



## **CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.**

### **Plant Improvement Committee Meeting**

#### **Minutes**

**Monday January 27, 2025**

A meeting of the Plant Improvement Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Monday January 27, 2025, via Zoom only. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM by Chair Joby Sherrod. Roll was called and a quorum was not present. Committee members participating were Steve Callaham, Peter Chaires, Nate Jameson, Wes Johnson, Brandon Page, Erin Roskopf, Joby Sherrod, Pete Spyke, and Rosa Walsh.

Mr. Sherrod noted that the minutes of the December 3, 2024, Plant Improvement Committee meeting were included with the meeting materials. However, we would have to approve them at a later date since there was not a quorum.

Chair Joby Sherrod noted that RMC had asked PIC to provide comments on two of the proposals that were submitted. First up was J. Chaparro, UF – ‘Generation and evaluation of citrus hybrids for processing’ - his scion trial on three rootstocks. Mr. Dantzler gave a summary of the proposal. RMCs first concern was purchasing a PCR and the request for other lab equipment. Dr. Chapparo believed that it was very important to the long-term benefit of his program to have a PCR machine available for quick results. The second concern of RMC was the finger lime component in Objective 3. Dr. Chapparo was going to use the finger lime and try to take resistance, or at least tolerance, characteristics from that variety and see if he could incorporate this into his new creations. Peter Chaires noted that the New Variety Development Board had spent a lot of time with Dr. Chapparo on this aspect of his work. Through his efforts to collect various wild selections of desert lime in Australia, he has come in with a very early flowering selection that has really accelerated these efforts, and so the NVD board was very encouraged by how rapidly this was moving. PIC showed support for the project, but thought he needed more data. PIC agreed with RMC on the purchase of a PCR at about \$70,000 but thought the hood replacement and other lab equipment should be funded through UF. There was no quorum, so a vote was not taken.

Second was Wes Johnson, The Coca Cola Company – ‘Trial of 30: The Next Stage 2 Citrus Trials to Combat Citrus Greening Disease’ - Mr. Johnson gave a short presentation. There are 60 accessions planted with 30 more identified. These would not be part of the original trial, but adjacent to it. The second set of trees would cost around \$60,000 for propagation plus another 12% added by UF for indirect costs. These trees would be planted on CREC property. Mr. Dantzler noted that when he shared this project at the FCM board meeting it was well-received. They were glad that Coca-Cola was involved. PIC also showed support for this project.

In Other Business, Mr. Dantzler let the PIC know that CRDF was searching for topics for an RFP and asked them to forward their ideas to him.

Nate Jameson brought forth the idea of leasing a site for new material with an independent caretaking company doing standard caretaking practices so that all methods would be the same throughout the trials.

There were no public comments and no new business, so the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 AM.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Thompson.