



## **Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, March 28, 2023**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at UF-IFAS-CREC, 700 Experiment Station Rd, Lake Alfred, FL. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. President Morgan Porter called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Chris Gunter, George Hamner, Aaron Himrod, David Howard, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Morgan Porter, Eric Rohrig, Joby Sherrod, Matt Story and John Updike.

Also participating were Scott Adkins, Michael Aerts, Ute Albrecht, Kim Bowman, Bill Castle, Peter Chaires, John Chater, Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Manjul Dutt, Ron Edwards, Steve Futch, Jeremy Gilbert, Fred Gmitter, Jim Graham, Mike Irely, Nate Jameson, Yianni Lagos, Ed Leotti, Matt Mattia, Sean McCoy, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Adam Patton, Orlene Guerra Peraza, Erin Roszkoph, Shannon Shepp, Jim Snively, Pete Spyke, Daniel Stanton, Jim Syvertsen, Barbara Thompson, Callie Walker, Rosa Walsh, and Janice Zale.

President Morgan Porter noted the minutes from the February 28, 2023, Board meeting were available in their packet for review and approval. Mr. Atchley noted that the bid from Mr. Yonce on directed research project #5 was incorrectly shown as \$185,000 instead of \$15,000. With that correction, Mr. Atchley made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamner and passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:** None

**Executive Committee:** Did not meet.

**Finance and Audit Committee:** In Mr. Mahan's absence, Ms. Nowicki presented the Financial Summary for February 28, 2023. Mr. Atchley made a motion to accept the financial summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

**Governance Committee:** Did not meet.

**Research Management Committee:**

Mr. Updike presented the projects for Directed Research and Off-Cycle Project Recommendations:

23-001, Pelz-Stelinski, K. – Effects of trunk-injected oxytetracycline. Mr. Updike made a motion to approve funding with altered harvest timing. Mr. Atchley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

23-002, Albrecht, U. – Evaluating different rates of oxytetracycline. This would be tested at the Label Rate, 75%, and 50%. Then it would be tested at 150% with no injections the second year. Mr. Updike made a motion to approve funding. Mr. Sherrod seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

23-003, Ritenour, M. – Evaluation of potential HLB tolerant grapefruit Florida. The project involves 16 growers with 42 two-acre plots. Mr. Updike made a motion to approve funding. Mr. Hamner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

23-004, Wood, T. – CRAFT 2.0 Existing Tree Therapies. IPCs lifted. CRDF would fund their proposal for \$750,000, with the potential for increased funding depending on the amount available at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2023. Mr. Updike made a motion to approve funding. Mr. Atchley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

22-023, Jin, H. – Using SAMP cisgenic citrus rootstock and scion to control HLB. Mr. Atchley reminded the Board that this was a continuation of a project CRDF had previously funded for \$200,000. Dr. Dewdney received \$114,000 of that to treat fruit-bearing Hamlins and found nothing remarkable. Dr. McCollum received \$4,000 to test the peptide with his assay, and Dr. Jin received the remaining \$82,000. Dr. Zale has propagated the trees here in Florida in the Transformation Lab. It would cost \$100,000 to fund Objective 1 and the first part of Objective 2. The committee felt Dr. Jin should conduct her tests on the transgenics here in Florida. Mr. Updike made a motion to fund this proposal if taking place in Florida. It was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

Pre-proposal, Brlansky, R. – Management of citrus blight. The committee did not endorse the CRISPR portion of the objectives. Mr. Updike made a motion to invite a full proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed unanimously.

Dr. Kim Bowman gave a presentation on his progress to date on Project 21-008, *Development of Next-Generation SuperSour rootstocks with tolerance to HLB*. He responded to questions following the presentation. Mr. Atchley made a motion to approve funding year two of Project 21-008, as well as Dr. Albrecht's subcontract on the project for another year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Dr. Jim Chater, UF, and Dr. Matt Mattia, USDA, gave their presentations of the Aerial Inventory initial reports and answered questions afterward.

Mr. Yianni Lagos from Soilcea also gave a presentation on the CRISPR-edited citrus varieties they are producing, followed by a question-and-answer session.

**COO Report:** Mr. Dantzler said he would forego this report for the sake of time.

He reminded everyone that there would be a joint meeting of the BoD, RMC, and Plant Improvement committees on April 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps and the Foundation's role in plant improvement. Ms. Morgan thanked the Researchers for their presentations given today.

**Partnership Updates:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Comments:** None

**Future Meeting:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 10:00 a.m., at Seven Sebring Raceway Hotel, 150 Midway Dr, Sebring, FL 33870, followed by a Workshop of the Board, RMC and Select Committee on Plant Improvement.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.