



## **Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, August 23, 2022**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at Ben Hill Griffin Jr. Citrus Hall. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. President Rob Atchley called the meeting to order at 10:10 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 Mastrocicosa, Morgan McKenna, Joby Sherrod, Matt Story and John Updike. Also participating were Bobby Barben, Kim Bowman, Peter Chaires, Rick Dantzler, Steve Futch, Fred Gmitter, Chris Gunter, Matt Joyner, Ken, Cody Lastinger, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Shannon Shepp, Barbara Thompson, Salvatore Tropea, John Updike, Callie Walker, Rosa Walsh and Tamara Wood.

President Rob Atchley noted the minutes from the July 26, 2022 board meeting were available in their packet for review and approval. Mr. Mahan made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed.

**Public Comments:** There were no Public Comments.

**Executive Committee:** Mr. Dantzler presented the discussions and actions from the Executive Committee meeting held on August 11, 2022.

The first item was the inventory proposals from Dr. Chater, UF, and Dr. Mattia, USDA-ARS. They would each lead the project for their respective institution and contract with a drone company for the work. The work would be done no earlier than November when the trees were beginning to show the effects of HLB. The data would then be reviewed and reported back to CRDF, with next steps decided at that time. Dr. Niedz will submit the USDA-ARS proposal until the formal hiring process for Dr. Stover's position is completed. Dr. Erin Roskopf, interim director, is assisting with the USDA process. Both institutions were requested to submit a proposal by mid-September. Researchers would report their findings periodically so that any new "Donaldson" discoveries would be reported timely. This initial part of the project will determine the volume and locations of inventory, with the data analysis to follow.

The cooperator on the East Coast has asked to withdraw from the rootstock trial. Mr. Dantzler requested permission to terminate the contract, with that set of trees to be utilized in the other trials to replace rootstocks that failed or possibly even in a separate partial trial. Mr. Howard moved to allow the termination of the contract with the cooperator. It was seconded by Mr. Mahan. In further discussion, Mr. Atchley stated that the cost of any unused trees would be absorbed by CRDF, honoring the contract with the nursery. Mr. Howard amended the motion to include that CRDF cover the cost of all trees ordered and try to use them in a productive manner. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan, and it passed unanimously. It was noted that the Ridge and Southwest cooperators are on track for planting on schedule.

The next item was the bids received from Agromillora and Southern Citrus Nurseries to grow our scion trees. The lower bid was from Southern Citrus Nurseries, so it was accepted since both nurseries were qualified.

Since Dr. Scully has retired from USDA-ARS, he can no longer represent USDA on RMC. The Board would like for him to stay on the committee at least as a non-voting member of the Research Management Committee because of his experience and knowledge. Dr. Erin Roskopf advised of her desire to be on the committee. It was decided that if a member who has not been participating steps down, perhaps Dr. Scully could be appointed to fill said spot.

In response to Mr. Updike's previous request, Mr. Dantzler reported on the category breakdown of usage of the Southern Gardens PCR lab and contract status. Mr. Updike stated the RMC would discuss this and make its recommendation to the Board.

**Finance and Audit Committee:** Mr. Mahan presented the July 26, 2022 financial statement included in the meeting materials. Mr. Mahan moved to accept the financial statements as presented. Mr. Updike seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahan made a motion to accept the Audit as presented by CRDF auditors. Discussion ensued. Mr. Tropea remarked that it was a "clean" audit, and there were no findings of questioned costs in this state-required audit. He then walked the board through the audit. He also expressed Bunting, Tripp & Ingley's appreciation for the opportunity to perform this year's audit. The motion was seconded by Ms. McKenna and passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahan and Mr. Updike noted the committee's appreciation of Mr. Tropea's detailed review of the audit and tax return for the Finance and Audit Committee, which he did page-by-page. Mr. Mahan made a motion to accept Form 990 as amended by the Finance and Audit committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahan reviewed the committee's proposed changes to the Finance and Audit Charter in which they recommended to strike the requirement to rotate auditors within the firm. After discussion, Mr. Mahan moved to accept that change along with the scrivener edits that were made by Mr. Dantzler. The motion was seconded by Ms. McKenna and passed unanimously.

**Governance Committee:** A couple members have not submitted their Conflict-of-Interest forms. Mr. Atchley reminded them that it is a requirement on the Form 990.

**Research Management Committee:** Mr. Updike stated that they had discussed the rootstock and scion trials. They would schedule a meeting before the next Board meeting to address the inventory project issues that had arisen from this meeting. Mr. Dantzler stated that they had received another proposal from Dr. Nian Wang, as well as two more pre-proposals that would be discussed at the planned RMC meeting.

Mr. Dantzler asked Dr. Larry Duncan to join the table for an open discussion on Diaprepes and to bring the board up to date on his research. Dr. Duncan engaged the board in a 30-minute discussion on current research, explaining how the Diaprepes Task Force had grown inactive once HLB hit. He explained the successes and failures of using the fabric soil cover, as well as the need to engage entomologists in future research on the topic.

**COO Report:** Mr. Dantzler reported that the NIFA Grant funding results would be forthcoming. RMC and BoD would need to decide on Directed Research or an RFP. Mr. Dantzler is going to bring new ideas for possible RFPs for the consideration of RMC. Mr. Howard requested that the amount of uncommitted funding be shared with RMC as new projects are being considered. Dr. Gunter asked if there was a set list of projects to consider against the balance.

**Partnership Updates:** Mr. Matt Joyner, Florida Citrus Mutual, noted the OTC response had been positive. He reported on the HLB MAC (Multi-Agency Coordination) meeting last week where approximately \$2M in funding was allotted to Florida and California. They are hoping for something game-changing to come along before they committed the funding.

Dr. Mastrodicasa gave the UF-IFAS report for Dr. Rogers. Dr. Mike Burton has been appointed as the Director of SWFREC. A search and screen committee has been commissioned to find a Director for the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka. After this Director is secured, Dr. Rogers will be released of his responsibilities there and be responsible solely for the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred

**New Business:** None

**Public Comments:** None

**Future Meeting:** Co-hosted by Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association on September 27, 2022, 10:00 a.m., 2250 NE Roan St, Arcadia, FL 34266.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:03.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.