

**Citrus Research and Field Trial (CRAFT) Foundation, Inc.**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**  
**February 18, 2021**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Citrus Research and Field Trial (CRAFT) Foundation, Inc. was held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 via Zoom web conferencing. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. Chairman Glenn Beck called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Board members present were Glenn Beck, Dr. Harold Browning, Tom Mitchell, Phillip Rucks, Steve Smith, and John Updike, Jr. Also participating were Kristen Carlson, Dr. Patricia Ouimet and Tamara Wood.

Also present were Kevin Metheny and Mike Sparks.

**Presentation and Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the January 28, 2021 Board of Directors meeting were provided to members via email prior to the meeting. **Dr. Browning moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Updike seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Presentation and Approval of Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Mitchell reviewed the financial statements as of January 31, 2021. The question was raised asking what "unencumbered funds" were on the balance sheet. Mr. Metheny explained that those funds are allocated for grower payments but had not been released to specific growers yet. He indicated that he would change the wording before the next meeting to more accurately reflect the status of those funds. **Mr. Smith moved to approve the Treasurer's Report with the amended wording related to "unencumbered funds". Dr. Browning seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Update on Orri Licensing Requirements:** Ms. Wood provided an update on the licensing requirements related to Orri mandarins. She reached out to Southern Citrus Nursery, the only nursery in Florida currently licensed to sell Orri, and was told by Mr. Thayer that there is a minimum acreage planting requirement of 40 acres. However, he indicated that the license holder was willing to give written exemptions to growers participating in the CRAFT program

who may fall below that requirement. That will be addressed on a case-by-case basis during the contract process moving forward.

**Report from Technical Working Group and Request for Approval of Contracts:** Dr. Ouimet presented 23 projects to the Board of Directors for consideration following recommendations of approval from the Technical Working Group. Those projects included:

- Group One:
  - 063S
  - 072S
  - 076S
  - 080S
  - 081S
  - 093S
  - 104S
  - 105S
  - 139S

There was discussion surrounding the use of Odem mandarins in CRAFT\_2020\_063S and concerns related to the commercial availability and lack of previous testing of the variety. Based on those concerns **Mr. Updike moved to remove CRAFT\_2020\_063S from consideration and place it on the waitlist. Dr. Browning seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Dr. Browning moved to approved CRAFT\_2020\_072S, CRAFT\_2020\_076S, CRAFT\_2020\_080S, CRAFT\_2020\_081S, CRAFT\_2020\_093S, CRAFT\_2020\_104S, CRAFT\_2020\_105S, and CRAFT\_2020\_139S as presented. Mr. Updike seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

- Group Two:
  - 078S
  - 083S
  - 091S
  - 103S

**Mr. Mitchell moved to approved CRAFT\_2020\_078S, CRAFT\_2020\_083S, CRAFT\_2020\_091S and CRAFT\_2020\_103S as presented. Mr. Rucks seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

- Group Three:
  - 089S
  - 138S

**Dr. Browning moved to approve CRAFT\_2020\_089S as presented. Mr. Updike seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Following discussion there was concern regarding the use of individual protective tree covers (IPCs) as designed in CRAFT\_2020\_138S. **Mr. Updike moved to remove CRAFT\_2020\_138S from consideration and place it on the waitlist. Dr. Browning seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

- Group Four:
  - 057S
  - 109S

**Mr. Updike moved to approve CRAFT\_2020\_057S and CRAFT\_2020\_109S as presented. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

- Resets:
  - 115R
  - 124R
  - 132R

After noting a request for additional data collected related to 115R (how often and how many tamarixia will be released; how will the effect of the tamarixia be evaluated; and what compost rates will be used) **Dr. Browning moved to approve CRAFT\_2020\_115R, CRAFT\_2020\_124R and CRAFT\_2020\_132R. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Report on Data Collection and Sentinel Tree Selection/Mapping:** Ms. Carlson reported that data is being collected from Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) DPI, Aerobotics and CRAFT growers. All of that data must be standardized for inclusion in the CRAFT-USDA Data Portal. There are discrepancies in the identifiers used between data collection partners that are being addressed by CRAFT and USDA-ARS-PDI staff. A set of “naming conventions” will be published to guide data collection and identifiers used. Aerobotics is currently mapping Cycle I projects in order to facilitate the selection of sentinel trees. After completion of sentinel tree selection, growers will be given a map with a key of

identifiers to reference when submitting their data. Aerobotics and FDACS will also be given the key to allow for consistency in data collection.

