

## **DRAFT**

NAUFRP Executive Committee Minutes

March 20-21, 2023

Washington, D.C. / Virtual/Zoom recorded

(Participants listed at end)

NAUFRP President Katy Kavanagh opened the meeting. Welcome and introductions were made (participants listed at end). Katy recognized new committee chairs: Zhu Ning (Diversity), Todd Petty (Communications), At Large members (David Newman, Kozma Naka). Myron Floyd has become the new Policy Chair.

Memorial for Yeonsu Kim: Several suggestions for a memorial to Yeonsu Kim were discussed including a contribution to an endowed scholarship that Northern Arizona University (NAU) is setting up, naming the NAUFRP Diversity Committee after Yeonsu and/or creating an award in her name that the Diversity Committee would manage and administer. Myron Floyd made a motion, seconded by Robert Burns, to establish an award in honor of Yeonsu Kim that the NAUFRP Diversity Committee would develop criteria for and administer. Discussion: Have the Committee determine the parameters of the award and make recommendations. It could, but not necessarily, have a financial component to it. Concern expressed that even the possibility of a financial award will set a precedent and expectation that will be hard to reel back in. The Diversity Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee and they will determine if there is funding for it. The motion passed unanimously. David Newman made a motion that NAUFRP would contribute \$1,000 to NAU's scholarship fund in Yeonsu's memory. Janaki Alavalapati seconded the motion. Discussion: there was none. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report, Robert Burns: A prepared text report was distributed. The 2022 budget was based on the 2021 enacted budget. It was amended in January 2022 to provide \$5,000 for a survey and report by the Diversity Committee. Dues Income was approximately \$130,000 and overall expenses were \$136,519, about \$5,000 under budget (\$141,856). Carryover into 2023 was \$160,000. About \$77,000 has been collected in dues in 2023. As of March 20, 2023 there was \$232,194 in the PNC accounts. It was noted that the interest on last year's money market fund was very low -- only \$56. David Newman made a motion to invest some portion of NAUFRP's money market funds to an appropriate interest bearing mechanism; second by Rich Kobe. Discussion: Treasury bills are paying three-four percent. Trust Robert, Katy and Terri to make a decision but leave some cash fluidity. If T-bills, they should be short term (three to six months). The motion passed unanimously.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls: Current issues in full swing: national debt limit, Biden's FY24 budget, appropriations. CARET met last week and did Hill visits. Randy has been in conversation with appropriations committee staff. He is not arranging Hill visits this week because of hearings but may arrange a Zoom session with committee staff similar to last year. The Farm Bill needs to be reauthorized and NAUFRP has been engaged with coalitions. A real budgetary sleeper is the expiration of Trump tax cuts in 2025. Congress will not let taxes rise but there will be cliff hangers. The President's budget flat funds formula programs but it does retain the \$2 million increase from last year for the McIntire Stennis program (McS). The Cooperative Units (CUs) received a \$1 million increase in Biden's budget. Randy distributed 2 documents marking the Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU) budget requests and their Farm Bill recommendations.

Education Report, Andrew Storer: (provided written report) Andrew underscored the importance of NAUFRP having a representative on the Society of American Foresters' (SAF) Education Policy Review Committee (EPRC). He reviewed recent discussion of the EPRC around certificates and accreditation for institutions where a program is not entirely completed at that institution, but a second institution is involved (SAF calls these Companion Programs). The EPRC has representatives from two-year and four-year programs. The committee is very cognizant that SAF wants to grow and address workforce needs; the EPRC feels SAF needs to stay focused on the quality of SAF accredited programs. SAF is seeking recertification under CHEA. Lastly, the committee had been working towards a new initiative with the Diversity Committee and were planning a white paper from faculty at University of Minnesota and Michigan Tech. The white

paper was to be about culturally responsible teaching and meant to build on what Yeonsu was doing at NAU. Those efforts were set aside for the time being but Andrew hopes to see it picked back up with the new diversity chair/committee.

Zhu Ning, Diversity Chair, joined by Zoom: Zhu Ning introduced herself as Professor and Department Chair of Urban Forestry, Environment and Natural Sciences at Southern University. She has been there since 1994. Ning has chaired the SAF Diversity Working Group and is also involved with the SAF Urban Forestry group. Katy relayed the Executive Committee decision to create an award in Yeonsu's name and asked the Diversity Committee to develop the parameters for it (i.e., whether or not it is a cash award, individual, institution, ...). Katy previously asked Ning to bring urban forestry into the Diversity Committee. Ning suggested NAUFRP co-host, with the SAF Urban Forestry Working Group, a working session at this year's SAF Convention. Ning would like to finish the survey of NAUFRP members that Yeonsu initiated. To date, it shows many NAUFRP institutions have diversity action plans. Her idea is to highlight the work that has been done as a group, perhaps through a session hosted by NAUFRP highlighting the work that is being done at various universities/institutions around D&I. Ning will bring these ideas back to the Executive Committee in writing. Ning thanked NAUFRP for the contribution made to Kamran Abdollahi's memorial scholarship fund.

Extension Chair Report, Jeff Stringer: Jeff could not attend and submitted a written report highlighting the nomination process for the 2023 Family Forest Education Award. The submission deadline is in August.

Research Chair Report, Bob Wagner: (provided a written report) Bob reviewed the work of the Research Committee over the last several years revolving around the Summit. They are continuing with a national survey of foresters to identify their highest management problems at state, regional and national levels. They continue to work with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and Emily Huff at Michigan State University. Focus is on foresters who manage lands. In conjunction with this (Emily, Terry Baker, Michael Goergen) will host a Summit in Washington, DC on June 6-8. The committee wants to develop a platform to do the survey on a periodic cycle so the data base remains relevant. This type of work has never been done before (surveying managers to id what the problems are) and demonstrates a detachment between land managers and the research community. An infrastructure needs to be developed to continue the survey but more importantly ensure the results are part of a strong information and education campaign for places where this information is needed (i.e., NIFA, FS R&D, USDA, NSF, general forest community). There needs to be a host organization and a large, broad group of stakeholders for organizational support. Bob has given a presentation to the SAF Board and has been working closely with Terry Baker about SAF possibly being the host. Bob estimates they would need to raise about \$100,000 to \$150,000 to support this annually. He has developed a list of about two dozen national organizations who might make up a consortium critical mass to do this and he has begun to follow up personally with those on the list. Bob asked for feedback and questions. Dennis says Danielle Watson from SAF is looking to use some of the Summit's recommendations for the Farm Bill.

International, Don Hodges: IUFRO has an International Council which NAUFRP has been represented on typically, by the NAUFRP International Chair. However, Don is on the Board of IUFRO and cannot serve on both. For the last two years, Alex Friend (US Forest Service R&D Deputy Chief) served on the Council. According to John Parrotta, IUFRO President, it is supposed to rotate between NAUFRP and FS. Alex retired last year and Robert Burns has stepped in and is now listed as the U.S. Representative. The US Rep's responsibility is to be at the Congress which will be in Stockholm in 2024. Robert asked if NAUFRP should have agenda items that we present to IUFRO on behalf of the U.S. Don has been contacted by the International Forestry Student Association (IFSA). They are interested in increasing the number of student chapters in the US. Don will work with Robert but says he is sure they would like some time on the NAUFRP agenda at the SAF meeting. Don can take more committee members; currently it is Don, Robert and Tom DeLuca at OSU. They have talked about several things including keeping a clearing house of student study abroad opportunities. This sounds good but may be a challenge to manage.

Communications: Katy said Todd Petty, Clemson University, has agreed to become Communications Chair. He was not able to make this meeting. Terri said that to date we have been producing two newsletters a year and envision having one newsletter following this meeting and another in conjunction with the fall meetings. Committee reports are a core

element. The regional chairs have been providing information on changes within their regions (administration, ....) The last issue tried to highlight/profile McStennis projects/students. Plan to create a section on the website to 'house' past newsletters. One-page McS projects are still being added to the webpage Randy asked if there was a way not to accidentally mail to the listserve. It is confusing between the listserve and Terri's email. Terri said she would look into changing her email.

Reviewer Data Base: This has been designed and is ready for implementation, however it has proven to be complicated and frustrating. The process is multi-step and things end up in spam and you have to create a password which people can't remember. The first iteration sought expertise and contact info but then there was concern that equity, rank, gender information was needed (by NIFA). This was supposed to be simple but the technology is defeating the purpose. There have been too many glitches just trying to get into the database. It was suggested we have a form that is sent to NAUFRP institutions to be filled out and returned to build a spread sheet or Google doc to provide to NIFA. David said this is what we were trying to do with our website but the designer is very concerned with security. A big data base with email addresses will be spammed without extra protections. As it stands now, people are going to be frustrated trying to get into the data base and enter their information and they are not going to do it. Robert thinks this is a task for the new communications chair and he will work to involve him.

1890s Representative, Alton Thompson: Alton could not attend this meeting. He did send a message to Katy saying he inevitably has conflicts with the NAUFRP meetings. Alton said he would query the 1890 reps to see who would be able to represent at NAUFRP. Katy will followup.

Policy Chair, Dennis Becker: Myron has agreed to take over as Policy Chair. Dennis said there are multiple working groups and policy issues and it is a challenge to keep up. He is not sure this should be a one-person role and should be discussed at some point. He has felt a little inadequate to represent NAUFRP interests on FIFB, Forest Climate Working Group (FCWG), Food and Agriculture Coalition Alliance (FACA). He participates as much as he can. He has sent several documents (early March) from FCWG and FACA to the Executive Committee. Those platforms cover much of what we can agree upon. SAF, the Endowment and other partners are supportive of our interests but he agrees with Randy's earlier point that a lot of times we are forgotten. It falls to our partners to understand what we are trying to do/advocate and coordinate with a message they can carry forward. They have paid staff that can do this on a daily basis. Dennis' second observation is how important Bob's work is in developing a platform for forest research priorities. Dennis said the FIFB platform is not available yet. He feels a little better about getting some research recommendations there thanks to Michael Goergen, Danielle and others. Dennis said FCWG is developing a proposal to seek member funding to support staffing (primarily at American Forests). He thinks it will be about \$500 annually for an organization our size. Dennis recommends that we do that. He initially wasn't that supportive but recognizes the need to pay the bills and that advocacy costs dollars but mainly because he doesn't want NAUFRP to be left out. Dennis made a **motion** to pay \$500 annually in dues to the Forest Climate Working Group (FCWG) to support advocacy on behalf of NAUFRP. A second was made by Bob Wagner. Discussion: Janaki thinks this will be very helpful. It is in line with the contribution we make annually to the APLU Board of Agriculture. We used to do so to NAFO before they did away from that level of partnership. Motion approved unanimously.

APLU BNR/BAC Representative, Linda Nagel: APLU's appropriations recommendations were distributed and discussed. The McS program received a 5.6 percent increase in the FY23 in omnibus appropriations bill. Linda continues to serve on the APLU Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC). All APLU budget documents can be found [www.land-grant.org](http://www.land-grant.org). The APLU Farm Bill recommendations have a lot related to forestry including 'call-outs' to Climate Hubs, Cooperative Extension Service and the Forest Protection and Research Facilities Act. The last is an APLU priority and intended to address an \$11 billion backlog of deferred maintenance and modernization. The unified request recommends \$500 million to begin addressing the backlog.

Northeast Region, Bill Hubbard: (provided a written report) The region has 12 states, potentially 22 member representatives. Bill sent a survey out and received 6 responses. He queried how much they knew about NAUFRP and how long they had been a member. The responses indicated desire for NAUFRP's national focus to be on

appropriations/USDA science funding, preventing forestry from being lost in agriculture, networking, serve general natural resource departments, partner on graduate programs and information sharing between institutions. This reinforces the idea for a 'Welcome' communications to new administrators.

'Welcome' Communications Discussion: Develop a list of values NAUFRP provides. Work with the Communications, Regional Chairs and Terri to put together a communications piece to send to new heads. Katy says this links into the newsletter being an outlet for introducing NAUFRP. Ensure new administrators are noted in the Newsletter. A lot of schools are combining, and new people are coming in who don't have a forestry background. Regional chairs would be good to reach out and to keep all informed. Regional chairs are challenged with keeping track of the changes at the universities; it is hard to find this out for the schools who are not in the core. Maybe we can have some more systematic communication around that when each of us becomes aware of changes. Katy is happy as president to send a welcome email and talk about NAUFRP and then ask the regional chairs do more follow up. It was noted that accredited programs are required to notify SAF whenever there is an administration change.

North Central Region, Rich Kobe: The North Central had a recent Zoom meeting. A couple of themes from it are: 1) there is some faculty hiring in the region (Ohio State has 2 positions including a fire ecologist, Mich Tech a data science specialist, Michigan State is hiring a novel position having to do with public health and green space; 2) reorganization at the university level (Univ Minn, South ILL ((coordinator now vs stand alone dept head)); 3) Tribal Relations (Univ Minn is starting a process of returning the Cloquet Forestry Center to the Cloquet Tribe). The region has also had conversation about what those participating in North Central want to get out of the organization; they lost some momentum during the pandemic. Rich thinks everyone agreed there is value in getting together and sharing what's going on, learning from each other, sharing best practices. They have been having quarterly Zoom meetings but are thinking about an in-person meeting annually in the summer, rotating across the core members who are most engaged with site visits.

Southern Region, Hans Williams: Hans provided an update on what is happening at Stephen F. Austin (SFA). They are going to join the Univ of Texas system Sept 1 subject to legislative approval. SFA will be dissolved and reestablished as a permanent university-fund school. It's a huge deal and will have a profound effect on the school. Other: The Southern Region's call for Comparative Data is currently out. Hans is working on a summer meeting in conjunction with the June FLA meeting in Nashville.

#### General Regional:

- A question was raised about administration changes at Univ of Montana: Dennis said they have been unresponsive from his queries but will do some follow up.
- Randy invited Regional chairs to have him give updates at their meetings.
- Robert thought calls at the dean level will get attention of some less active schools (i.e., Penn State). It is hard to have continuity when it revolves around one individual. Goes back to importance having a 'welcome package'

Eric Norland, USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA): There are hundreds of new people at NIFA who are trying to figure out processes, efficiencies and how to do business. Of the current leadership, some have been there a long time, some are new to USDA and some are new to NIFA. They are anxious to see a permanent Director named. There are three NIFA Divisions of which Peter Thompson (on tomorrow's agenda) is the head of Environmental Systems. The Division Directors report to Kevin Kephart. Eric is not in a division and reports directly to Kevin. The Division of Bioenergy is headed by Tim Connor and the Division Climate Change is headed by Rachel Melnick. Eric recommends that NAUFRP meet with her. Eric's role is to advise the Director on environment and natural resource policy issues, represent the agency on interagency/departmental task forces and facilitate interactions with stake holders and partners. There is tremendous effort around Measuring Monitoring Reporting Verifying (MMRV) greenhouse gas emissions with a variety of work streams working on a national system. Kevin Kephart is the senior point person at NIFA on Climate Change. Probably 90-95 NIFA staff are remotely located. They have never had an all NIFA in-person meeting in Kansas City (KC).

Annual Meeting in Sacramento: Executive Committee to meet Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> and General Assembly to meet Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone seemed pleased with the co-reception with SAF at the Baltimore Aquarium last

year. There is interest in doing this again; it was very economical for NAUFRP. Catering through the convention sites is extraordinarily expensive. Robert and Terri will explore off site meeting options in Sacramento. Note that the SAF schedule is a little different this year; the plenary session will start at 4:00 (on the 25<sup>th</sup>).

NAUFRP Forums: These can be easily done via Zoom with specific focus on topics of interest. Include faculty. Suggestions for subjects/topics: NIFA program/division leaders, Coop Units, new McStennis reporting system (NIFA), ATR meeting, NIFA Outlook for FY24 (priorities and proposals -- this is a good request to make to Peter tomorrow); results of Research Committee survey and update on consortium, overhead and indirect cost rates/tuition, FS Research Station Chiefs (this year - 90 minutes), federal research outside of USDA (NSF, EPA, DOD, DOE, NIH – what are their priorities, where can proposals be submitted). Eric was asked if he knows who some of these people are; he said he could tract that down and figure out who and introduce them to NAUFRP. Consider charging each committee with developing a session, maybe once every three years through a rotation.

Indirect Costs: Eric said he was approached by John Rothlisberger (FS R&D Budget coordinator) last year with a variety of questions about indirect costs. Alex Friend was looking at what NIFA does with universities compared to FS. It was a topic Alex was working on before he retired. This would be good question to ask Linda Heath about tomorrow. There was definitely a (FS) conversation, and they were interested. This has been an issue talked about with FS for years.

NAUFRP Booth at SAF Discussion: To improve communications, consider hosting a booth at SAF that explains who NAUFRP is and what it does, its mission, forestry research, McStennis, forestry education, accredited programs. Other possible options might be the People, Policy and Popcorn session, an event focused on research that allows for a NAUFRP voice and/or the Innovation Zone. NAUFRP is not contemporary with its communications (no social media). *Summary of ideas discussed: a communications and/or policy intern (who can work from anywhere), a McS booth at the SAF convention, a presentation at IUFRO 2024.* In thinking about NAUFRP's mission, NAUFRP has a behind the scenes role. NAUFRP is not recruiting people per se; the goal is to elevate the profession. Member institutions are already show cased at convention for those who want to. Not having a McS table may be a missed opportunity; it would allow for messaging on forestry research and graduate development and promote the mission areas of forestry education, research, extension. We should be putting out front the outcomes of what we do. That will resonate with people; we are facilitators behind the scenes. The deadline for a booth appears to be August 4<sup>th</sup> and fees for non-profits about \$695; there would be additional shipping costs involved. There were mixed responses about the value of individual institution booths at SAF: visibility is always good and there is a cost of not being there. There is vast ignorance among grad students, even faculty, of the support McS provides. A tagline should be 'McS supported you'. Instead of a booth, what about something like a lapel pins/buttons that say 'Ask me about McS', 'My research was supported by McS', 'My research was supported by McS – ask me about it.' Put a button/ribbon in a registree's bag. Create some sort of poster/banner. Since most NAUFRP institutions have a booth, have them all put up some kind of McS poster/banner. An Innovation Zone session is a 30 minute captive audience; focus on Research Summit. The group seemed to favor these latter ideas and indicated willingness to help. Maybe some kind of nod in the plenary session? The McS history video was shown at a previous SAF Convention; maybe it can be updated. The 65<sup>th</sup> McS anniversary is coming up (4 years). Should talk to Terry Baker about some way of noting McS. A McS moment every year at SAF. Maybe recognize an outstanding McS project annually at the plenary. Perhaps an award that NAUFRP would administer and present at SAF Plenary. Create an annual McS award presented at SAF. Concern expressed about tying something like this so closely to SAF; it might become their award. There are not many opportunities to get so many faculty and students associated with McS in one room; you can make it explicit that this is a NAUFRP award. It would be great to present a NAUFRP award for McS at an SAF plenary assembly. Have university department heads/admin leads nominate a McS project. Bob would be happy to lead a committee to evaluate nominations and send an email requesting nominations for most impactful and say it will be presented at the SAF national convention. It would complement the education award. An award during plenary would be entre to talk about McS.

White House Memo on Tribal Relations: Katy wanted to ensure the Executive Committee knows about a November 2022 Executive Order (EO) for Guidance to Federal agencies on Indigenous Knowledge (IK). She provided a PPT that can be shared. The EO directs that IK be used by the federal government for decision making, research and policies. It is the

decision of a tribe whether or not to participate. The EO may alter RFP language in grants to make them more inclusive and add protocols to where the data goes. If you have tribal partners, they may not want data shared. Katy has talked to a few agency people and gets the sense this is filtering down. Example: new research forest in OR. They have learned through the process that tribes are not stakeholders and cannot be treated as such. This may be good forum topic.

