

NAUFRP General Assembly
Minutes
October 8, 2014
Salt Lake City, Utah

Welcome by Matt Menashes, CEO, Society of American Foresters. Matt looks forward to learning about NAUFRP's member institutions. He met with the Executive Committee yesterday and discussed the certification program with them. He will be back later to talk about this with the General Assembly. He thanked everyone for coming to the SAF Convention.

Welcome by Steve Bullard, NAUFRP President.

Introductions (attached list)

Steve recognized Keith Owens from Oklahoma State University who is not only a NAUFRP member but also representing the National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP).

A motion was made by Jim Allen, second by Rob Swihart, to approve the October 23, 2013 General Assembly Minutes. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report, David Newman: David referenced a three-page handout that was distributed. The budget is fairly stable. We've been able to maintain an operating balance of approximately \$80,000. A \$10,000 deficit is projected for this year as a result of several special expenditures: \$5,000 for graduate Student IUFRO Congress registration scholarships, \$5,000 for a global student survey to be conducted at the IUFRO Congress and \$5,000 to the Pinchot Institute for the education survey. Revenue is down a little. The Executive Committee approved a budget for 2015 yesterday and it is part of the handout. There was no further discussion and the Treasurer's report was unanimously approved. Steve mentioned that we are finding a disconnect within NAUFRP as to who gets the dues invoices and will work to sort that out.

NAUFRP Overview and Recent Accomplishments PowerPoint presentation was reviewed by Jim Allen, NAUFRP President-elect, detailing NAUFRP activities and accomplishments. It will be posted on the webpage.

Steve emphasized the need for sustaining science and sustaining research capacity. We need for communities to know what we are doing and how it is relevant. "Rigor, Relevance, Relationships" is vital. NAUFRP has focused on building relationships. Steve noted the Berkeley Education Summit held last May and which will be summarized later today. The Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources was hosted by Auburn University last March. It will next be hosted at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point in spring 2016. Steve encouraged all to attend.

Randy Nuckolls reported on the current political scenario. This Congress is the least productive in 60 years for producing legislation. They have slid into theater – letting votes be 'show votes'. He hopes after the next election they will move away from that. The political focus is on next month's mid-term elections and he discussed that in detail. The government is operating on a Continuing Resolution through December at current levels. USDA is moving ahead to distribute competitive and capacity funds. Funding for the McIntire-Stennis (McStennis) programs has risen over the last 10 years from \$21 million to \$34 million; that's about a fifty percent increase and very good in the current budget climate. Competitive grants have doubled in the last 10 years. USDA is implementing the most recent Farm Bill. Randy urged NAUFRP members to pay attention to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) P-Cast Reports because OMB is paying attention and they are driving future initiatives in the USDA competitive grant arena. It gives you an idea of future directions. Randy said it was important to work with Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU) and the agriculture deans on funding issues. George Hopper noted that the McStennis Strategic Plan that NAUFRP developed was used and helped move things forward. Steve said this was discussed at the ATR meeting in March and he

believes NIFA heard that it is time to develop a new one. It needs to be a significant effort – not a two-hour session. Randy noted that in 2006, NIFA provided a substantial grant to NAUFRP for this purpose. It was discussed by the Executive Committee yesterday. NAUFRP plans to submit a proposal to fund a meeting for a new McStennis Strategic Plan.

Luis Tupas, Deputy Director for Bioenergy, Climate and Environment, USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture: There is a new USDA/NIFA emphasis linking agriculture and health. Luis said he will try and find the resources to help fund the development of a new McStennis Strategic Plan. NIFA and NAUFRP need to work together on this to chart new directions, a plan of work and areas to improve upon. Luis provided an update on a new Farm Bill bio-research opportunity. Section 7310, the Forestry Products Advanced Utilization Research Program is authorized at \$7 million annually. Luis talked to the Executive Committee about how to seek NAUFRP input, formal and informal, on this program. McStennis and RREA funding is ready to go out. Under the CR, they are still on track with all current commitments. NIFA is in the process of addressing the National Academy of Sciences Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Report which was released in September. Luis reported on some of the agency's administrative and personnel organizational changes. John Hayes said the emphasis on health is good with the caveat that bio-mental (environmental?) health means very different things to health professionals; he urged this be taken into account when environmental health RFAs are written up. Terry Sharik applauded the increased emphasis on performance and reporting. Steve Bullard asked Catalino Blanche (NIFA) about international work under McStennis. Catalino responded that McStennis is a domestic program. Randy suggested it was probably reasonable that if a McStennis 'program' has a domestic focus, but has an international component it should be okay – for example, a study of the domestic timber market might have impacts from international trade and would probably be okay. Catalino clarified that administration program money can be used for travel.

Dave Walters (President), Bob Alverts (Vice President) and Matt Menashes (CEO), Society of American Foresters. Dave asked how SAF can better serve the universities and lifelong learning? Bob met with the Executive Committee last March. He noted then, and now, that less than half the SAF membership is under the age of fifty. SAF has lost many of their faculty advisors and they can really use some help there. A number of NAUFRP institutions are in big urban areas and have a very different experience with teaching and existing in the surrounding communities – they have an opportunity to help those populations better understand natural resource and environmental issues. They are recruiting national committee chairs and work groups and need help from NAUFRP faculty. Matt, with Dave and Bob, met with the Executive Committee yesterday. He thanked NAUFRP for supporting faculty involvement in the many SAF activities. The two-year certification program was intended to get technicians on a pathway of lifetime learning. SAF wants to encourage that in many ways. They went down the path to try and give two-year graduates an opportunity to achieve the same certification a four-year graduate would. However, SAF did not do two key things: first, they did not talk to the two-year students and second, they did not talk to NAUFRP. They want to begin a dialog now about what to do for two-year technicians. This should be outcomes based and focus on what needs to be accomplished. Matt said he is still learning about the accreditation process. Carol Redelsheimer does a great job with it. SAF has four accreditations. He understands that the new Natural Resource Management accreditation is of most interest to NAUFRP at this point. The first institution has just gone through the accreditation process. Jim Johnson asked if SAF was equipped to deal with accreditation on-line? Matt says he does not have an answer at this time. Does NAUFRP need to have a conversation with the SAF Leadership on this? Dave asked how fast and broadly are these programs happening? There were responses to this question about what the experience is at Oregon State, North Carolina State and Mississippi State Universities.

Tom Martin, President and CEO, American Forest Foundation: The most recent Farm Bill was the best ever for forestry. The USDA Secretary gets the tie between healthy forests and healthy markets. That is very key. Tom talked about the natural resource community's strategy for climate change. The White House will make an announcement this week about its Climate Change Plan; it has been in the making for two years. Tom hopes forests, forest products and tax impacts are all a part of it. Many of our institution's leaders have been involved (Cornell, Utah State, Rutgers, Univ. of Maine,...) The Tree Farm System (ATF) is being strengthened. There is a market for certification in some places in the country. State committees are going through the process of whether they want to do certification or traditional

extension and outreach. Each state is going through this and each is adopting a strategic plan. ATF is experimenting with more targeting and place-based activities in addition to social media based tools. There is a paucity of research on how to engage landowners and get them to do something meaningful on their land. The biggest barrier to success is defining success. Project Learning Tree is going thru a reinvention process similar to ATF. Education in the classroom is changing. PLT has not been re-designed in 15 years. They are changing the curriculum. Steve asked Bob Wagner to summarize the MOA that NAUFRP will be signing with AFF. Bob outlined a series of proactive goals and objectives for research, education and extension. The research and education priorities of our partner organizations will be post and maintained on the NAUFRP web page as a living document. The MOA is ready for Steve to sign.

Jim Johnson, National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) Survey: Jim reported on the NAFO survey sponsored by NAUFRP and which Jim participated in. A full report will be provided to Steve Bullard and for posting on the webpage. NAFO was created in 2008 primarily to provide advocacy for its members. They have 73 members who own or manage nearly 80 million acres of forestland in 47 states. They are an interesting blend with broad policy interests. Their CEO, Dave Tenny, has regularly met with the NAUFRP Executive Committee. TIMOs and REITs own most of the industrial forest land; they look and act differently from the traditional forestland industry owner. Dave agreed to a survey of NAFO members to determine their perceptions of and need for forestry and natural resources related research. Pat Stephens Williams, Stephen F. Austin State University, led a team of six researchers to develop and deliver a web-based survey. NAFO selected 30 members; the response rate was 70 percent. Seventy-six percent said they make use of university research, 43 % rely on research cooperatives, 38% from NCASI, 33% from Forest Service R&D Stations. Respondents were asked to rate their level of concern from a list of 25 contemporary issues. The top five were water quality, management standards and practices, biomass, property rights and invasive insects. There were a few differences based on ownership size. Respondents were also asked about their level of satisfaction with the current intensity of research around the list of 25 key issues and to list up to four resource and technology issues that need priority research in their region over the next five years and long term. The take away message for NAFO is that they should cultivate relationships with NAUFRP institutions and their membership needs to understand that the bulk of their workforce come from our institutions. The take away message for NAUFRP is we should continue to cultivate a relationship with NAFO and seek out their members to serve on research advisory boards, participate in research cooperatives and collaborate on research. Steve Bullard noted that NAUFRP is an Associate Member of NAFO.

