



CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Research Management Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, November 13, 2025

A meeting of the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at the Ben Hill Griffin, Jr. Citrus Hall, Room 101, UF/IFAS, CREC, 700 Experiment Station Rd, Lake Alfred, FL 33850. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Chairman Matt Machata. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were Dr. Scott Adkins, Bobby Barben, Holly Chamberlain, Dr. John Davis, Ned Hancock, Matt Machata, Charlie McKee, Bo Meador, Morgan Porter, Daniel Scott, Dr. Brian Scully, Shannon Shepp, and John Updike.

Mr. Machata stated that the minutes of the September 23, 2025, Research Management Committee meeting were included with the meeting materials. There were some changes to the minutes that were sent to the committee after the initial posting of materials. Ms. Porter moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barben and passed unanimously.

Mr. Machata announced that a Board meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 18, at Bok Tower to discuss UF Research Agreements, UF licensing of IP resulting from CRDF funding, and royalties.

First discussed was revised Directed Research proposal 25-007 from Dr. S. Santra, 'Novel trunk injection carriers for improving OTC and Zn distribution in HLB affected citrus trees.' Mr. Dantzler shared that at the last RMC meeting, two projects were discussed in tandem, one from Dr. Santra and the second from Dr. Alferez. There was a motion by Shannon Shepp to approve Santra contingent upon Trademark working with CRDF to recover CRDF project costs. Chapter 601 language should be discussed, too. It was seconded by Ms. Porter and passed unanimously.

Next was a request from L. Diepenbrock to fund the fifth year of 25-009 "Hibiscus/lebbeck mealybug management in CUPS.' After much discussion,, Mr. Meador moved to not invite a full proposal. Mr. McKee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Next was the discussion and recommendations on projects submitted under the Juvenility RFP, starting with the Revised Preproposal by Dr. N. Wang, 'Shorten the juvenility of non-transgenic Eds1 and Dmr6 edited citrus.' The budget had been reduced from \$700,000 to \$451,000. Dr. Scully made a motion to move forward with the most promising methods while exploring the possibility of using mature tree transformation to speed up the process and clarify licensing issues with the EDS1 and DMR6 genes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Shepp and passed unanimously.

This was followed by Dr. J. Qureshi 25-008 Proposal, 'Determination of Bt resistance in Asian citrus psyllid *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama.' Dr. Lukasz Stelinski joined the table and fielded questions based on his project dealing with similar issues. Ms. Shepp made a motion to approve the project. After further discussion, Ms. Shepp amended her motion to move forward with one year of funding to determine if Dr. Qureshi could create a resistant population of ACPs. It was seconded by Ms. Porter and Dr. Scully simultaneously. The motion passed with one no vote.

Next was the M. Dutt Preproposal, 'Genomic analysis of the Parson Brown sweet orange to identify novel CRISPR targets associated with enhanced HLB tolerance, higher brix, and lower fruit drop relative to other early-season sweet orange cultivars.' Mr. McKee made a motion to invite a full proposal but reach out to Charlie Messina on doing something on a larger scale through Direct Research. It was seconded by Ms. Porter and passed unanimously.

Then came the Triplett Preproposal, 'Improved foliar phosphate approach for the reduction of HLB symptoms and increased yield.' Mr. Dantzler had checked with CRDF leadership on possibly using unspent funds from project 25-032 that CRDF had funded with Dr. Triplett, which ended in January of 2025 with \$54,000 left over. They asked the university if it might be possible to reopen that project and perhaps use some of those unspent funds. Otherwise, those funds would come back to CRDF to spend on future projects. Mr. McKee proposed to deny and not invite a full proposal. It was seconded by Mr. Meador and passed unanimously.

The Full Proposal by K. Bowman, 'Manipulating juvenility-associated tolerance to increase profitability of sweet orange' was not received due to the federal government's shutdown, so action was deferred.

Dr. Jim Graham gave his slide presentation on his recent trip to Brazil. This was a follow up to the April visit by a CRDF delegation. This was a trip with Larry Black, Peace River Packing, to tour Fundecitrus facilities to better understand the process for identifying genes for non-susceptibility in *Emerocitrus*/*Microcitrus* hybrids; visit trials of semi-dwarfing rootstocks; and observe area-wide management of ACP with Surround sprays. Dr. Eduardo Girardi, EMBRAPA, was working on semi-dwarfing rootstocks. Surround sprayed on these trees presented as gray-white to ACP causing the psyllids to fly over.

Mr. Dantzler gave a truncated slide presentation on the October 31 Special Meeting of the board and what they had discovered when researching the history of their contracts with UF. This would update the committee, so they are ready for the November 18 Board meeting which would have a "Discussion of Intellectual Property and Royalties" with Dr. Mingder Yang, UF Innovate, and John Beuttenmuller, Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc. Dr. Yanni Logos with Soilcea would also be attending to answer any questions from the Board.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM.