

National Association of University Forest Resources Programs  
General Assembly Minutes  
November 3, 2015  
Baton Rouge, LA

Dr. Ray Belton, President of Southern University, welcomed NAUFRP members.

Introductions were made (list attached).

Bob Alverts, President of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), also welcomed NAUFRP. He is very pleased to be working on priorities together. He and Matt Menashes had a good meeting with the NAUFRP Executive Committee yesterday.

Matt Menashes, SAF CEO, emphasized that the most important relationship SAF has is with NAUFRP. He thanked Jim Allen for everything he has done. SAF and NAUFRP are committed to working on D&I issues together. There are a lot of SAF activities and actions coming as a result of the Berkeley Education Conference. Jim Allen expressed appreciation for all that Bob and Matt have done in seeking input and staying connected with NAUFRP.

Treasurer's Report, David Newman: A written NAUFRP financial report was distributed. Anticipated dues income in 2014 was down \$5,000. If all NAUFRP institutions paid dues, approximately \$141,000 would be collected in 2015. To date, \$123,000 has been received. Most of NAUFRP's expenses go to the Randy, Terri and annual meeting expenses. Next year's financial picture looks very similar to 2014 and 2015. There are a few things to note. First, based on member interest in paying dues by credit card, NAUFRP has set up process for this purpose that can be accessed through the webpage. There is a three percent fee for each transaction that will be passed on to those paying by credit card. Secondly, the University of Kentucky has received a \$30,000 grant to begin a process for McIntire-Stennis Strategic Planning. Some of Terri's time will be used for this and NAUFRP will be reimbursed. The Executive Committee approved a 2016 budget yesterday which includes a \$5,000 grant to Rob Swihart at Purdue University for an analysis of faculty productivity. He has completed a similar analysis for wildlife. A \$7,000 deficit is forecast for 2016. Jim Allen noted that NAUFRP is a voluntary organization and members provide considerable time and effort towards it function.

Steve Anderson, President, The Forest History Society (FHS): The FHS will release a newly published book "Forestry in the US South: A History" at this convention. A PBS documentary on Carl Schenck and the Cradle of Forestry (actual title is "America's First Forest: Carl Schenck and the Asheville Experiment") is near completion and will be launched next March/April. The FHS was founded in 1946 and moved to Durham, NC in the mid-1980's. Space has been an issue for some time and a new facility is needed. They are trying to raise \$4.85 million towards this and have \$3 million in commitments to date.

Terry Sharik reviewed the survey work he has conducted on forestry enrollments since 2004. He is trying to broaden it to all students in natural resources. He reminded everyone to please provide a response from their institution. He will aggregate responses at the regional level and

share with individual institutions. Michigan Tech is hosting the ISSRM meeting next June 22-26, 2016: there are opportunities for sponsorships.

A **motion** was made by Steve Bullard to accept the October 8, 2014 General Assembly minutes from Salt Lake City, UT; it was seconded by Rob Swihart. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Overview of NAUFRP Accomplishments, Keith Belli, President-Elect: This is a PowerPoint which will be posted on the NAUFRP webpage.

NAUFRP Future Directions, Jim Allen, President: Jim referenced a list of 'Action Items' for NAUFRP over the 2015-16 period of his office (handout). NAUFRP has had a lot of impact. Diversity and education have been a major focus. Jim encouraged any new NAUFRP representatives to become involved in the organization. Jim has compiled a list of things he would like to accomplish during his presidency. Plans are to re-design the webpage revolving around the work of committees. NAUFRP is moving forward on the Diversity Logic Model; discussion on this began almost two years ago. Item 4 refers to a workshop of Forest Products Utilization of interest to members; it was authorized in the last Farm Bill but has not been funded. A MOA was signed yesterday with the National Association of State Foresters. The Executive Committee is broadening efforts to meet with other, non-traditional agencies (NSF, NIH). There are ongoing issues to resolve with federal agencies: tuition, indirect costs, McStennis international work. Increased funding for McStennis continues to be a priority. Jim encouraged members to review NAUFRP's Undergraduate Strategic Plan (see webpage). Jim represented NAUFRP at a meeting of the European forestry schools held at the University of Bulgaria last June. Twenty countries were represented. He would like to look at enhancing relations with the Canadian programs and increase IFSA (International Forestry Students Association) chapters. Opportunities exist to further promote the BNR Roadmap. The Forest Service is reviewing their R&D Strategic Plan; we need to collaborate with them on it as well as McStennis Strategic Planning. Jim wants to offer value to the NAUFRP organization.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP Washington Counsel: It has been an interesting fall in Washington with House Speaker Boehner's resignation and Congressman Paul Ryan's ascent to that position. People probably did not think Boehner could get any resolution on the on-going fiscal issues (debt ceiling, defense and discretionary appropriations,...) but after four weeks of secret negotiations, he did. The agreement provides a 2-4 percent (\$80 billion) increase over the next two years and relief from the budget cap. The federal debt ceiling (only one or two countries in the western world have this) was not raised but suspended until March 2017. USDA is not going to get a big share of the increase – maybe a small one for research programs and if so, Randy thinks it will go to programs like AFRI versus capacity. Next year there will be another \$15 billion and the FY17 budget may be a little more generous. The one big thing Congress needs to do by the end of this calendar year is to extend the Highway bill. Randy thinks Congress should have sent more bills to the President and let him veto them; this is the process that should be utilized. The Senate is currently split 55-45 (Republican-Democrats) with 10 Democrats up for re-election; only two are really in play (Nevada and Colorado). On the Republican side, 24 are up and 8-9 are in play (FL, IL, WI,..) These days the only real relevance of the Republican and Democrat National Committees is their role in determining delegates to

the national conventions. The last Presidential debates have had the highest number of viewers ever due to the entertainment element; the media is earning huge dollars on these events. Next year should bring back regular order to the appropriations process and allow conversations with agencies (NIFA and FS). The White House Office of Science and Technology is driving research initiatives. These are trickling down to the agencies (example, pollinator issues). Randy was asked about the prospects of resolving the fire funding issue. He said till it is solved the Forest Service research budget will not be able to recover and grow.

Allan Ek and Allen Rutherford said their ability to spend McStennis funds has become very restrictive in the last year – those dollars are being treated as grant dollars and it has become very constraining. Tim White agrees; the University of Florida has come to treat all capacity funds as grants. George Hopper said McStennis has a lot of issues that we need to talk about and reinforced the need for a Strategic Plan and to stay focused on appropriations working closely with the BAA and BAC. Allen Rutherford feels this is coming from the accounting folks. Randy said we will work with Catalino to get information and direction on this problem. Al Ek commented that it sounds like our internal folks are creating their own rules to simplify things and audits -- clarification is needed from Washington. Jim and Randy will also discuss McStennis international work with Catalino. Catalino was present and said he has had several proposals on international work but as declined all but one to Michigan Tech which has several components. He emphasized that McStennis is a domestic program only; forestry international work should be funded through USAID and the Forest Service.

‘Creating a Messaging Platform That Will Let the Entire Forest Sector Tell Our Story’, Tom Martin, President and CEO American Forest Foundation: Over the last 18 months, the American Forest Foundation has been working with several forestry groups on developing a unified message and storytelling platform for the forest and forest products sector. This has included research on what messages resonate through focus groups, an audit of other recent efforts, review of case histories of sectors that have had similar challenges and focus on social media ‘chatter’ surrounding the forest and forest products sectors. They are now entering the first phase of message development and grassroots engagement. The universities are invited to participate in this effort.

Results from the Pinchot Institute Forestry Education Survey, Steve Bullard: (PowerPoint -- permission is being sought to post and/or link this on the NAUFRP website.) The survey was conducted of deans and directors of forestry schools, faculty, employers of forestry graduates, and recent graduates of forestry programs. The top 3 skills that were considered to be of high importance by faculty were technical (Water Issues; Sustainable Forest Management; Forest Ecology); the top 3 identified by employers were all related to communications and human dimensions. The survey showed that new hires were well-prepared in a variety of technical areas. Employers found the highest need for additional education in recent hires in the human dimension area. Recent graduates felt that they were less prepared than they would like to be when they entered the workforce and the skills most needed were in the social science area. Steve noted that NAUFRP’s Undergraduate Education Strategic Plan recommends a survey of this nature every 10 years. Steven F. Austin University conducted a very similar survey; the results were consistent with those of the Pinchot survey.

SAF Publication Opportunities, Jeff Ghannam, Director of SAF Communications: Jeff was involved in the founding of *The Forestry Source*; Steve Wilent is the current editor. Jeff asked what topic areas SAF can address. They have writers that can develop articles. He asked also how they can better use the *Source* to give research better exposure. Matthew Wells on the SAF staff had been working on this but has recently left; Rich Guldin is now helping on this question. Please share ideas on topics with Jeff and Rich. They are going to pursue the idea of a 'Student Corner' in the *Forestry Source*. Jim Allen said this is an area where we can contribute. Although there may be some complications regarding privacy issues, SAF is going to try and move forward with this. Jeff will follow-up with Steve Wilent. Katy Kavanagh said forestry has led the way in interdisciplinary team research but it is often difficult to place such work in publications; this is an area SAF could lead on this. Jeff said they are definitely looking for new things. They plan to connect scholarly articles to lay articles for the Forest Service. They are also going to ramp up on social media and are committed to increasing exposure of research.

McStennis Strategic Plan, Red Baker, NAUFRP Research Chair: A committee of stakeholders has been put together to begin a process of developing a new strategic plan. The intent is to be inclusive – ensure industry and partner associations are involved in an effort to build a coalition and create advocates. The Steering Committee will meet tomorrow and, using a facilitator, begin developing a methodology. Red was asked if there has been an evaluation of the last Strategic Plan. Red noted that at the ATR meeting held in 2014 there was not full agreement that a new Strategic Plan was needed at this time; there has been no formal evaluation. Mark Rickenbach pointed out that as part of the ATR meeting process there was an evaluation of the McIntire-Stennis program by NIFA. He will provide a link to this (to Terri) for NAUFRP.