Dave Tenny, President and CEO, National Alliance of Forest Landowners (participated virtually): Climate and Wildlife Conservation are the main topics NAFO has been focused on. Markets Plus Trees Equal Mitigation and Jobs is an important formula for the next Farm Bill. NAFO has been working to show how climate solutions can benefit rural communities. Tomorrow the White House will declare March 21 as Conservation Day. It will include a groundbreaking MOA between NAFO, NACASI and the US Fish and Wildlife Service that establishes NAFO's wildlife initiative as programmatic within FWS. It recognizes working private forests as a leading conservation solution.

Wendy Fink, Association of Public Land-Grant Universities: Wendy's role at APLU is 85 percent on the academic program section. April 15 is the deadline for the USDA teaching award; please put forward faculty for nominations. APLU is strongly supporting appropriations for the Women, Minorities and Stem (WMS) program. They are launching Agngie, a graduate student name database for agriculture; students opt to add their names. Participating colleges will have access; it would have national reach. This has been really successful in the engineering sector where about 16,000 names go into a database every year. The agriculture version of this is rolling out now. The goal is to open this to the colleges of natural resources and human sciences.

Rita Hite, President and CEO, American Forest Foundation (AFF): When Rita took over last year as CEO, she and the AFF Board reinforced their strategic focus is family forest landowners. And an urgent need is determining how family forests fit into the climate change picture. AFF has set a goal of striving for a billion tons of mitigation by 2050 from family forests. The way to do this is through voluntary carbon markets. AFF thinks this is scalable work that will help family landowners. Rita described AFF's Family Forest Carbon Program and how it works. They would like help from the university community in developing practices and modeling. There is a backlog of practices they think should be developed; there may be other practices they are not even thinking about. Rita was asked if there are there funds for this. AFF did an RFA which UGA is the recipient of as are some other institutions. There is a gap and they need to figure out how to partner on the research extension side.

Joel Snodgrass (VA Tech) President, National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP): NAUFWP's main effort right now is collaboration on symposiums with the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society. This is in response to Association of State Fish and Wildlife agencies around relevancy of the profession on a broad scale as well as their certification programs and making sure they retain the interests of young professionals. Goals of symposiums are to hear from employers and students concerning their expectations for undergraduate programs as well as perspectives of stakeholders (ngos, agencies, private sector). Both symposiums should contribute action items to the MOUs they have with both societies. They hope the symposiums will help inform their membership about curriculum and curriculum development. Joel asked that NAUFRP please encourage their faculty to participate in NAUFWP. They have a new dues structure that is scaled. They do not ask tribal colleges to pay but ask that they associate and participate where possible. NAUFWP continues to support Coop Units through individual institutions.

Peter Thompson, NIFA: (via Zoom, joined by Daniel Cassidy and Diomy Zamora): This is Peter's first meeting with NAUFRP; he hopes to interact a lot more. They look forward to having a permanent director soon. Last week they published the RFA for RREA; the focus is on extension projects for Climate Smart technology and practices. In recognition of International Forest Day, Peter spoke about global science and its relation to NIFA forest related programs. NIFA's vision is to lead innovation through transformation education and engagement that addresses agricultural challenges. An important question for NIFA as they set priorities and make funding decisions is, are their investments benefiting from and taking advantage of science and extension approaches globally. Would like input from NAUFRP about new areas of science that should be pursued and what expertise and talent NIFA should they focus on -- where should NIFA make investments. Katy says this is very synergistic with NAUFRP and what we do at our individual institutions. The formula funds provide capacity to invest in long term projects; competitive grants are good for filling

short term gaps. Randy noted the tradition NAUFRP had to meet in person with NIFA leaders and directors. Since that is no longer viable, we would like to see if we could meet with Peter and his peers (division directors) virtually this year – an open forum for our schools to participate and hear what the coming themes for future RFAs in 2024 and 2025. Bob spoke about the work of the national survey and data base. The intent is to connect land base issues to the national research capacity.

