



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, July 26, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Wednesday, July 26, 2022, at the UF-IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center, 2099 S. Rock Road, Ft. Pierce, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Chairman Rob Atchley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Chris Gunter, George Hamner, Greg Hodges, David Howard, Deeley Hunt, Ron Mahan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Morgan McKenna, Joby Sherrod and Matt Story.

Also in attendance were Ron Cave, Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Gary England, Stephen Futch, Juan Gomez, Jim Graham, Matt Mattia, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Jesse Rojas, Lorenzo Rossi, Shannon Shepp, Steve Smith, Barbara Thompson and Callie Walker.

President Rob Atchley noted the minutes from the June 15, 2022, board meeting was available in their packet for review and approval. Mr. Sherrod made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. McKenna and passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None.

Executive Committee: Did not meet.

Finance and Audit Committee: Mr. Mahan presented the June 30, 2022, financial statement as shown in the materials in their packet. Mr. Mahan moved to accept the financial statements as presented. Ms. McKenna seconded the motion. Mr. Dantzler noted that the new budget passed in June anticipates spending \$1.5 M for funding new research. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler reported that the accountants with Bunting, Tripp and Ingley, LLP completed their preliminary work of the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and the draft audit is being reviewed by BTI management. This coincided with the audit that Crowe has been doing on behalf of the UF Board of Governors for all the direct support organizations (DSOs). CRDF came out well in this audit. Dr. Mastrodicasa noted that the Board of Governors required this audit of every DSO and she was anxious to see the full report. Mr. Dantzler noted that Ms. Suzanne Gable and her team at UF were most helpful.

Governance Committee: The Governance Committee has not met. Conflict of interest forms will be emailed to all; it would be appreciated if board members would complete and return before the next meeting.

Research Management Committee: Mr. Dantzler noted that the RMC Chairman and Vice-Chair, Mr. Updike and Mr. Himrod, could not be in attendance, so Mr. Updike asked him to present the actions resulting from the July 18, 2022 Research Management Committee (RMC) meeting. Proposals for providing the current inventory of research that were received from Dr. Chater and Dr. Mattia were reviewed, but neither were acted upon by the committee because the committee did not believe they were responsive to the request. The committee instead recommended an RFP for a statewide aerial evaluation of citrus trees of all trials, and for that data to be made available as it is compiled to expedite evaluation. Mr. Hamner made a motion to accept the recommendation to advance the RFP; the motion was seconded by Mr. Howard.

Mr. Atchley noted the value of an initial pilot study to verify the effectiveness of the study and suggested it be a part of the RFP. Discussion followed on the optimum timing for the flights, that the pilot portion should include trees from both UF and USDA, and that the creation of a drone service should not be a part of the project since there are existing services already available. Mr. Hamner re-stated his motion to move the RFP as detailed above and present it to the Executive Committee for approval before release. The motion was seconded by Ms. McKenna and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler noted that Ms. Shepp requested the RMC turn the escape tree program over to FDOC to manage. Mr. Sherrod made a motion to turn the escape tree program in its entirety over to FDOC. The motion was seconded by Ms. McKenna and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler reported that the RMC recommended the proposal from Dr. Hopkins not be funded.

He reported that the RMC recommended requesting a directed research proposal from Dr. Diepenbrock and Dr. Duncan related to Diaprepes which would include compiling resources currently available to growers. Mr. Hamner moved to request a proposal from Dr. Diepenbrock and Dr. Duncan for Diaprepes as discussed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sherrod and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler noted the RMC did not wish to pursue the project on snails. Ms. McKenna said she would not mind re-visiting that topic and moved to request a proposal on snail control. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sherrod and passed with one opposing vote by Dr. Hodges.

Mr. Dantzler reported on the RMC recommendation to request a proposal from Dr. Manjul Dutt on inter-stocking. Mr. Sherrod moved to entertain a proposal from Dr. Dutt on inter-stocking. It was seconded by Ms. McKenna and the motion passed unanimously.

The next RMC topic was the RFP for large-scale field trials as provided for in the proviso language. Mr. Sherrod asked if the trials being run by CRDF would qualify for CRAFT funding. Mr. Hamner made a motion to accept the large-scale field trials RFP. The motion was seconded by Ms. McKenna and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler informed the board of Agromillora's recent notification to CRDF that some of the trees they are providing for the CRDF rootstock trials will not be ready in September as planned due to problems encountered producing Blue 1, 1283 and 1284. The Blue 1 and 1283 trees will not be available until spring 2023; the 1284 trees will have to be replaced by other rootstocks. One grower cooperator asked to replace those trees with his own choice of trees in their trial. One question was whether the grower cooperators should be allowed to go ahead and plant the available trees in September as originally planned and the balance of the trees in the spring. Mr. Page was directed to find out exactly when the later trees will be ready. He stated that Agromillora said the issues causing the delays are behind them.

Replacements being considered were UFR5 Valencia that is ready to plant; the grower from the Ridge site will use Kuharske. Mr. Hamner made a motion to 1) let the growers choose when to plant the trees that will be available in September; 2) replace the 1284 rootstocks with the grower cooperator's choice; and 3) that the compensation to the growers remain the same. The motion was seconded by Ms. McKenna and passed with Mr. Sherrod abstaining.

Mr. Page discussed his concept of a proposal to CRAFT under the reset program that would include 20% reset trees, leaving the balance of the funds for improving the performance of the balance of the trees in the block to include OTC trunk injections. The board endorsed this idea.

Mr. Dantzler reported on a project proposed by Dr. Brlansky on blight; the board had no interest in pursuing it at this time.

The Board recessed for ten minutes for lunch so that the Millennium Block tour could occur on schedule as planned.

Mr. Dantzler summarized the Bayer stakeholder meeting held June 23, 2022; a detailed report was included with board materials.

Mr. Dantzler asked if the board it was content with the directed research process and asked them to propose topics which would be included in a general RFP to receive proposals. What areas are not being pursued? Mr. Atchley suggested that if the OTC by injection is approved, the board should be ready to test whether it works with and without psyllid control and how it affects the performance of the material.

Mr. Dantzler suggested a topic for a broader RFP would be root health. Syngenta has been collecting this data for years but declined his offer to present to the committee until we could determine what a presentation would entail.

COO Report: Mr. Dantzler provided an update on TJ Biotech's OTC submission. Its latest round of data has been submitted to EPA and the company is waiting for direction on next steps. Regulators are discussing among the agencies what level of data will be needed. Once decided, TJ Biotech will submit its packet. Discussion followed on the estimated cost of the product and equipment.

Partnership Updates: Mr. Matt Joyner was in Washington, so there was no report.

Dr. Cave welcomed the board and invited CRDF to schedule future meetings at IRREC any time. He noted that they have research under way for root health, juice quality, best management practices, and disease diagnostics. Dr. Diepenbrock has been collaborating with one of their researchers on mealybug and discussing the snail issue. He thanked CRDF for support and was pleased to have an opportunity to have them tour their world-famous Millennium program.

New Business: None

Public Comments: None

Future Meetings: August 23, 2022, 10:00 a.m. at UF-IFAS, CREC, Lake Alfred, FL.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:33.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary