

**DRAFT**

**NAUFRP GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**September 20, 2022**  
**Baltimore, MD**  
**Minutes**

Welcome, Janaki Alavalapati, NAUFRP President: This is first in-person NAUFRP General Assembly since October 30, 2019 (Louisville, KY). Janaki thanked the Executive Committee for their work. He asked for comments on today's agenda; there were none.

Introductions: (participants listed at end)

Approval 2021 General Assembly Minutes: The draft minutes were sent to the listserv and posted on the webpage prior to this meeting. Janaki asked for a motion to accept the November 3, 2021 minutes. A motion was made by Dale Green and seconded by Jeff Stringer. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report, Robert Burns: Robert reviewed the text report covering the final 2021 budget and 2022 budget to date. The Executive Committee reviewed and accepted a proposed 2023 budget yesterday. Janaki asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Jeff Stringer and seconded by Dennis Becker. There were no questions or discussion. The report and 2023 budget were approved unanimously.

NAUFRP Overview & Recent Accomplishments, Katy Kavanagh: Katy reviewed a Powerpoint presentation of NAUFRP committee and regional work throughout the year. This will be posted on the NAUFRP website. Notables are the NAUFRP newsletter, Town Hall, and Reviewer Data Base.

Myron Floyd introduced Dr. Ralph Crawford, Acting Assistant Deputy Chief for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) for Research and Development, USDA Forest Service. He represents one of the five agency branches and his role is to help determine how to move forward on DEI issues at the Forest Service and ensure it is sustained. He is extending his hand for collaboration with NAUFRP. Randy asked if there are any new initiatives coming that NAUFRP can participate in. Bob asked what do research science years look like? Trends?

Terry Baker, CEO and Chris Maisch, President of the Society of American Foresters welcomed the NAUFRP General Assembly. Chris says SAF needs to create a sustained diverse workforce. Terry said a strength is the ability to work together in partnership in different ways (joint reception, policy issues, ... ). They have recently adopted a new Position Statement on Pro-Reforestation. SAF is trying to address new issues in a more timely manner. There was a gain in SAF membership, albeit very modest, versus the large annual losses of the last few years. SAF is getting its voice out there working with partners. The Board supported the investment in staff which is paying off. Feedback is welcome.

Steve Anderson, President and CEO, Forest History Society: Steve plans to retire early next year after a new president is selected and ready to start. Individual institutions can set up and contribute to the FHS archives. FLA, SFI and others are doing so. A new collection is focused on forest leaders. The FHS has a new strategic plan.

Kevin Kephart, Deputy Director, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment (IBCE), USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture: PowerPoint Presentation posted on NAUFRP Website and available from Terri Bates. The presentation reviewed the Institute's organizational structure and staff names, McStennis and RREA programs, other NIFA funding opportunities for forestry, The American Rescue Plan Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, USDA Climate Action Plan, NIFA Climate Adaptation Plan, Biden Administration's Climate Crisis Priorities and Justice 40 (forty percent of benefits from covered programs directed towards underserved communities).

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP General Counsel: Things are not the same post-Covid. We all have to learn new ways to work with the federal government after post-pandemic. With the passage of the Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction bills, a lot of money is coming down in different ways. (Cited recent announcement of 70 USDA awards amounting to \$3.5 billion: one for \$60 million is going to TNC, VaTech and Univ??) Universities need to think about new ways of designing partnerships. The university administration needs to encourage faculty to think in new ways towards NRCS, FS, EPA, NIFA. Think about assigning someone to scour RFAs for all these agencies. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is authorized for 10 years and not subject to appropriations. Quin Holifield, U.S Forest Service U&CF, says their Justice 40 program has \$1.5 billion over 10 years from the IRA (their annual funding is approximately \$35 Million). They plan to scale up their core programs: tree planting, climate mitigation, utilization work force, tribal communities, water issues. A lot has not been decided. They are still just processing and will begin with workforce development. Randy: \$2.8 billion to EPA for environmental justice and \$1.8 billion to DOT (tree canopy). Randy expects a Continuing Resolution to run through December 16. McStennis is at \$38 million in the House (a \$2 million increase) and \$43 million in the Senate (a \$7 million increase). He touched on funding for the CRUs. AFRI, JFSC. Also the American Wildlife Act for which he thanked Dennis and Linda for their work. He noted APLU is restructuring how they ask for capacity research funding. The Farm Bill is up for reauthorization next year; McStennis is not impacted by it but RREA is. Randy discussed the upcoming midterm elections. What won't change is the lack of bipartisanship action. Wes Burger said the APLU Roadmap from 2014 was a good document to review for Farm Bill discussions. Randy agreed; with all the new people/staff at APLU it would be good to dust that piece off.

Diversity Report and Breakout Session: Yeonsu Kim and Tara Bal (Michigan State ??)