**Presentation and Request for Approval of Laboratory Services Agreement with Waters**

**Laboratories, Inc.:** Ms. Carlson noted that nutritional analysis would be conducted on composite samples from each project once per year and would be provided through a contract with Waters Laboratories, Inc. located in Georgia. A draft contract was provided to the Board of Directors electronically prior to the meeting.

**Dr. Browning moved to approve the contract between CRAFT Foundation, Inc. and Waters Laboratories, Inc. as presented. Mr. Updike seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Presentation and Request for Approval of Letter of Support to CRDF for Continued Funding of**

**Southern Gardens Citrus PCR Testing Services:** Ms. Carlson reported that PCR testing will be performed on designated CRAFT projects utilizing the services of Southern Gardens Citrus through their agreement with the Citrus Research and Development Foundation. The exact protocol for testing is still be developed by the Technical Working Group and will be presented to the Board for consideration at a later date. In the meantime, Ms. Carlson permission to provide a letter of support to the CRDF recommending the continuation of their funding of PCR testing through Southern Gardens Citrus. Ms. Carlson also noted that she would like to see CRAFT utilize the existing agreement between CRDF and Southern Gardens, but also be prepared to assist in payment if an excess cost occurs due to CRAFT sampling.

**Mr. Mitchell moved to approve the letter of support recommending CRDF's continued funding of PCR testing through Southern Gardens Citrus. Dr. Browning seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Consideration of DRAFT Protocol for Fruit Production Data:** Ms. Carlson shared a draft protocol for Fruit Production Data collection. Staff hopes to put together a formal protocol to be shared with growers for comments prior to harvesting. The protocol will be revised as needed to establish the use of trip tickets, PIQ and Run reports, etc. in fruit production and quality data collection. Once a final protocol is developed, a workshop will be held in the summer or fall of 2021 to share with all CRAFT Cycle I and Cycle II growers.

Dr. Browning noted that on page 2 of the draft protocol, the language should be changed from “if at all possible...” to language requiring compliance.

**Presentation of Quarterly Report:** Directors were provided with a copy of the Quarterly Report required by CRAFT’s funding agreement with Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**Update on Status Presentation to Osama El Lissy, Deputy Administrator, PPQ USDA-APHIS:** Ms. Carlson reported that staff, data partners and members of the Technical Working Group presented a status update to Deputy Administrator El Lissy on February 10, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was very successful and Mr. El Lissy stated that he would like to see CRAFT serve as a model for other states and commodities moving forward. Mr. Mitchell thanked staff for their work in establishing the CRAFT program. Ms. Carlson thanked the volunteers on the TWG and Board for their role in making everything happen.

**Discussion Regarding Succession Planning:** Ms. Carlson noted that she would like to step away from her role as Program Manager sometime in the summer of 2021 or whenever the Board is able to find a replacement. She will be available to assist as needed after the transition. Mr. Mitchell requested an outline of the Program Manager’s responsibilities along with the amount of time spent in each area of work. Ms. Carlson will provide that document, with the note that responsibilities and activities will be changing to some extent after the establishment of Cycle II. She also noted that there has been discussion regarding the possibility of CRDF or FDACS being contracted to administer the program. Dr. Browning stated that he liked the idea of an agency overseeing the program.

Dr. Browning asked staff if there is any sense of fatigue or need for additional compensation related to the Technical Working Group’s support, most notably Mr. Page. Mr. Rucks and Dr. Browning requested that staff draft a letter to CRDF thanking them for allowing Mr. Page (and Dr. Graham) to dedicate so much time to CRAFT and asking if they will continue to be available in the future.

**New Business:** Dr. Browning thanked staff for sharing the Technical Working Group minutes, allowing the Board to get a better sense of how they are working at that level.

The next minute of the CRAFT Board of Directors will be held in late March or early April. Ms. Wood will survey the Board for a date and time.

Seeing no further business, Mr. Beck adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Tamara C. Wood, Secretary.