



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, May 23, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the UF-IFAS-CREC, Ben Hill Griffin, Jr. Citrus Hall, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, FL 33850. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Vice-President David Howard called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Aaron Himrod, David Howard, Deeley Hunt, Ron Mahan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Eric Rohrig, Joby Sherrod, and John Updike.

Also participating were Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Steve Futch, Mike Irey, Audrey Nowicki, Jim Syvertsen, Barbara Thompson, Callie Walker, and Rosa Walsh.

President Morgan Porter noted the minutes from the April 25, 2023 Board meeting were available in their packet for review and approval. Mr. Himrod made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Executive Committee: Did not meet.

Finance and Audit Committee: Mr. Mahan summarized the financial summary and made a motion to approve the April 30, 2023, statement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahan noted that the F&A Committee had reviewed the staff analysis of remaining legislative funds expected to be utilized through the end of the year and decided that \$450,000 could be allocated to the existing tree therapy projects being funded through CRAFT. Using remaining legislative funds for CRAFT projects was a policy decision made previously by the board. Mr. Mahan made a motion that these funds be made available to CRAFT for such purpose. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahan noted that the committee reviewed the initial budget for FY 2023-2024, but suspended consideration until the RMC makes its recommendations in June on proposals being considered. The budget will be considered again at the June F&A meeting.

Mr. Mahan made a motion to approve hiring the audit firm of Bunting, Tripp & Ingley, LLC to perform the June 30, 2023, audit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler shared that he had reached out to citrus organization Executive Directors to see if their groups had voiced a recommendation for the box tax rate. He noted that he had not heard back, which indicated to him that they were willing to trust the judgment of the CRDF board. Last year the rate was reduced from three pennies to two. Mr. Updike recommended the rate remain at two cents. There was general agreement, and an opinion was expressed that CRDF had recommended that its rate be reduced partly to potentially prompt one other group to do the same.

Governance Committee: Mr. Himrod made a motion to accept the following slate of members for the Finance and Audit committee: Rob Atchley, Ron Mahan, Chris Gunter, Eric Rohrig, and Matt Story. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Mr. Himrod made a motion to accept the following slate of members for the Governance committee: Rob Atchley, Aaron Himrod, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, John Updike, George Hamner, Morgan Porter, and Joby Sherrod. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed unanimously.

Mr. Himrod made a motion to restructure the Select Committee on Plant Improvement committee to a standing committee. Its mission would be primarily to analyze data related to new varieties to determine which had sufficient resumes to be advanced to large-scale field trials or mass propagation to get more genetic diversity into the field. In order to better represent the entire industry, it was necessary to expand the current membership of 13, which is the limit for a select committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed with one opposing vote.

Mr. Himrod made a motion to accept the slate of Plant Improvement participants (Appendix attached). The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed unanimously.

Mr. Himrod made a motion to approve the updated Business Plan as presented in the materials. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed unanimously.

Mr. Himrod noted that the COO Review and Conflict of Interest forms will be sent out via email and should be returned by June 12, 2023.

Research Management Committee: Mr. Updike brought forward the consideration of Dr. Santra's #21-002 Year-2 funding for his Zinkicide project. Mr. Updike noted concerns, so action was deferred until the concerns could be addressed.

Mr. Dantzler reviewed discussions from the Workshop on April 25, 2023.

Mr. Updike discussed the status of RFPs: Gamechangers; Application of OTC with other Antimicrobials; Application of Essential Oils with and without OTC.

Mr. Updike made a motion to contract up to \$100,000 for the testing of essential oils and other compounds to include Dr. Scully's list of 25 and any others that were submitted. Each product tested will be either \$1,000 or \$4,000, depending on which assay was used. Mr. Mahan then seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The RFP on essential oils will be addressed at the RMC June meeting. It was suggested that Matt McLean be consulted since they use several.

Mr. Updike brought up the Jin proposal. Mr. Dantzler stated that Dr. Jin is willing to move forward with this project by doing half the work in California and half in Florida. Since this is contrary to what was approved, it is not likely that this project will be moving forward.

Mr. Dantzler noted that he had heard from a couple of growers who had reported that the OTC products were changing colors and sediment was forming in the tanks, and getting hot in the tanks. Consequently, he reached out to Henry Yonce to get a price for testing, which had to be done quickly because the injection season was ending. The price was \$34,000 because of the high number of leaf samples, estimated at 700-800 leaves, a big ask for DOC to do quickly. . Additionally, there was more testing that needed to be done beyond leaf sample, such as testing was quality, whether OTC stayed potent after a day or so in the tank, etc. as a result, CRDF received a quote from Dr. Santra of UCF to do this work, which was approximately \$15,000. Because of the urgency, Mr. Dantzler signed the contracts (after checking with leadership, with Yonce and Santra Mr. Himrod moved to ratify the action The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed.

Mr. Dantzler mentioned the Annual Citrus Conference coming up in June and that the Educational Session topics selected will be of interest to growers.

Dr. Curtis' GA and 2,4-D data has been received from his directed research project. Brandon Page is compiling it into a report and will be made available after it is reviewed. Mr. Updike will also be emailing a report of trees treated/untreated with Gibberellic Acid.

Mr. Dantzler also noted that CRDF is required to have an RFP for the \$35 million that the Legislature allocated for existing tree therapies, making it available to everyone.

Mr. Dantzler reported there are 45 to 50 ECDRE – NIFA grants for which reviews are starting today.

Ms. Porter and Mr. Dantzler will be meeting with Dr. Angle the following week.

Mr. Howard asked how MAC funds were distributed - all of that funding went to CRAFT projects in citrus producing states.

It was noted that the continuation of funding for the Southern Gardens Lab will be addressed at the June 7 RMC meeting.

Partnership Updates: The UF-IFAS update was given by Dr. Mastrodicasa. Dr. Kirsten Pelz-Stelinski has been named the Center Director of the Mid-Florida Research Center in Apopka. Dr. Ron Cave is retiring from the Indian River Research and Education Center. There will be a Search and Screen committee set up to search for his replacement.

New Business: None

Public Comments: None

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.

Appendix

Proposed Membership for new Standing Committee

Processors:

Dave Crumbly, Florida's Natural
Wes Johnson, Coca-Cola
Bill Poulton, Tropicana
Ricardo Violante, Cutrale

Growers:

Larry Black, Ridge Grower
Steve Callaham, Dundee/CUPS
¹David Howard, Graves Bros/E Coast grower
Cody Lastinger, Collier/SW grower
Ed Leotti, Tamiami, SW grower
Ben McLean, Uncle Matt's/Lake Co/organic
Brian Randolph, IMG
Jim Snively, Southern Gardens/Ridge grower
Pete Spyke, East Coast Grower
Lyn Stewart, Alico/SW grower

Category II Board Member:

Chris Gunter, UF

Nursery Growers:

¹Aaron Himrod, Himrod
Nate Jameson, Brite Leaf

Government/Ex-officio (non-voting):

Peter Chaires, NVDC
Brandon Page, CRDF
Ben Rossen, DPI
Erin Roskopf, USDA
Rosa Walsh, DOC
Tamara Wood, CRAFT

¹Category I Board Member