National Capacity to Address Forest Health Issues, Tom Fox, Rayonier Corporation: Rayonier is the second largest forest landowners in the country. Forest Health issues have the capacity to put them out of business. We've insect and disease issues, both native and invasive; climate change is an impacting factor. The solution is healthy sustainably managed forests. The forestry community needs to advocate for resources and build a coalition. Need to look for near-term funding opportunities. (IRA; APHIS, State Foresters, Cooperative Extension and increased R&D funding.) For the long-term need to look at the 2023 Farm Bill and the FIFB Coalition (which NAUFRP is a

part of). Tom invites NAUFRP to help. The window for action is 2023. ??? (FIFB) wants a list by November 2023. Randy noted that 25 years ago, industry leaders and deans went to the Hill together to advocate. Then NAFO was founded about 10 years ago. Industry has a stake in research; good to be asked to help. Tom said 5-6 years ?? ago NAFO may not want to lead but it is now understood that forest health is at stake. This is now on NAFO's Operating Committee Agenda. Randy said to let us know how we can help. Keith Gillis urged to take a play out of the agriculture playbook, based on his experience as an ag dean. The ag industry people lead the discussion. We need to be more forceful. Tom said NAFO and AF&PA are Rayonier's advocacy; and they are banging their heads. We need to id what we want and have a strategy for a coalition that includes the likes of Rayonier, NAUFRP, TNC... Bob Wagner noted that Tom participated in his .....and made land managers heard. Janaki recognized Tom and Red's work.

Michelle Zweede (USFS-International Programs); The Forest Service International Program Forest Office promotes sustainable conservation globally. She discussed the organization structure. The program links skills of FS employees to overseas partners and bring innovation and technology. They working across 90 countries most often with other partners (i.e. US State Dept. Work Bank, TNC). Global issues in US: invasive and migrating species habitat, illegal logging. Example are Brazil and Mozambique: market access and improved livelihood. With partners, they host 12 international Seminars for educational exchange. These are mostly held in the US for natural resource management professionals who provide their own funding. ....

Tom Miles (Technical Consultants, Portland, Oregon). Discussed benefits of biochars processed from biomass: soil nutrients, fertilizers, markets, climate change opportunities, co products (green carbon markets, biofuels/biochemical technologies ((jet fuel)). The USBI functions for networking, education, demonstration; They have conferences, workshops, demonstrations, newsletters, workshops, websites, directory, links to social media.

The Family Forest Education Award jointly sponsored by NAUFRP and the National Woodland Owners Association was presented. Mark Megalos, NWOA Ex Dir and Jeff Stringer, NAUFRP Extension Committee Chair presented the Outstanding Comprehensive Educational Program Award to University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources - to Improve Management of Family Owned Forests and the Outstanding Individual Educational Program to Virginia Cooperative Extension, Generation NEXT Team to Improve Management of Family Owned Forests

2022 NAUFRP Election: President-Elect, Katy Kavanagh, recognized Janaki for his service has NAUFRP President. Janaki announced that Robert Burns has agreed to stand for office of Secretary-Treasurer again. Dennis Becker (University of Idaho) has agreed to stand for the office of President-Elect. A vote of the General Assembly was called for and was unanimous for these two offices. Janaki thanked Katy, Robert and Dennis for their willingness to serve.

NAUFRP Resolutions: Janaki read a resolution in honor of John Hayes (Dean, Colorado State University) recognizing his contributions to NAUFRP and recent retirement. Katy read a resolution in honor of Janaki's many years of service to NAUFRP and most recently, as President.

**Adjourned**

## Meeting Participants:

Janaki Alavalpati, President (Auburn University), Katy Kavanagh, President-Elect (Oregon State University), Robert Burns, Secretary-Treasurer (West Virginia University), Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP General Counsel, Diomy xxxx, NIFA, Kevin Kephart, NIFA, Dennis Becker (University of Idaho), Zhu xxx (Southern University), Todd Petty (Clemson University), Hans Williams, Southern Chair (SFA), Wes Burger (Mississippi State University), Don Grebner (Mississippi State University), Keith Gilles (University of California, Berkeley), Mike Blazier (University of Arkansas), Mark Megalos, National Woodland Owners Association, Steve Anderson, Forest History Society, Rachele Hedges (University of California, Berkeley), David Newman, Immediate Past President (SUNY), Jan Thompson (Iowa State University), Dale Greene, At-Large Executive Committee (University of Georgia), Jeff Stringer, Extension Committee Chair (University of Kentucky), Bob Wagner, Research Committee Chair (Purdue University), Linda Nagel, BAC Representative (Utah State University), Tara Bahl (Michigan Tech/State University), Yeonsu Kim, Diversity Committee Chair (Northern Arizona University), Quinn Holifield, US Forest Service U&CF, Bill Hubbard, Northeast Regional Chair (University of Maryland), Erin Kelly (Humboldt University), Rich Kobe, North Central Chair, (Michigan State University), Andrew Storer, Education Committee Chair (Michigan Tech University), Sayeed Memoth (Ohio State University)

Virtual: Allen Rutherford (Louisiana State University), Karen Mock (Utah State University), Kozmo xxxx (Alabama A&M University), Bill Stone (Alabama A&M University)