



Minutes of the Governance Committee Meeting May 23, 2023

A meeting of the Governance Committee, Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at UF-IFAS-CREC, 700 Experiment Station Road, Ben Hill Griffin Jr. Citrus Hall, Room 101, Lake Alfred, FL 33850. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Chairman Aaron Himrod. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were Rob Atchley, Aaron Himrod, and Jeanna Mastrodicasa. Also present were Rick Dantzler, Audrey Nowicki, and Barbara Thompson.

Mr. Himrod noted that the minutes of the December 18, 2022 Governance meeting were in the materials packet for review. Mr. Atchley made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

Mr. Himrod presented the proposed slate of members for CRDF Finance and Audit Committee: Rob Atchley, Ron Mahan, Chris Gunter, Eric Rohrig, and Matt Story. Mr. Atchley's term ends on December 31, 2023. Dr. Mastrodicasa would be replaced by Dr. Gunter, and we would be adding Eric Rohrig and Matt Story upon their acceptance of the nomination. Dr. Mastrodicasa made a motion to accept the slate of members to be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. It was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed unanimously.

The proposed membership of the CRDF Governance Committee consisted of Rob Atchley, Aaron Himrod, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, John Updike, and George Hamner. Since Rob Atchley and John Updike will be coming off the Board on December 31, 2023, Morgan Porter and Joby Sherrod would be added pending their acceptance of the nomination. Dr. Mastrodicasa made a motion to recommend this slate of members to the Board of Directors for approval. It was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler introduced the subject of changing the Select Committee on Plant Improvement to a standing committee, which would become the Plant Improvement Committee and would require a change in bylaws. The general consensus that evolved from the April 25, 2023 Workshop was that this membership needed to be expanded for it to assume the responsibilities envisioned, primarily placing germplasm in one of three levels of the plant breeding pipeline. This was a staff recommendation that could be brought before the Research Management Committee when it meets on June 7, 2023, to see if those committee members agree with this concept.

The breeders were not made members of the new committee, even in an ex official capacity. Since the committee would be deciding what to advance through the plant breeding pipeline and where nominations were placed, it was thought this would be a conflict of interest for the breeders if they were on the committee, especially since most nominations would be coming from them.

It was brought up that this Plant Improvement Committee might be the same as the Research Management Committee. It was stated by Mr. Dantzler that the RMC would continue to consider scientific proposals, but not pass judgement on the placement of specific germplasm in the plant breeding pipeline.

A motion was made by Mr. Atchley that the Governance Committee make a recommendation to the Board that this proposed slate of membership (Appendix attached) become a standing committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dantzler introduced the proposed new Business Plan for the coming year: It lays out the recent history for the CRDF, and industry struggles. It discusses the pathway document, injecting OTC, and renews the commitment to identifying promising germplasm, facilitating its testing and new propagation where appropriate. Mr. Dantzler asked that they also consider that it establishes a goal of getting our production back to where it was in 2014, which was in the 95 million box range. It discusses our evolution towards directed research and off-cycle funding but maintains the requirement for peer review for anything we find. It restates the need to assist with product development, including helping companies get their products across the finish line; and changes the organizational chart to reflect that we no longer have a science manager with the departure of Catherine Hatcher. Those were the primary changes in the business plan. Mr. Atchley made a motion to accept the Business Plan changes to be presented to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa and passed unanimously.

The form for the COO Review was included in the materials. The Conflict-of-Interest forms and COO Review forms will be distributed shortly.

There were no public comments.

With no further business, Mr. Himrod asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Atchley so moved and was seconded by Dr. Mastrodicasa. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Thompson.

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

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