Tim White, the APLU Board of Natural Resources Roadmap for Natural Resources: Tim reviewed the APLU structure and Board of Natural Resources which NAUFRP is a member of. In 2010, APLU published the Agriculture Roadmap. Many from our association felt natural resources had been left out. NIFA provided a grant to Oregon State to begin a Delphi process. It identified six grand challenges (sustainability, water, climate change, agriculture, energy and education). NAUFRP was very engaged in the process. Upon its completion, the question has become how best to utilize this document. Is it a jumping off point for the McStennis Strategic Plan, NIFA, SAF? Terry Sharik believes it is a good crosswalk with our Undergraduate Education Strategic Plan. Other comments: yes, it is an obvious link to the McStennis Strategic Plan; it can be used locally and nationally with decision makers; it can be used in our college planning (staffing, curriculum); and for increasing awareness; its valuable for linking NAUFRP to partners; an opportunity to work with Extension Station Directors. Randy said we are really good at writing reports and not so good at doing anything with turning them into action. This is an APLU document. NAUFRP members need to educate your campus on this Roadmap. Peter McPherson (APLU leadership) needs to hear feedback on it. The agriculture deans control the money within APLU; APLU needs to have an action plan for both this and the Agriculture Roadmap. Their communications and marketing staff need to be engaged. Jim Johnson noted that what is new here is the link between agriculture and natural resources; this is good. George Hopper said this gives us a platform and an opportunity to be an equal partner with agriculture. He encouraged everyone to read the Agriculture Roadmap. Their take was that natural resources was integrated into every chapter; we did not see it that way. Steve Bullard encouraged everyone to share this with their faculty. He thanked Tim for all his involvement and effort on behalf of NAUFRP.

Keith Gillless and Rick Standiford summarized the Berkeley Education Summit that was held last May. An extensive review of the Summit will be held on Friday. All are invited. An article will appear in the Journal Forestry in 2015.

Terry Sharik reviewed the results of last year's breakout sessions focused on 'Best Practices for Enhancing Communications Skills in Natural Resources'. This is also a poster session on Friday and he expects to produce an article for the Journal of Forestry.

Steve Anderson, President and CEO, reported on the Forest History Society (FHS). It was established in 1945. Kurt Pregitzer serves on the Board. They have developed a photo archive that can be accessed on-line. They archive materials for a number of organizations (SAF, ATR, etc.) including NAUFRP. On the horizon they plan a web portal for repeat photography, focus on forestry in the US South. They were involved and helped with the PBS documentary on Karl Schenk and the Cradle of Forestry. The FHS Board has approved plans for a new building.

Randy Nuckolls discussed 'Best Practices for Getting Engaged on Campus with Government Affairs Offices'. He noted there has been a dramatic increase in federal government affairs offices on campuses over the last 20 years. It is important that they know what is important to NAUFRP members. The APLU website is a significant resource for materials that can be used for handouts and other purposes. Randy advised sharing this with Advisory Boards who can be powerful voices for our programs not only on campus but with state and federal agencies and Congressional members. Invite Congressional members and their staff to campus: be creative about building and maintaining relationships with them at the Washington and state level -- especially the staff. Develop and maintain relationships with Board Members of important NAUFRP allies such as FLA and NAFO. It is important to realize the necessity of constantly educating people on your issues of concern. The worst thing you can do is surprise your government affairs office. Terry Sharik found it very helpful to accompany Randy on initial Hill visits. Randy urged that students be encouraged to take advantage of internships in DC. Cultivate the best and brightest for this. Invite USDA and other agency officials to the campus for tours and workshops. Get faculty involved in peer review panels. Invite alumni back to speak (especially if they are in agency/policy positions). Show you value their knowledge and expertise. Get involved with NAUFRP; come to the March Executive Committee meeting. Randy was asked how he viewed us in comparison to others? He responded that the university research community has been transitioning away from earmarks and it is important to focus on agencies. Steve Bullard relayed his 25 minute phone conversation with USDA Secretary Vilsack. At the request of the Assembly, Randy agreed to summarize his "bullet points" as a one- or two-page handout for NAUFRP's future use.

On behalf of a nominating committee composed of members of the Executive Committee, Steve Bullard presented Keith Belli as the nominee for President-Elect in 2015-2016. A motion was made by Tim White, second by George Hopper, to accept this nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

The 2014 Family Forests Education Award was presented by Bob Wagner, Chair of the Extension-Outreach Committee, to the Mississippi State University Forestry Extension Program.

A resolution recognizing Doug Piirto, California Polytechnic State University and former member of the NAUFRP Executive Committee, was read in honor of his retirement.

A plaque was presented and resolution read in honor of President Steve Bullard's service as NAUFRP President 2013-2014.

Meeting adjourned. Regional meetings followed.

*Approved
November 3, 2015
Baton Rouge, LA*

