



## **Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, June 15, 2022**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa, Blue Heron Room, 5001 Coconut Road, Bonita Springs, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Ron Mahan called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Chris Gunter, Aaron Himrod, Greg Hodges, David Howard, Deeley Hunt, Ron Mahan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Joby Sherrod and Matt Story.

Also in attendance were Rick Dantzler, Miles Armstrong, John Barben, Mike Barr, Glenn Beck, Joe Birge, April Breton, Peter Chaires, John Chater, Will Cochlin, Joseph Davies, Kenny DeVane, Dalton Farr, Rick Freeman, Omar Gloria, Jim Graham, Doug Haller, Ron Hamel, Ned Hancock, Neil Helseth, Joe Himrod, U. C. Hollingworth, II, Bruce Ingram, Adrian Jahna, Weston Johnson, Chris Kamberg, Cansa Keller, Jack Kilgore, Nick Kretchnan, Ben McLean, Bo Meader, Paul A. Mears, Richard Miranda, Joe Mitchell, Tom Mitchell, Linda Nel, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, R. Roy Petteway, Gaylord Pfeiffer, Michael Rogers, Jesse Rojas, Ray Royce, Nick Shuman, Steve Smith, Emery Smith, I, Jim Snively, Mike Sparks, Christen Spomosa, Sarah Spomosa, Jim Syvertsen, Barbara Thompson, Sonra Tighe, Kevin Updike, Callie Walker and Rosa Walsh.

President Atchley presented the minutes from the May board meeting for review. Mr. Mahan made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Executive Committee:** Did not meet.

**Finance and Audit Committee:** Mr. Mahan presented the Financial Summary as of May 31, 2022. He reported cash and receivables at just under \$4 million. With outstanding payables primarily for research funding in process, we have net assets of \$2.2 million. Actual year-to-date revenue was at \$9 million. The revenue follows the expense cycle, so once the invoices are processed and the deliverables are in hand, this balance will fluctuate down. The expenses were \$9.8 million for funded research which was close to \$6 million under what was budgeted year-to-date. It's primarily a timing issue. The rest of the expenses for research and delivery operations and administrative functions of \$2.7 million are in line with what is expected.

Mr. Mahan made a motion to accept the Financial Statement as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and, with no discussion, approved unanimously.

Mr. Mahan presented the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23. Mr. Mahan asked if there were any questions, and being none, made a motion to accept the FY 2022-23 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and unanimously approved with no further discussion.

Mr. Mahan requested that Mr. Dantzler review the annual administrative contracts coming up for renewal in FY 2022-23. Mr. Dantzler reported that these include the four Project Managers: Dr. Bill Dawson, Dr. Stephen Futch, Dr. Jim Graham and Dr. Jim Syvertsen; Agerpoint, Inc. for assistance to Mr. Page with data collection of field trials; and FFVA, for Mike Aerts' expertise with regard to regulatory issues.

Additional contracts being renewed help satisfy CRDF's requirement for citrus industry outreach: Frankel Media's Web support, *Citrus Industry* monthly article, quarterly *CRDF Grower Report* included in the *Triangle*, sponsorships of Agnet's Citrus Expo, UF IFAS's Citrus Institute, and FCM's Education Session during the Annual Grower meeting. The sponsorship request to the Florida State Horticultural Society was reduced to \$2,750 from the \$5,500 level in previous years. Mr. Mahan moved to approve the 2022-23 miscellaneous administrative contracts. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hodges and passed unanimously.

**Governance Committee:** Did not meet.

**Research Management Committee:** Mr. Page provided an update on the rootstock trials, noting that Mr. George Laurent, Center Ridge Caretaking, has agreed to host the rootstock trials at the Ridge site. Mr. Mahan moved to approve Mr. Laurent's Center Ridge Caretaking as grower cooperator for the Ridge site. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

Mr. Page noted that there were serious rooting issues with one UF and one USDA rootstock and they were not growing as well in the greenhouse as all the others. So that the trees would be of uniform age for comparison of data, these may have to be dropped from the trial. The trees should be available for planting in August or September as planned.

Mr. Page reported that the scion trials will have 25 scions for evaluation; FDACS is working on scaling up budwood for the trials. Mr. Atchley asked where the final list of scion varieties can be found and the timing for planting. The trees should be ready for planting late in 2023, likely in October.

Mr. Dantzler stated that it will be necessary to advertise for nurseries since this is not a sole source provider. Mr. Dantzler noted there are currently thirty-one projects in CRDF's portfolio.

Mr. Sherrod questioned when the Flatwoods site was approved. Not previously having been approved, Mr. Himrod moved to approve the Alico, Inc. grower cooperators site in the Flatwoods for the rootstock trials. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan, and with no discussion, passed with one abstention by Mr. Sherrod.

**COO Report:** Mr. Dantzer reported that Dr. Hopkins made a request for funding to continue work no longer being funded by the MAC program. A proposal will be forthcoming for consideration by the Research Management Committee. He noted also that both Dr. Chater and Dr. Mattia will be submitting their proposals that the board requested earlier this year for the plant improvement inventory. The next step from the Plant Improvement Review Panel Report is making more robust evaluations for Stage 2 and 3 trials.

Mr. Dantzer reported that Dr. Dutt made a request to continue the Parson Brown project extension. Mr. Howard suggested it may be a project for the Pepsico funding.

Mr. Dantzer mentioned the new proviso language that requires a report on the status of the commercialization efforts of all projects. Dr. Gunter noted that the researchers will need a clear definition of commercialization for them to be able to report properly to CRDF.

**Partnership Updates:**

- A. Dr. Michael Rogers reported on activities at UF/IFAS, and noted that Dr. Albrecht is scheduled to provide an update on her OTC injection research on July 22, 2022.
- B. Mr. Mike Sparks welcomed all to Florida Citrus Mutual's Annual Meeting and invited them to participate in the other meetings being held. He expressed FCM's satisfaction with the legislative budget sessions earlier in the year.

**New Business:** None

**Public Comments:** None

**Future Meetings:** July 26, 2022, at UF-IFAS, IRREC, Fort Pierce, FL.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Minutes submitted on behalf of John Updike, Secretary