



**CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.**

**Research Management Committee Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022**

A meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at the Bert Harris Ag Center, Conference Room 2, 4509 George Blvd, Sebring, FL 33875. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Chairman John Updike. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were Bobby Barben, Holly Chamberlain, Steve Farr, Ned Hancock, Aaron Himrod, David Howard, Ed Leotti, Morgan Porter, Brian Scully, Shannon Shepp, Wayne Simmons, Buddy Strickland and John Updike.

Also participating were Scott Atkins, Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Gary England, Stephen Futch, Jim Graham, Greg Hodges, Mike Irely, Amit Levy, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Jim Syvertsen, Barbara Thompson, Rosa Walsh and Tamara Wood.

Mr. Updike noted that the minutes of the July 18, 2022, Research Management Committee meeting were included in the meeting materials and asked if there were any edits. Ms. McKenna-Porter made a motion to approve the July 18, 2022, RMC meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded Mr. Simmons. Ms. Shepp asked that the reference to Extension be removed from the minutes. (Once DOC is notified of a potential escape tree, Extension Agents will be contacted for follow up.) Ms. Porter withdrew her first motion and moved to accept the minutes with Ms. Shepp's amendment incorporated. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

Regarding the proposal from CRAFT, it will allow payment to growers when they have a contract in place with CRAFT and have made at least a deposit on the trees. Mr. Dantzler reported that this is a provision endorsed by Florida Citrus Mutual meeting. Dr. Scully made a motion to approve the proposal as presented. It was seconded by Ms. Chamberlain and passed unanimously.

The committee next discussed a proposal from Dr. Diepenbrock on Diaprepes. There was considerable discussion of the cost of the proposal and whether it should instead be a CRAFT project, which would get the cost down. The proposal was moved as presented by Mr. Strickland and seconded by Ms. Porter. Mr. Hancock moved to amend the proposal to require that the work on ground cover be a CRAFT project. The amendment was seconded by Dr. Scully but failed. A vote on the proposal failed 5-8. Dr. Scully then made a motion to reconsider the vote by which the proposal had failed. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hancock and passed. Dr. Scully then made a motion to remove Objective 1 which dealt with ground fabric covers, funding only Objectives 2 and 3. It was seconded by Ms. Porter and passed. A separate project on predation and Bt may be requested at a later date.

Dr. Futch presented Dr. Diepenbrock's proposal on snails. It was noted that an emphasis should be made on products that have not been previously tested, which would reduce the project considerably. Separate tests should be done on chemicals currently available at their registered rates. Mr. Howard made a motion to accept the proposal, with Staff to review the changes discussed with the PI prior to Board approval. Mr. Leotti seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler presented Dr. Chater's pre-proposal on inventorying IFAS citrus germplasm. Ms. Shepp made a motion to approve the methodology and request a full proposal to be completed within 10 days for approval at the Board of Directors meeting on September 27, 2022. It was seconded by Mr. Leotti and passed.

Mr. Dantzler also presented Dr. Mattia's pre-proposal on inventorying USDA citrus germplasm. Ms. Shepp made a motion to approve the methodology and request a full proposal with a completed budget to be considered for approval by the Board of Directors at their meeting on September 27, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed with Dr. Scully abstaining.

Dr. Graham presented Dr. Wang's proposal on ROS to reduce oxidative stress and noted that the staff recommendation was not to invite at this time since this work might be funded by NIFA. Dr. Scully moved to table Dr. Wang's proposal until the next RMC meeting, allowing time to evaluate the proposal within the context of possible NIFA funding. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hancock and passed unanimously.

Dr. Dawson presented Dr. Levy's pre-proposal on insertion of DDG through a systemic delivery device. Mr. Himrod made a motion to request a full proposal with the caveat that additional compounds be included. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leotti and passed unanimously.

Dr. Graham presented Dr. Rushton's pre-proposal on *Beauveria* fungi. Mr. Strickland made a motion to ask for a full proposal with a reduction in the budget. As well, the committee would like to see some degree of evidence of efficacy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed with one person opposed.

Dr. Dawson presented Dr. Sweeney's pre-proposal on a biocontrol method against bacterial pathogens, including CLAs. There was discussion of minimal likelihood for success. The project failed due to lack of a motion to move forward.

Mr. Dantzler presented the Lagos/Soilcea pre-proposal on field trials of CRISPR-edited citrus varieties. A motion was made by Ms. Porter to request a full proposal with a reduction of the proposed budget. It was seconded by Mr. Strickland and passed with one opposing vote.

Mr. Barben asked about the outcome of the demonstrations Mr. Page had performed with the bang stick. He reported only a forty percent success rate.

Ms. Shepp suggested collaborating on the nomenclature of the agenda going forward.

For the sake of time, it was decided to postpone discussion of the questions on insertion of OTC through a systemic delivery device on mature trees. Members would look these over and be ready to discuss them at the next meeting.

Mr. Page stated that the Ridge site was planted for the rootstock trials. The trees are good quality with excellent root systems.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Thompson.