



CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2025

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, via Zoom only. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chair Morgan Porter. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Executive Committee members present were Rick Dantzler, John Davis, George Hamner, Morgan Porter, and Joby Sherrod.

There was no approval of minutes from the February 17, 2025, Executive committee meeting. The committee went directly to the discussion of the CRDF Budget Request, 2025-2026.

Mr. Dantzler noted that our legislative ask this year is a lot higher than usual, so we need to discuss potential reductions if that should become necessary. Matt Joyner requested a list of dollar amounts allocated for each of the 66 projects under contract and a few that might fall by the wayside if that should become necessary.

First discussed was the Soilcea project for propagation of their transgenic trees. This proposed 500 acres with 100,000 trees at a cost of \$13 per tree, totaling \$1.3 million. However, the project is contingent on receiving a Section 3. Mr. Hamner mentioned that the Florida Land Council had just met and was hopeful about the project moving forward quickly. Mr. Machata suggested this could be handled by the DOC and the Florida Department of Agriculture's mass propagation program, as they did with Donaldson and Robles. Mr. Hamner noted that DOC might not be willing to take the chance on putting trees out ahead of time, and we wanted to jumpstart potentially good trees.

Bo Meador had suggested at a prior meeting to buy trees from cancelled orders because of market conditions. This could be cut down to 10,000 trees. Mr. Sherrod noted that he had 10,000 trees that he could give them right now. Legal implications of funding Soilcea trees through different entities to avoid potential conflicts with state funding regulations were discussed. (Chapter 601 – DOC State Agency, CRDF UF Entity). Ms. Porter stated we would be supporting the nursery, not Soilcea. However, the key issue was whether Soilcea receives state funding, regardless of the source.

Soilcea could be cut from \$1.3 million to \$650,000. Brazilian ideas could be cut from \$500,000 to \$250,000.

Mr. Dantzler noted that penicillin works better than any antibiotic, but this could be dropped because of the unlikeliness of it being approved.

It was suggested to review the 66 existing projects for potential termination based on scientific merit and alignment with current research priorities. CRDF has 15 projects that are not directly related to greening. If it became necessary, CRDF would provide science-based arguments for termination of projects. They also discussed the possibility of denying no-cost extensions to projects that did not spend their allocated funds.

It was agreed that no motions would be passed. The committee was just enabling Mr. Dantzler and Ms. Porter to offer cuts as needed in the order they suggested.

In New Business, Mr. Dantzler had met with Brian Updike, Matt Machata, Riley McKenna, and Brian Wholly of Asymmetry. They could measure the durability of oxytetracycline at various points, comparing it with ascorbic acid, oxytetracycline with muriatic acid, and oxytetracycline with citric acid. They could have the results in two weeks for a cost of \$2,200. Dr. Davis expressed confidence in the experimental design since Dr. Albrecht was providing guidance. This experiment would be randomized and replicated. The committee agreed that Mr. Dantzler should proceed with the \$2,200 payment to Asymmetry Laboratory.

Mr. Sherrod shared the state's stance on ascorbic acid and M10, indicating that they would not pursue growers using these products. However, if a grower mixed these products with oxytetracycline and sold it as a commercial product, it would need to go through the state's process. There was also no implicit statement of residue compliance.

Mr. Sherrod noted that the Governance committee meeting scheduled for March 18, 2025, had been cancelled because Matt Joyner relayed that reorganization was being deferred until next session, so they could focus on the money aspect. Mr. Dantzler's retirement could be influenced by the reorganization plan. Before Governance met on the subject, they needed more feedback on where the industry as a whole would be. The governance meeting would be rescheduled in the next 1-2 months.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM.