



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, September 27, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at Ben Hill Griffin Jr. Citrus Hall, via zoom due to the approaching hurricane. 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, George Hamner, Greg Hodges, Deeley Hunt, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Morgan Porter, Joby Sherrod and John Updike. Also participating were Ron Cave, James Cooper, Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Lauren Diepenbrock, Steve Futch, David Gerard, Fred Gmitter, Jim Graham, Mike Irey, Matt Mattia, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, James Syvertsen, Barbara Thompson, Callie Walker, Rosa Walsh and Tamara Wood.

President Rob Atchley noted the minutes from the August 23, 2022 board meeting were included in the materials for review and approval. Mr. Hamner made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

Public Comments: There were no Public Comments.

Executive Committee: Did not meet.

Finance and Audit Committee: Mr. Dantzler reported that funds allocated for new research in the current year's budget have not yet been fully committed, so there was funding available for projects that were deemed worthy. In Mr. Mahan's absence, Ms. Nowicki summarized the August 31, 2022 financial summary, noting a cash balance of \$4.3M with no receivables and payables of \$2.2M dollars, most of which is held pending receipt of deliverables from the CRAFT project. There being no questions, Mr. Hamner moved to accept the financial statement as presented. Mr. Updike seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler asked Brandon Page and Audrey Nowicki to step outside briefly. The UF HR office had presented an opportunity to offer a raise of up to 3% for these two employees that would go into effect in October. Mr. Dantzler explained that he thought each deserved 3%, and why. He further explained that the opportunity had only recently presented itself, which was why he was bringing it straight to the board, but that he had discussed it previously with Mr. Atchley and Mr. Mahan. Mr. Dantzler said that a 1.5% raise had been built into the budget in the event that raises were given, and that since this would not go into effect until several months of the fiscal year had expired there would be very little impact on available funding. A motion was made by Mr. Updike to approve the 3% raise for both. It was seconded by Mr. Sherrod and passed unanimously. Dr. Mastrodicasa noted that there was a mechanism in place to give Mr. Dantzler a raise, but Mr. Dantzler said he was fine and invited Mr. Page and Ms. Nowicki back into the room.

Governance Committee: Did not meet.

Research Management Committee: Mr. Updike noted that one proposal was received in response to the Large-Scale Field Trials RFP - from CRAFT - which the committee recommended for Board approval. Mr. Updike made a motion to approve the CRAFT proposal. Mr. Dantzler added that the only difference between this proposal and the one in previous years was that this year's proviso allows payments to growers after they have made a deposit on their trees and entered into a contract with CRAFT. In years past, the trees had to be planted before a payment could be made. This proposal was discussed at the Research Management Committee meeting but was inadvertently omitted from the agenda today, so it was brought up instanter. The motion was then seconded by Mr. Hamner and passed unanimously. Ms. Wood expressed their appreciation for CRDF's processing of the funds in the program to CRAFT.

Directed Research Considerations:

The Diaprepes proposal by Dr. Diepenbrock had come before RMC with three objectives. On the recommendation of the RMC, Objective 1 was deleted, and a new proposal was submitted with only Objectives 2 and 3. Mr. Updike moved to accept the new proposal as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sherrod and passed unanimously. Dr. Diepenbrock added that she has located a grower that will cooperate with her on Objective 1 and could bring it back before the Board at a later date.

Mr. Updike continued with the second proposal from Dr. Diepenbrock on management of snails in citrus groves, noting the committee recommended funding. Mr. Updike made a motion to approve Dr. Diepenbrock's proposal on snails; it was seconded by Mr. Sherrod. After discussion regarding whether this research is pressing from a production standpoint, the motion nevertheless passed unanimously because of the problem most growers are having with snails.

Mr. Dantzler started the discussion of 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 aerial work would be done no earlier than November when the trees were beginning to show the effects of HLB. They will review the data and provide a comprehensive report in March, with next steps decided at that time.

Both institutions expressed concern about intellectual property (IP) being jeopardized. It was important that they each be the repository for their IP information. Mr. Dantzler and Mr. Updike felt that there was a way for CRDF to receive enough data to monitor progress of the projects with the institutions being the repository for the data, and they would deal with how to inform the public at a later date.

Mr. Updike made a motion to approve funding Dr. Chater's proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamner and passed unanimously.

The USDA proposal included aerial survey of two USDA sites and fifteen grower cooperator sites. Mr. Updike moved to approve Dr. Niedz's proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamner and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler stated that the Reducing Oxidative Stress (ROS) preproposal from Dr. Nian Wang would most likely receive funding from another source, so this was tabled for a month. There was a question as to how

this differs from micronutrient research that was done a several years ago and the need for additional research.

On Dr. Levy's preproposal for injecting DDG, there was a motion by Mr. Updike to request a full proposal. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hodges and passed unanimously.

Mr. Updike made a motion to invite a full proposal on *Beauveria* fungi by Dr. Rushton as recommended by RMC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sherrod and, after a short discussion and suggestion to request a budget reduction, passed unanimously.

No recommendation came from RMC with regard to the 2021 Preproposal "Biocontrol Method Against Bacterial Pathogens, Including CLas" from Dr. Sweeney. The project died for the lack of a motion.

Mr. Updike discussed the RMC recommendation to invite a full proposal from Soilcea on the field trials of CRISPR-edited citrus varieties. Suggestions included the need for a budget reduction, discussion of why both rootstocks are not already in the ground, and whether to include them in the rootstock and scion trials. Mr. Hamner moved to invite a full proposal from Dr. Lagos. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

There was discussion on potential topics for an RFP or Directed Research. Mr. Updike noted that research is needed on using Bt to control the Diaprepes weevil. Mr. Sherrod made a motion to include predation as a topic in an RFP. It was seconded by Mr. Hodges and passed unanimously. Staff will draft this and other topics and bring back to RMC for consideration.

Mr. Dantzler suggested discussing Bt with Dr. Bonning and Dr. Diepenbrock.

Mr. Dantzler noted that the OTC 24C registration application was filed on September 19; the Section 3 had not been filed. The registrant was still discussing details with EPA. It is hoped it will be on the October 6 agenda of the Pesticide Review Advisory Council (PRAC) for review and recommendation to the Commissioner.

COO Report: Since growers had many questions about GMO trees, it was suggested that a virtual seminar be scheduled with Mutual to inform them.

Mr. Dantzler is having conversations with PIs on five other ideas for projects.

Partnership Updates: Dr. Rogers was in Orange County. Dr. Mastrodicasa stated that IFAS closures due to weather are determined by county government closures.

New Business: None

Public Comments: None

Future Meeting: October 25, 2022, 10:00 a.m., SWFREC, 2685 SR 29 N, Immokalee, FL 34142.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:08.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary