



Research Management Committee Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

A meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Wednesday, September 20, 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. The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chairman John Updike. Roll was called and a quorum was not present. We moved to Agenda Item G for the Santra Report. After that, a quorum was present, and we went back to approving the minutes and continued with the agenda. Committee members participating were Bobby Barben, Holly Chamberlain, Steve Farr, Ned Hancock, David Howard, Tom Obreza, Daniel Scott, Brian Scully, Shannon Shepp, and John Updike.

Also participating were Rob Atchley, Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Stephen Futch, Jim Graham, George Hamner, Bruce Luzzi and his associate Emily, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Jorge Pereira, Swadeshmukul Santra, Barbara Thompson, and Rosa Walsh.

Brandon Page started with his reporting on the Santra Tank Mixes. Dr. Santra and Jorge Pereira joined in by Zoom with their reporting and answered questions posed by the Committee. It was noted that growers should mix only the amount of product needed for that day. If it sits, it will collect sediment. Also, store the mixture in the shade with little light exposure. Mr. Barben made a motion to continue the H. Yonce Tank Mix project for a second year for the purpose of collecting data on fruit drop, yield and quality. It was seconded by Dr. Scully and passed unanimously.

Mr. Updike noted the minutes of the July 18, 2023, Research Management Committee meeting were included with the meeting materials. Ms. Shepp made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Chamberlain and passed unanimously.

Consideration of requested revisions to Antimicrobials with OTC invited proposals and recommendations to the Board:

Batuman, Ozgur 23-014. Dr. Futch noted that the budget had been reduced from \$101,000 to \$84,000 and the molecules to be tested had been modified to address concerns expressed previously. The revision addressed all comments raised. No graduate students were paid from this project. A motion was made by Mr. Scott to recommend funding the revised proposal. It was seconded by Dr. Scully and passed unanimously.

Mandadi, Kranthi 23-018. Dr. Dawson and Mr. Dantzler noted that the revised proposal eliminated one molecule to be tested from the original proposal and added three more, for a total of five. The budget had also been reduced by approximately \$14,000. Mr. Dantzler noted that he had received an email from Dr. Mandadi that all five molecules have either been approved or would have no problem getting approved. Mr. Barben made a motion to recommend funding the revised proposal. It was seconded by Dr. Scully and passed unanimously.

Consideration of off-cycle projects (proposals):

Minter/Yonce: Dr. Futch noted that three chemicals were used. There were 10 treatments of 2- to 3-year-old trees. Ninety trees were injected. Ten trees were used for the control. Budget is \$55,000 for 1 year. There was discussion of the possibility of the antimicrobial (a derivative of rifampicin) being approved. Mr. Dantzler said that Mike Aerts had told him that since this was not used in human health and wouldn't be unless the owner of the patent sought such use, it would be viewed differently by regulators, which doesn't mean it would necessarily be approved but would receive a different level of scrutiny. This had been said to Mr. Dantzler by the president of the company that had the patent, too. Dr. Scully made a motion to recommend funding the proposal as presented. It was seconded by Ms. Shepp and passed unanimously.

Santra's pH neutral injection solution: Dr. Graham presented his summary. After discussion, Mr. Scott made a motion to recommend that this scope of work, with the addition of streptomycin, be put out for bid. It was seconded by Mr. Barben and passed unanimously.

Injection of OTC, Kphite, Prophyt, and Magna Bon: After Dr. Graham's summary, Mr. Barben made a motion to recommend that this scope of work be put out for bid. It was seconded by Mr. Scott and passed unanimously.

CRAFT proposal in response to RFP: Dr. Futch presented a summary of the request. After discussion, Ms. Shepp made a motion to recommend that this be funded. It was seconded by Mr. Barben and passed unanimously.

Consideration of off-cycle projects (pre-proposal) for Dr. Yu Wang: Dr. Futch gave the summary, and it was recommended to invite a full proposal. Dr. Scully moved to recommend the Board invite a full proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Chater updated the committee on the status of the reconfiguration of the 127 acres at CREC. Dr. Chater said that he thought the material could be consolidated significantly. He indicated that UFarm charges for the entire 127 acres would be approximately \$80,000 per year for 3 years which would be matched by UF. The 127 acres would be kept for citrus trials. A motion was made by Ms. Shepp to recommend that Dr. Chater provide a full proposal for the initial phase of repurposing the 127 acres managed by UFarm to potentially move/replant those trees showing resistance to CLas after several years in the ground or propagate those trees. It was seconded by Dr. Scully and passed unanimously.

Bruce Luzzi and his associate Emily gave a Power Point presentation on the Invaio injectable OTC product. They displayed their injector and passed around samples of the cannister and various sizes of tips that were used for injection of the product. They found maximum concentration 2 days after injection, and it started to decline after 21 days. They injected 30 days after transplant from the nursery. There were several questions from the committee on efficacy and cost.

Mr. Dantzler discussed the genetic field day held a couple weeks ago.

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Mr. Dantzler described a USDA project where, to date, 88 molecules were injected last spring and early summer, with a few of them (13) showing better results than the control OTC-injected trees. Dr. Scully researched each of the molecules for the pathway for regulation prior to starting the project. The top molecules will be tested on grapefruit.

There was no new business and there were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Thompson.