



Research, Education, and Economics (REE)
National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory
Board

Citrus Disease Subcommittee (CDS) Meeting Notes – Wednesday, March 6, 2024

CDS Members Present: William “Gee” Roe III, (Chair), Christopher Boisseranc, Gregory Galloway, Julia Inestroza, Wayne Simmons, James Snively, Ram Mohan Uckoo - 7

CDS Members Absent: John Gless – 1

NAREEE Board Staff Present: Kate Lewis, NAREEE Board Executive Director/Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Michele Simmons, Program Support Specialist

I. Welcome from Kate Lewis, Roll Call, and Quorum Check. Quorum was met.

DFO Lewis welcomed the group. She asked Ms. Simmons to go over the minutes review process. She asked if there were any questions on the process. There were none.

II. Statement from Chair: Dr. Goins welcomed the group. He had no updates and welcomed the new FY23 Members.

III. Old Business

DFO Lewis introduced Dr. Ram Mohan Uckoo who is a Research Development Manager at Wonderful Citrus to the Council. He is the newest CDS Member that was selected by Secretary Vilsack from the FY23 Candidate slate. Dr. Uckoo gave a brief background of himself. He is looking forward to work with the Council.

DFO Lewis gave an update on the FY24 candidate slate. The slate with the suggested nominees is now being reviewed by the Secretary's advisors. We're anticipating receiving the selected candidates soon. She will provide updates as they become available.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) responses to your FY24 Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension (ECDRE) research priorities and/or FY24 ECDRE Request for pre-application period (tentative) – DFO Lewis informed the Members that their FY24 ECDRE research priorities were sent to NIFA September 2023. The work product was approved by the parent Board. Because this is a product of the Federal Advisory Committee, the package is required to be sent to The REE Undersecretary's office for their review and then to the Office of the Secretary. Once the Secretary reviews the package, the Members will get a letter of acknowledgment from him. DFO Lewis asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Row stated that he read over NIFA's responses to their recommendations. They seemed to already be approved.

DFO Lewis stated that NIFA replied and sent a response to each of CDS's recommendations. These steps that she mentioned for routing the package to the Secretary's office is the final step of closing the loop for this work product. She asked if there were any more questions. There were none.

IV. New Business

DFO Lewis discussed the International Research Conference on Huanglongbing (IRCHLB) Meeting to be held March 26-29, 2024 (CA Citrus Research Board (CRB)). She is checking with the REE's front office to see if she will be able to attend the meeting. Due to the uncertainty of the Federal budget for FY44 and the continuing resolutions, she might not be able to attend. DFO Lewis encouraged the CDS Members that attend the meeting to meet up personally. She asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Inestroza stated that since the FY24 budget is not set in place for an in-person meeting, and that we have to think about our FY25 CDS work priorities, should we start thinking about our priorities soon than later?

Mr. Simmons asked if they could receive the last five-year priorities or CDS to compare them to see how they should proceed?

DFO Lewis stated since FY23 and FY24 priorities were the same, we can provide priorities for FY21, FY22, FY20. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

In-Person Meeting - DFO Lewis said that the Farm Bill is extended until September 30, 2024, which allows the CDS to continue their work. We are unclear of the FY24 Federal budget but will try and get a meeting in place once we have more details of the budget.

V. Wrap-up/Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m. EDT.