



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

### **Research Management Committee Meeting**

#### **Minutes**

**Monday, March 20, 2023**

A meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Monday, March 20, 2023, at UF-IFAS-CREC Ben Hill Griffin, Jr. Citrus Hall, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, FL 33850. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman John Updike. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were Holly Chamberlain, Steve Farr, Ned Hancock, Aaron Himrod, David Howard, Ed Leotti, Pat Ouimet, Morgan Porter, Daniel Scott, Brian Scully, Shannon Shepp, and John Updike.

Also participating were Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Gary England, Stephen Futch, Fred Gmitter, Mike Irely, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Barbara Thompson, and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Himrod made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 21, 2023, meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Porter and passed unanimously.

Mr. Updike started the discussion of the Directed Research and Off-Cycle Projects for Consideration beginning with #23-001, Dr. Pelz-Stelinski's, *Effects of trunk-injected oxytetracycline on tree infection and health, psyllid pathogenicity and vector population*. Mr. Dantzler provided a summary of the project. After discussion, Dr. Scully made a motion to fund 23-001. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

#23-002, Dr. Albrecht, *Evaluating different rates of oxytetracycline administered by trunk injection in mature sweet orange trees*. Mr. Dantzler noted they would be using Remedium by T. J. Biotech in years one and two, and not in year three. Testing the AgroSource product would be a separate project. Mr. Himrod made a motion to fund 23-002. The motion was seconded by Dr. Scully and passed unanimously.

#23-003, Dr. Ritenour, *Evaluation of potential HLB tolerant grapefruit rootstock/scion combinations in Florida*. Dr. Scully noted that the MAC grant of December 2022 covered planting and growing the trees but since they were not bearing fruit during the project there was no data. Dr. Ritenour will spend two to three years gathering data from 16 grower cooperators with 42 two-acre plots. Dr. Scully made a motion to fund 23-003. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

#23-004, T. Wood – CRAFT 2.0 Existing Tree Therapies. In the fall of 2022, the Board passed a motion to utilize uncommitted funds to assist growers with the new therapies and treatments. Mr. Himrod made a motion to fund 23-004. The motion was seconded by Ms. Porter and passed with Ms. Ouimet abstaining.

#22-023, Dr. Jin, *Using SAMP cisgenic citrus rootstock and scion to control citrus Huanglongbing*. CRDF previously provided \$200,000 for peptides to be applied by Dr. Dewdney, Dr. McCollum, and Dr. Jin. Dr. Zale has provided trees to California and has some in Florida. Questions were raised on whether California would fund this project if CRDF did not. Mr. Himrod questioned whether California data would show us what we needed. Mr. Dantzler noted that Dr. Jin felt they had special knowledge to complete. Dr. Scully said we need to test it and bump up the number of trees in randomized plantings. Ms. Shepp reminded the Committee that with New Varieties, Florida has the first right of refusal. If we fund California, the study should be repeated in Florida. When it was suggested it be tested in the greenhouse first, then the field later,

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Ms. Shepp reminded of the urgency. Mr. Leotti proposed funding the project in a hot psyllid house, and if there are good results, then move to the field at EPA approved sites. Mr. Himrod made a motion to fund 22-023 but that the study take place in Florida. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Dr. Brlansky's pre-proposal for Management of citrus blight, to fund an OPS position to move the project along. The committee didn't feel the CRISPR portion of the project should be funded. Dr. Scully made a motion to recommend that the board invite a full proposal on objectives 1 and 2 to obtain better data, but not support the CRISPR portion of the pre-proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed with a single opposing vote by Ms. Chamberlain.

In other business, Mr. Dantzler said there will be a joint meeting of the Select Committee, RMC, Board and growers on April 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps in plant improvement.

Mr. Dantzler introduced a couple other research topics to measure the interest of the committee in having them included in an RFP. The first was mechanical harvesting. It was decided that we should focus on getting healthy trees and production levels back before doing so.

The next potential topic was CUPS, but that was not considered as a suitable topic for an RFP because so few researchers have access to CUPS facilities.

Mr. Dantzler noted that HLB-MAC has been trying to determine the best fit for its funding.

Mr. Dantzler reported eight pre-proposals have been received in response to the RFP that closed March 13<sup>th</sup>. The CTV vectoring is in progress, with Mr. Ireya providing data to IR4.

Mr. Dantzler asked that growers share their research questions and observations that arise as OTC treatments are used. There was discussion of several fungicides or insecticides already approved for other fruit that could potentially be used on citrus which could be pursued.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Thompson.