



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, August 22, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, August 22, 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. President Morgan Porter called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Chris Gunter, George Hamner, Aaron Himrod, David Howard, Deeley Hunt, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Morgan Porter, Eric Rohrig, Joby Sherrod, Matt Story, and John Updike.

Also participating were Robin Bryant, Peter Chaires, John Chater, Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Steve Futch, Fred Gmitter, Jim Graham, Weston Johnson, Matt Joyner, Emma Keller, Audrey Nowicki, Chris Oswald, Brandon Page, Amir Rezazadeh, Michael Rogers, Erin Roskopf, Shannon Shepp, Barbara Thompson, Eric Triplett, Salvatore Tropea, Leigh-Ann Vigne, Rosa Walsh, Tamara Wood, and Mongi Zekri. Additional participants in the Research Priorities Joint discussion that followed from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. were Bobby Barben, Holly Chamberlain, Steve Farr, Jude Grosser, Ned Hancock, Gio Ijpkemeule, and Matthew Mattia.

President Morgan Porter noted the minutes from the July 25, 2023 board meeting were available in their packets for review and approval. Mr. Hamner 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. Sal Tropea from Bunting, Tripp & Ingley LLP reviewed the audit, financial statement, and Form 990 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. He reported that CRDF had no findings and highlighted pertinent items as he reviewed the documents, pointing out the correlating figures in the financial statement and tax return.

Mr. Atchley made a motion for the Board approval of both the audited financial statements and Form 990 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Mr. Atchley made a motion to approve the July 31, 2023, financial summary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamner and passed unanimously. Mr. Dantzler pointed out the line item showing \$1.5M in uncommitted funds budgeted for this year.

Mr. Dantzler discussed a request from the Citrus Research Board for sponsorship of the IRCHLB, taking place March 26-29, 2024 in Riverside, California. For \$10,000 sponsorship, CRB offers four registrations for the conference, and offered that CRDF would pay travel expenses for those attending out of the travel allotment. Dr. Rogers, a member of the steering committee, noted that several international researchers will be in attendance. Mr. Atchley moved to approve Sponsorship up to \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

Governance Committee: Did not meet.

Research Management Committee: Did not meet.

Mr. Dantzler noted the draft RFP soliciting proposals for the \$35 million for large-scale field trials, new plantings, or therapies for existing trees. CRAFT agreements would be modified as needed. Mr. Hamner made a motion to accept the RFP. It was seconded by Mr. Himrod and passed unanimously.

Since the NIFA Bayer project had a balance of \$1,133,000 that was not spent, a no-cost extension was requested and granted. The semi-annual oversight committee meeting will be held on September 7 with Dr. Manker, researchers, CRDF, and stakeholders to provide any updates on commercialization, and informational items. A second meeting will be scheduled with Bayer, CRDF, Pepsico, Coca-Cola, the Citrus Research Board, and industry reps to determine what research will move to commercialization, potentially one antimicrobial and one plant defense modulator.

As requested, Mr. Dantzler and Dr. Futch met with Dr. Batuman to discuss RMC and Board recommendations requested prior to considering his proposal for approval.

Mr. Dantzler and Dr. Dawson also met with Dr. Levy to discuss requested revisions.

Dr. Mandadi eliminated one compound from his list to be tested because it is used in human health, and added three more that weren't. A non-disclosure agreement has been entered into.

The RMC will meet the week of September 18. The Board meeting is scheduled for September 26.

Mr. Hamner asked about the pH neutral solution for applying OTC. Dr. Santra said his proposal, estimated to cost \$15,000 to \$30,000, depending on the lab analysis used, is in progress.

COO Report: No report.

Partnership Updates:

Dr. Michael Rogers, UF-IFAS- CREC: Expo was just held, and presentations will be available online shortly.

USDA: Dr. Erin Roskopf reviewed their symbiont technology, having identified four peptides that are showing promise. They are having the 2023 USDA-ARS Field Day on August 31, 2023 on CRISPR and GMO work. There will be presentations in the morning, followed by a walking tour of the Picos Farm.

Matt Joyner, Florida Citrus Mutual: The Legislative planning meeting is coming up in the next couple weeks, and he expects a lot of funding opportunities this season.

New Business: None

Public Comments: None

Future Meeting: September 26 at UF-IFAS-CREC, Lake Alfred.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m., to be followed by Plant Improvement discussions with researchers and industry.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.