

**Summary of the  
Research Management and Commercial Product Delivery Committees  
Joint Meeting  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022**

A joint meeting of the Research Management and Commercial Product Delivery Committees of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at the Bert Harris Ag Center, located at 4509 George Boulevard, Sebring, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 1:16 p.m. by Chairman John Updike. Roll was called and quorum were present for each Committee. Committee members participating for Research Management were Bobby Barben, Steve Farr, Aaron Himrod, Sean McCoy, Tom Obreza, Pat Ouimet, Daniel Scott, Joby Sherrod, Buddy Strickland, and Forest Taylor. Committee members participating for Commercial Product Delivery were Larry Black, Holly Chamberlain, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Morgan McKenna, Brian Scully, and John Updike. Also participating were Mike Aerts, Kim Bowman, James Cooper (FDACS), Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Lauren Diepenbrock, Jim Graham, Christopher Gunter, George Hamner, Ned Hancock, David Howard, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Rashini Singh, Rosa Walsh and Deidra Whatley.

Mr. Updike noted that it had been suggested there be a Vice Chair of the Research Management Committee. There was consensus on the nomination of Aaron Himrod.

There was discussion that several No Cost Extensions had been addressed over the last few months. To that end, Dr. Diepenbrock was present to discuss her project on management strategies for the Lebeck mealybug in Florida citrus. She noted that her progress to date has been limited because of difficulty in rearing mealybugs. Consequently, all of the project objectives will not be met by the June 30, 2022, termination date, so Diepenbrock requested that the project be continued for an additional year. Dr. Diepenbrock was asked to prepare a budget showing the costs utilized during the first two funded years, residual funds from that period, and the requested level of funding to continue one additional year, which would come before the Research Management Committee for consideration.

Mr. Dantzler described the process being initiated this year for directed or contracted research in addition to the annual RFP. At the recommendation of the RMC and Board, CRDF Staff will contact Principal Investigators with the appropriate experience and request they provide a budget to complete a specific set of objectives. In addition to this process limiting the number of proposals to analyze and review, it should result in speeding up the timeline for funding by a couple of months. Potential topics for directed research are evaluations of:

- the efficiency and economics of tree injection devices and appropriate rates of Oxytetracycline
- optimum rates for applications of 2,4-D and Gibberellic Acid
- mature tree responses to Brassinosteroids and their effect on HLB and ACP
- the nutritional and antimicrobial effects of Zinc on Clas and HLB

Numerous committee and board members reinforced the fact that growers need these answers as quickly as possible, within the next year, to inform their plans and decisions going forward.

Mr. Dantzler stated that a pre-registration meeting for use of Oxytetracycline must be initiated by the registrant, not CRDF or FDOC.

Mr. Updike thanked Dr. Futch for his efforts on the Sugar Belle White Paper that was included with materials.

Dr. Scully reported on the history and status of the Donaldson tree, Tobias, and St. Michael. This was followed by a discussion of escape trees generally, with Mr. Dantzler explaining CRDF's involvement over the years.

Mr. McCoy asked if the Foundation would consider including research in North Florida and Southern Georgia as an additional topic for the RFP or directed research, looking for climatic advantages to expanding groves to those areas. These regions are currently out-producing groves in central Florida in boxes/acre and lb. solids/acre, a potential for keeping the industry going until a solution is found. Ms. Shepp questioned if these are regulated varieties.

Mr. Updike requested that Mr. Dantzler review the RFP topics: gibberellic acid and individual protective covers/brassinosteroids. A grower has reported success with night applications of gibberellic acid. It was noted this could be done through directed research and should include the southwest and east coast as well as the Ridge.

IPCs and brassinosteroids were thought to be included in CRaFT projects. Funding of a previous proposal was turned down by the RMC and Board.

Mr. Dantzler asked if anything should be done with using Alliette with spraying bactericides. It was noted it is extremely acidic in the tank, and others could produce better results. After discussion, it was decided not to pursue this at this time.

Mr. Dantzler reviewed some criteria for the considerations for selecting members of the newly formed Research Management Committee:

- Attendance
- One member from a company
- Not more than four board members to allow as many other non-board representatives as possible
- UF and USDA would have representation
- Current RMC and CPDC members can indicate if they would like to continue serving

Other Business: None

Public Comments: None

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Submitted by A. Nowicki