recommendations for RFP for OTC injection on mature trees

Mr. Dantzler stated that we have funded Dr. Albrecht for \$167,000 to test OTC formulations and injection devices. Mr. Dantzler reported on his conversations with three companies: T J Biotech; SFG Scientific; and NuFarm. The RMC thought that fewer but larger trials would be better and supported the idea of five, 2-acre trials. There could be an Experimental Use Permit for >10 acres with grower cooperators. We have a contract with National Science Lab in NC for testing. The original testing was \$171.00 per test, but going forward, would be \$141.00 per test. Because CRDF recently funded OTC injection work with Dr. Albrecht, and because the companies have their own work underway as part of their registration efforts, it wasn't clear what could be added at this time. Consequently, a motion was made by Mr. Updike to table this RFP and defer action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod, and with no further discussion it passed unanimously.

5) Update Status of CRDF Rootstock and Scion Trials

Mr. Page reported on the status of CRDF's 2017 grower trials.

Mr. Dantzler gave a report on the current call for grower-cooperators with an additional stipend for planting. The period to express interest in participating expired on the 16th. He

thought we would be able to get a grower-cooperator for all three major citrus growing regions. The trees have already been purchased and expected to be ready for planting this summer.

Mr. Dantzler noted that we needed to move forward on the Stage 3 scion trials unless the state of the industry had changed our thinking, reminding the board members that the Select Committee has already made the scion recommendations. Mr. Page stated that he heard from FDACS on cleaning budwood, and all scions are pretty much at the end of that line, if not finished.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler reported he received a request from Kristen Carlson of the FCPA for CRDF to support changing the standard of identity for *Citrus sinensis*. Mr. Dantzler recommended that CRDF wait to get more industry response before acting.

Partnership Updates:

- A. Mr. Mike Sparks, Florida Citrus Mutual, reported they are still waiting on the governor's response to the 2022-2023 budget. FMC is looking forward to its conference in Bonita Springs, and that it is going to be jam packed with educational and industry issues.

- B. Dr. Michael Rogers reported on behalf of UF/IFAS CREC that a lot of grant writing is going on now for federal grants. UF has held several meetings informing growers of research progress around the State. The Citrus Institute presentations are now online on the citrus extension agent's website for anyone interested in viewing them. Also, IFAS had a gibberellic acid and PGR virtual Zoom workshop April 27 with Dr. Vashisth and Dr. Alferez; those presentations are also online. They will be speaking at the Educational Session at Citrus Mutual's meeting in June and could have further updates. Regarding the gibberellic acid and PGRs, we do now have the supplemental label from Bayer for Pro Gibb Plus that provides four applications between August and December at 10 oz. per acre. Bayer has suggested they go forward with the 24C to add one more label to bring it up to five applications. CREC is preparing for Expo currently.

New Business: None

Public Comments: None

Future Meetings: Box Tax Advisory Committee is Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in Bonita Springs, with the Board of Directors meeting to immediately follow. These meetings are in conjunction with the start of the FCM Florida Citrus Industry Annual Conference.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.
Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary