



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, September 26, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at UF-IFAS-CREC, 700 Experiment Station Rd, Lake Alfred, FL 33850. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. President Morgan Porter called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board members present were Rob Atchley, Chris Gunter, David Howard, Deeley Hunt, Ron Mahan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Morgan Porter, Eric Rohrig, Joby Sherrod, Matt Story, and John Updike.

Also participating were Robin Bryant, Dave Crumbly, Rick Dantzler, Bill Dawson, Steve Futch, Fred Gmitter, Mike Irey, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Jim Syvertsen, Barbara Thompson, Leigh-Anne Vigne, Rosa Walsh, Tamara Wood, and Mongi Zekri.

President Morgan Porter noted the minutes from the August 22, 2023 board meeting were available in their packet for review and approval. Mr. Updike made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hunt and passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Executive Committee: Did not meet.

Finance and Audit Committee: Ms. Nowicki presented the August 31, 2023, Financial Summary and Citrus Marketing Order account balance. Mr. Mahan made a motion to approve the financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Governance Committee: In Mr. Himrod's absence, Mr. Dantzler presented the Governance items.

All Conflict-of-Interest forms for FY 2023-2024 have not been submitted. Mr. Updike made a motion to approve the COI forms as presented and notify Gainesville of completion of the process. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hunt and passed unanimously.

Mr. Updike made a motion to approve the Edits to the CRDF By-Laws to Include the Plant Improvement Committee as a Standing Committee with a Category 2 member included. Noting that the reports from Dr. John Chater (UF) and Dr. Matt Mattia (USDA) will be submitted soon, Mr. Dantzler said an upcoming Joint Meeting with RMC and the Plant Improvement Committee will be held to discuss germplasm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mahan and passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahan made a motion to approve the Agreement between CRDF and Dr. Brian Scully which would compensate him \$100.00 per molecule identified to be field tested by the USHRL (not to exceed \$10,000). The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

CRDF Processes: Mr. Dantzler noted that one researcher had met with him and Ms. Porter and voiced his discontent about CRDF asking for a full proposal only to be denied funding since the reasons cited existed at the time the project was invited. Ms. Porter has suggested having researchers present their projects to RMC at the pre-proposal stage so that any questions raised could be addressed at that point.

Personnel - Staff Considerations: Mr. Dantzler noted that Brandon Page had received a job offer in the range of \$75,000 per year. He is currently making \$61,112. It was decided to ask for a market increase to raise Brandon to \$70,000. Mr. Atchley made a motion to accept the suggested raise for Brandon. Mr. Story seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The manager for the CRDF Office Manager (Audrey Nowicki) is currently \$62,963. The Governance Committee agreed to increase her salary to \$72,900. Mr. Atchley made a motion to accept the suggested raise for Audrey. Mr. Updike seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Dr. Michael Rogers mentioned to Mr. Dantzler that he believes the raises can become effective on October 1, 2023.

The COO Review has been completed and a letter will be sent to UF for acknowledgement. Mr. Dantzler reiterated that he is always available to address any concerns the Board and Committee members might have.

Research Management Committee:

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

Batuman, Ozgur 23-014 – At the recommendation of the RMC, Mr. Updike moved to approve funding of the revised proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hunt and passed unanimously.

Mandadi, Kranthi 23-018 – Following the recommendation of the RMC, Mr. Updike moved to approve funding Dr. Mandadi's revised proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atchley and passed unanimously.

Consideration of off-cycle project requests (Proposals):

T. Minter/H. Yonce – This is a 1-yr project with a budget of \$55,000. At the recommendation of the RMC, Mr. Updike moved to recommend funding the proposal as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hunt and passed unanimously.

Proposal to test Dr. Santra's pH neutral injection solution + streptomycin – At the recommendation of the RMC, Mr. Updike moved to request bids for this work. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hunt and passed unanimously.

Injection of OTC, Kphite, Prophyt, Magna Bon – The RMC moved to request bids for this scope of work. Mr. Updike moved to put this project out for bid. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hunt and passed unanimously.

Consideration of CRAFT proposal in response to RFP for large-scale field trials – The RMC moved to recommend funding the proposal as presented. Mr. Updike moved to fund the CRAFT proposal submitted

in accordance with proviso language. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hunt and passed unanimously.

Pre-proposal by Y. Wang, ‘Exploring the efficacy of natural antibacterial agents for CLas control via truck injection’ – The RMC recommended requesting a full proposal. Mr. Updike moved to request Dr. Wang submit a full proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hunt and passed unanimously.

It was noted that Dr. John Chater had presented his plans for the 127 acres at CREC and had been asked to come back with a proposal to obtain CRDF/UF Joint Funding of UFarm Charges.

RMC heard Dr. Santra’s Report on the tank mixes of OTC applications which Mr. Yonce performed, and agreed with Mr. Page’s recommendation to collect fruit quality, data, and yield. Mr. Updike moved to request a budget from Mr. Yonce to collect the data. Mr. Mahan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COO Report: Dr. Levy’s project has been withdrawn since he received federal funding, so CRDF is no longer considering it. Dr. Ping Duan missed his NIFA deadline and will be coming to CRDF for 1-year funding to fund his project until the next NIFA cycle. During the Legislative Ask meeting of the Florida citrus organizations, it was decided to ask for \$8 million and decide the split later. Mr. Matt Joyner was in Washington D.C. last week. Mr. Updike had shared an article on biophages with him, and he and Dr. Eric Triplett had a call scheduled later in the day for further discussion.

Partnership Updates:

Dr. Mastrodicasa gave the UF-IFAS update. The FFVA Annual Convention was taking place this week, Sept. 25-27, 2023. IFAS is expected to inform them on their level of internal funding of the transformation lab in the next week or so. UF is meeting with Senator Scott on the Farm Bill.

Mr. Dantzler had met with Drs. Scott Adkins, Randall Niedz, and Michelle Heck of USDA regarding the hairy root assay.

Mike Irely will be checking on the agreement between Dr. Mandadi and Southern Gardens. There is a non-disclosure agreement in effect with Texas A&M.

Public Comments:

Dr. Rosa Walsh announced a Florida Citrus Commission meeting on October 4 at 9:00 am to discuss utilization of their budget for the tree propagation program. It will also be available on TEAMS.

Tamara Wood announced a new Research Director has been hired from Alico for working with the CRAFT tree therapies program. Cycle 5 will be announced, and applications accepted beginning October 1, 2023. Florida Citrus Mutual is holding the 2023 USDA Citrus Crop Forecast

Luncheon on October 12, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Putnam Ranch, 8290 Martin Lane, Zolfo Springs, FL.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – CREC – Lake Alfred, FL.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Minutes submitted by John Updike, Secretary.