



CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Research Management Committee Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

A meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, April 18, 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 10:06 a.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, Ed Leotti, Tom Obreza, Morgan Porter, Daniel Scott, Brian Scully, Shannon Shepp, Wayne Simmons, Buddy Strickland, and John Updike. Also participating were Fernando Alvarez, Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Gary England, Dalton Farr, Stephen Futch, Matt Joyner, Matt Mattia, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Mark Ritenour, Swadeshmukul Santra, Kirsten Stelinski, Barbara Thompson, and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Updike noted the minutes of the March 20, 2023, Research Management Committee meeting were included with the meeting materials. Mr. Himrod made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Porter and passed unanimously.

Discussion of Preproposals and Recommendations to the Board began with:

Ozgur Batuman, ‘Determining the effect of oxytetracycline on Asian citrus psyllid feeding, CLas transmission, and insect microbiota.’ Ms. Porter made a motion to ask for a full proposal, with identification of the antimicrobials that will be used; streptomycin should be included. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

Amit Levy, ‘Improving oxytetracycline upload into the phloem by linking glucose.’ Dr. Dawson gave his staff review. Mr. Himrod made a motion to ask for a full proposal on Objectives 1 and 2 to prove the concept and adjust the budget accordingly. If the concept is approved, the PI can come back to CRDF for funding of the field work. Regarding Objective 2, the motion also included a request that the PI test injecting OTC and a separate injection of glucose to see if the same results were obtained as injecting them alone. This would be done in case an EPA registration problem was incurred with including injecting them in the same solution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barben and passed with one no vote.

Kranthi Mandadi, ‘Trunk injection-based evaluation of novel anti-CLas chemistries and OTC combinations for Florida citrus and HLB disease management.’ The committee wanted more testing besides just the two or three mentioned in the pre-proposal. Dr. Scully is working on a list that they would be interested in seeing tested. Ms. Porter made a motion to ask for a full proposal. The motion was seconded by Ms. Shepp and passed unanimously.

It was requested that Dr. Scully have his list developed and ready for discussion at the Board of Directors meeting on April 25, 2023.

Zhenli He, 'Integration of OTC trunk injection with root growth enhancers for sustaining citrus production of the HLB-affected groves.' The proposal was considered vague and lacking in detail. Nevertheless, Mr. Barben made a motion to ask for a full proposal, which was seconded by Dr. Scully, with the request for more detail.

Nabil Killiny, 'Assessment of CLas population, transmission efficiency, and antibiotic residues after trunk-injection with OTC and FANA in field trees.' Dr. Syvertsen gave his staff summary. Dr. Dawson relayed the information that was in Dr. Kirsten Stelinksi's Progress Report from another project in the same subject area. Mr. Leotti thought that questions regarding FANA and OTC (together and alone) could be answered in the full proposal. Ms. Porter made a motion to ask for a full proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leotti and passed unanimously.

Madhurababu Kunta, 'Oxytetracycline and Aliette treatments to manage citrus HLB disease.' Mr. Strickland made a motion against asking for a full proposal. The motion was seconded by Ms. Porter and passed unanimously. This preproposal will not move forward.

Ching-Hong Yang, 'Determine the efficacy of a natural metabolite, oxytetracycline, and a combination of both in controlling HLB in citrus plants through trunk injection.' Mr. Himrod made a motion against asking for a full proposal. The motion was seconded by Ms. Porter and passed unanimously. This preproposal will not move forward.

A discussion of Y. Duan Preproposal followed. Mr. Himrod noted that he had just been at the Citrus Show where trees infected with this virus were showing new growth and were HLB free, so he was on board with this project. If it does what is wanted, it would negate the need for CRISPR and GMO. Dr. Scott asked if the lack of a survey of trees would affect the cost and Mr. Dantzler stated that it would not (it was not in the project). Mr. Simmons made a motion to ask for a full proposal. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morgan and passed unanimously.

Dr. Santra and Dr. Alvarez gave a slide show presentation to bring their 1st Year Review to the Committee. There were several questions during and after the presentation. Mr. Himrod made a motion to extend funding for a second year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Porter and passed with Mr. Barben abstaining.

Mr. Dantzler spoke regarding a meeting between Washington apple breeders and University breeders to discuss GMOs. There were comments regarding the need for help with regulatory requirements.

Ms. Shepp noted that we need both researcher transparency and University transparency. We need to know what we have and how we can move forward.

There were no Public Comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Thompson.