



Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting May 23, 2023

A meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 9:30 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. The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chairman Ron Mahan. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Finance and Audit Committee members present were Rob Atchley, Ron Mahan, and Jeanna Mastrodicasa. Also participating were Rick Dantzler, Aaron Himrod, David Howard, Audrey Nowicki, Barbara Thompson, and John Updike.

Mr. Atchley moved to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2023 Finance and Audit committee meeting with an amendment which stated that the committee's action on the matter of increasing the Foundation's support for the Florida Citrus Mutual Annual Conference was to not make a recommendation but to defer to the board's judgment. Also, it was Mr. Mahan, not Mr. Atchley, who noted the positive variance of \$16,725 for Research Workshops and Field Ops. The motion to approve the minutes as amended was then seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahan asked Ms. Nowicki to review the April 30, 2023 Financial Statement. The CRAFT funding of \$5 million was invoiced on the Legislative contract in April. Mr. Mahan questioned how those funds would be paid out. Ms. Nowicki stated that the full amount is not immediately remitted to CRAFT. They provide a spreadsheet itemizing the projects they are funding, including the numbers of acres, whether the grower has over or under 2,500 acres, and a copy of the signed contract. The funds are then paid to CRAFT for that portion as they are verified. Mr. Atchley moved to approve the April 30, 2023 Financial Statement as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler presented the matter of increased funding to CRAFT for Existing Tree Therapies. The amount of \$775,000 was previously approved but the board had decided that if other funds were available as we neared the end of the fiscal year to dedicate them to CRAFT. With an additional \$450,000 now available, Dr. Mastrodicasa, after discussion, made a motion for approval of the additional funds. Mr. Atchley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

For the purpose of considering a budget for FY 2023-2024, it was assumed that CRDF would fund all projects currently under consideration, including three gamechanger proposals, the Brlansky project, the five antimicrobial projects, plus nine additional projects. If all these projects were funded, it would result in a \$1,050,000 deficit at the end of FY 2023-24, so it was decided to revisit the draft budget in June after RMC has met to consider many of these preproposals and proposals.

Mr. Dantzler discussed two contracts for the next fiscal year. The Agerpoint contract will continue with the data collection on CRDF's 7-year-old rootstock trials, which have been injected with OTC, so collecting data for a few more years will show whether OTC injections have an effect on production. The second was with FFVA to have Mike Aerts available for consultation on regulatory matters. Currently, the \$2,500 monthly retainer provides for 10 hours of their services, and then we would begin paying on an hourly basis. The contract price is \$30,000 per year.

There was a general discussion of how there were other projects on the list that might not be funded, which reinforced the Committee's recommendation that a draft budget be deferred until RMC met.

Not included in the 2023-24 budget was the \$5,000 for Agnet's grower meeting that was held in Ft. Pierce two months ago, which CRDF funded in April 2023, or the additional \$10,000 sponsorship to Mutual for the June 2023 Grower Conference that was approved at the last meeting.

Also in the budget was a 5% salary increase for all employees even though it is not known what UF will do as it relates to salaries.

The next item was the AgNet sponsorship for next year which would be \$10,000 for the Citrus Expo, and \$5,000 for the Indian River Show. The final decision would be made by the Board.

The audit firm of Bunting-Tripp has quoted CRDF a fee not to exceed \$23,000. Mr. Atchley moved to keep Bunting-Tripp as CRDF's audit firm for the next fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Thompson.