SAF Natural Resources and Ecosystem Management Accreditation Update, David Newman (SUNY) and Carol Redelsheimer, SAF Director, Science and Education: David has been a proponent and advocate of this accreditation for years. He has served on the SAF Accreditation Committee and knew what would be involved. The review process at SUNY was straight forward. Several other programs have asked if the assessment and other documents can be shared and he is happy to do so. SUNY did not have unanimous faculty support but overall they were happy. David does not know the likely impact of the accreditation, how it gets sold or whether others will use. The value to him is marketing. David was asked who hires SUNY's Natural Resource majors? He said they go different places: urban forestry, tree care,..... Carol thinks it is too early to see the value in the market place. The discussion is ongoing. To date there is only one SAF NREM accreditation in the country. She believes a lot of agencies are not hiring forestry majors and thinks the students they are hiring should have more skills. Carol thinks the standards worked well at SUNY. There is interest in this accreditation and she fully expects other programs are going to pursue it. There have even been inquiries from schools with no forestry program.

Diversity and Inclusion Initiative, Jim Allen, Carol Redelsheimer and Steve Bullard: Steve provided background on this; applying a Logic Model means starting with the desired end result. A meeting with the Forest Service (Cindi West) led to \$50,000 in funding to SAF to get the ball rolling. SAF has contracted with Innovative Learning Concepts (Handout). SAF is technically the client but has stressed this is a coalition. The work will be in four phases but only the first phase has been contracted for; future phases are conditioned on performance and funds. The

contractor has background in this work and will research websites, publications, convention programs. As part of this, two workshops will be held at the convention this week. Feedback from focus groups will be used to produce a Logic Model of Existing Practices. This part will be completed this year. Phase Two will be a regional focus group using a slightly different set of questions generated from the first phase. Phases Three and Four will involve creating two other logic models around recruitment and engagement/outreach. Carol said we need talented people in our profession and diversity among them. If we are not attracting talented people, we need to figure out why and address it. Carol was asked if SAF has other SAF efforts on diversity planned or underway or is this the primary focus? Carol said SAF is involved in activities that contribute to this. Tom DeLuca thinks this is great and applauds the efforts but significant change may require a rebranding. At the University of Washington, they went from 8 to 28 percent diversity in 20 years. It was very painful and he wonders if the Society is prepared.

Regional Breakout Report Out: The regional groups were asked to discuss opportunities for broader in-depth member engagement in NAUFRP and regions.

South, Phil Tappe: They began with a discussion of the need for regional committees that correspond with national chairs and ended up leaning to an Ad Hoc approach. To increase engagement they felt more effective communications and education was needed within NAUFRP. It would be good to invite faculty and NAUFRP members in general to the winter Executive Committee meeting. They felt there is a need for mentorship.

West, Kurt Pregitzer: Western NAUFRP felt Ad Hoc committees outside the Executive Committee would work better to move on issues. There could be value in engaging faculty; administrators should encourage and support faculty involvement. NAUFRP should consider joining/collaborating with 'sister' organizations, even those beyond the natural resource profession, on relevant issues. Consider jointly hosting events. Associate deans and department heads should be encouraged to become involved; they can broaden NAUFRP interests. Even staff might be able to contribute on issues like diversity.

Northeast and North Central, Jim Zazcek: They recommended encouraging program heads, faculty and staff to serve as regional representatives on committees. Regional chairs could play a key role in helping to fill these committee positions but it might be cost prohibitive. Electronic/remote meetings should be encouraged. Consider redesigning and/or integrating the regions and open up more opportunities for faculty to participate.

Mike Messina, David Newman and Kamran Abdollahi met with the Forest Service R&D leadership earlier today on the campus of Southern University. A major theme discussed was the need to increase diversity. They had frank discussion about the Forest Service as an employer of NAUFRP students. The Forest Service said they do not hire that many foresters any more. They are very concerned about succession planning. The Pathways program was discussed. Mike said he thinks three students total have worked at the FS R&D Northern Station under Pathways. Adrian believes the vast majority of students are employed as seasonal workers. There were various reactions to Pathways. There is a meeting in Washington in January concerning Pathways; Keith Belli was nominated to represent NAUFRP. Northeast and North Central NAUFRP were invited to have representatives participate in the Chief's Review of

Northeast. Thirteen percent of FS R&D cooperative dollars are going to the universities. Keith asked if this is an indication of FS interest in regional meetings with NAUFRP. Mike did not think so but if we invite ourselves that ensures communication. Randy said he will reach the Deputy Chief and staff. David said a regional approach with Forest Service R&D is very important, beneficial and long lasting.

The 2015 Family Forest Education Award jointly sponsored by NAUFRP and the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) was presented by Andy Ezell (NAUFRP Extension Chair) and Keith Argow (President, NWOA) to the following:

Comprehensive Program: The Family Forest Research Center, a cooperative effort between the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and the U.S. Forest Service.

Individual Program: 'Women Owning Woodlands Network', Oregon State University

Meeting adjourned

Approved November 2, 2016  
Madison, WI