CRDF Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc.

Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc.
Governance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2026

A meeting of the Governance Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Friday, April 17, 2026, by zoom and at the Ben Hill Griffin Conference Room at UF/IFAS CREC in Lake Alfred, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chair George Hamner. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were George Hamner, Ajia Ortth, Morgan Porter, and Joby Sherrod.

Mr. Hamner noted that the minutes of the January 27, 2026, Governance Meeting were included in the meeting materials for review. Mr. Sherrod made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Porter and passed.

Mr. Hamner proceeded with the discussion of the merger of CRDF with CRAFT. Ms. Jensen had provided a document on the statutes relative to the merger. Mr. Dantzler outlined the merger requirements and noted the plan of merger must be acted upon by both Boards, and there would likely be some UF involvement in the process of de-certifying CRDF as a DSO.

While CRDF's Articles of Incorporation state that all assets are turned over to UF, the legislation for the merger requires assets be transferred to CRAFT. CRDF will have to file Articles of Dissolution at some point. Mr. Dantzler and Mr. Hall have been communicating with UF legal and accounting representatives relative to the merger; all discussions have been collaborative. At UF's recommendation, funds should be deposited with UF to cover the two retiring staff members' payroll costs in July and August. There has been no opposition to Brandon Page's request to remain a UF employee subcontracted to CRAFT; as well, funds will be deposited to be sure payroll costs are covered until the contract is negotiated and executed.

Mr. Hamner noted there is no reason to extend CRDF as a group past June 30 or beyond the time required to complete the merger. Mr. Hall noted that if the budget language awards funds to CRDF, it must continue its existence, and he is prepared to handle any meetings scheduled for July to handle any corporate business that is required. Mr. Hamner clarified that the board will continue until the merger occurs, which is required by October 1.

Mr. Hall will circulate the required merger document in May. A timeline was generated to outline meetings that will occur to achieve the approval of the RFP for large scale field trials through award. Ms. Porter made a motion to approve the calendar as presented with the addition of the merger draft in May. The motion was seconded by Ms. Orth and passed.

Mr. Hamner started the discussion of the recommendation of CRDF board members who are best suited to transition to the CRAFT board for appointment by Commissioner Wilton Simpson. Mr. Dantzler previously emailed Board and RMC members inquiring if they have a desire to serve on the CRAFT Board or the RMC-like committee that will be formed. Ms. Porter said her vision of the RMC would contain five growers and three non-growers to represent UF and USDA-ARS. Potential grower members are Matt Machata, Charlie McKee, Riley McKenna, Bill Bohde and

Aaron Nelson; and non-grower members should include Dr. Scott Adkins and Dr. Brian Scully, and a representative from UF. Mr. Hamner suggested to Mr. Hall that the CRAFT Board consider these possibilities, to which he agreed.

Ms. Porter moved that the CRDF Board recommend that CRAFT include Matt Machata and Bill Bohde in their recommendations to the Commissioner for addition to the CRAFT Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Orth and passed unanimously.

Ms. Porter moved to recommend Brandon Page transition to working with CRAFT as part of the merger. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sherrod and passed.

Ms. Porter questioned if any of the project managers or scientific advisory board members would be interested in continuing their involvement in research with CRAFT. Mr. Hamner said if Mr. Hall is interested, Mr. Dantzler can contact them.

Under Other Business, Mr. Dantzler discussed Dr. Leandro Peña's upcoming visit the last week of April where he will meet with the Board, UF and USDA researchers, and tour Picos Farm.

He has had discussions recently with Fundecitrus which hosted a number of Board members last April. Fundecitrus would like to proceed with a general agreement evidencing an intention to collaborate, with a second agreement to follow that would address the importation of transgenic trees that repel psyllids. Also, Mr. Dantzler reported that USDA has in place a policy which does not allow USDA citrus to be transported to citrus-producing countries. UF, however, allows the exporting of citrus materials but has a policy which must be followed to make sure the exporting does not hurt Florida citrus growers. Since CRAFT would have to proceed with the cooperation agreement after the merger, it was suggested that this be postponed a couple of months. Mr. Dantzler has a conference call with Fundecitrus scheduled prior to the April Board meeting but he would not execute any sort of agreement without board approval.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Minutes submitted by G. Hamner