

# **Florida Citrus Commission Summary**

## **January 30, 2009**

### **FCC Teleconference Report**

This FCC Meeting Report provides a summary of the telephonic meeting.

#### **Executive Director's Remarks**

Ken Keck, Executive Director, reminded the FCC that Chairman Albritton discussed the decision to delay the implementation of the contract between FDOC and a private corporation to manage the current year's research agenda at the 1/21/09 FCC meeting and that no research projects had been funded to date.

Following the 1/21/09 FCC meeting, Senator J.D. Alexander met with FDOC staff, University of Florida (UF) President Bernie Machen, and representatives from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Citrus Mutual and the proposed private corporation steering committee. Alexander proposed the creation of a Direct Support Organization through the University of Florida to coordinate the citrus research disease and development process. The proposed private corporation steering committee submitted a draft of bylaws and articles of incorporation for a DSO on 1/29/09; the petition to create a DSO will be reviewed the UF Board of Trustees on 3/16/09.

It is incumbent that the FCC get funding to researchers as quickly as possible pending the establishment of this new mechanism.

FDOC staff recommended that FCC delegate research contracting authority directly to the Executive Director so that contracts can be executed expeditiously between now and the March FCC meeting. Proposals that have been recommended by NAS and approved by FCPRAC, as well as proposals in which submitters have addressed NAS critiques and have been approved for funding by FCPRAC, will be considered. Staff requested authority to sign up to 80 individual contracts, totaling no more than \$10 mm, in the next six weeks.

These contracts will each contain the following stipulations and terms:

- 1) Will be assignable to an entity designated by the FCC (the yet-to-be-formed mechanism referenced above).
- 2) Will have a 90-day "termination without cause" clause.
- 3) Will be for one year only.
- 4) Payments will be divided into equal quarterly installments, with first payment due at execution. Ten percent of annual total will be withheld until completion of final report.
- 5) Satisfactory quarterly progress reports posted to the FCPRAC Web site are necessary prior to releasing scheduled payments.
- 6) FDOC (or an entity to which contract is later assigned) will hold rights to an option to purchase a non-exclusive license to use and develop products based on discoveries from this research.

Staff further proposed that a description of contracts and obligated amounts executed each week be compiled and sent to the FCC.

The Commission unanimously approved a motion to accept the staff recommendation.

### **Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Benny W. Albritton, Jr. commended the commission for following through with the initial resolution made on 1/18/08 to provide support for citrus disease research. Albritton recognized Bob Norberg, Executive Deputy Director of Research and Operations, for his leadership role in the process to find greening solutions, and emphasized the need to continue real time communication with the FCC.