Jay Farrell, Executive Director, National Association of State Foresters (NASF): Jay described the NASF organization. NASF's work is directed by a Strategic Plan. Their main advocacy centers around USFS S&PF and FIA. Current NASF areas of focus are: appropriations (S&PF), FIA, Farm Bill, BIL, IRA, (big dollars for forestry). An emerging State Forester issue is workforce capacity. Janaki spoke to the NASF Annual meeting two years ago about this issue. The State Foresters know they are competing for talent. Possible areas for partnership might be recruitment related to a NASF job fair?? He has talked to Terry Baker and FS about having more visibility around recruitment. Jay says they are about to send a survey to all State Foresters looking at recruitment, retention, what is innovative to attract more students and employees, what has worked or not. He welcomes suggestions and will be happy to share when they get results back. They intend to review it at their May Executive Committee meeting and it will inform their annual meeting in September where the general theme will be workforce and capacity. He welcomes anyone from NAUFRP to speak to their meeting particularly around the latter themes. Another issue is State Forester turnover. The positions are increasingly becoming politicized and out of state applicants often do not have a 'portable' retirement/pension package. Bill Hubbard suggested revisiting the Deans Tour that AF&PA used to host. Jay thought that was of value and would be interested in supporting it again.

Linda Heath, USFS: Acting Chief, R&D: (Powerpoint can be shared) Linda is currently the longest tenured executive in the Washington Office (WO). Her permanent position is Director of Inventory, Monitoring Assessment Research. R&D has been through a significant transition and is in the midst of workforce hiring. The FS Chief's recommendation for the Deputy Chief position has gone over to the department. The WO has 50-60 people. The Institute of Tropical Forestry has been moved into the WO as a free standing unit to be supervised by the R&D Deputy Chief. The President's budget has the agency at \$9.6 billion next year; much of that is for fire suppression. Currently they have about 450 research scientists; not so long ago that number was 1,000. Last year there were 413 coop agreements for \$62 million. There is program direction every year as part of budget in which they categorize research priorities. The Wildfire Crisis Strategy came out last year; R&D tools were used to identify high risk fire sheds in the west. The S&PF mission area has been renamed State and Private Tribal Forestry. When the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passed, a chunk of money went to FS, none of it was for R&D. It was then arranged that \$100 million would come to R&D over two years. The first \$42 million has just gone to the Station Directors. About \$20 million is going internally for ecosystem research. There is a remainder of maybe \$26 million. There was no funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for R&D and no money off the top. Randy noted previous meetings with R&D Leadership as a good way to share information and collaborate; he hears Lynda saying they have another \$26 million to spend fast. Lynda is open to hearing ideas but the process is complicated. External solicitations take more time and formality. FY24 Budget Request Priorities are Climate Science, Reforestation, Carbon Sequestration and Accounting, Watershed Resilience, Fire Risk Management. Urban FIA is one of the fastest growing pieces of FIA; they are trying to help UC&F. Robert comments that the urban foresters in his unit are seeking funding so if there is any opportunity to make it more visible it would be appreciated. Lynda says it is complicated because the money is in S&PF; they need to spend the money fast (i.e., 2 years). Randy asks if we can have a Zoom session before Sacramento with the Station Directors on how to better collaborate. David asked about FS on campus and graduate student tuition; we have brought this up for many years. She is not sure about it; lost in conversation and transitions. Bob wants to discuss relationships on campus; we used to talk about this but it has been at least 5 years. Maybe there should be regular Zoom calls. Other Topics: Shared positions, Experimental Forests, Grad Student Tuition, FRAC. Katy asked Lynda to send message with Deputy Chief announced. Linda has Sacramento on her calendar for an executive level meeting and she will push for this.

Terry Baker, CEO and Jocelyn Harris, Associate Director for Accreditation, Society of American Foresters (SAF): Jocelyn said they are considering Companion Programs (Andrew discussed in his report) where, if you have an accredited associate degree and unaccredited bachelors, what can they do to have these become one accredited program. They have three interested in applying for candidacy. The committee is reviewing these on a pilot basis. Questions about

what they would submit in addition to the regular self-evaluations (MOUs, faculty requirements). The committee wants these programs to submit what they think they should submit to satisfy SAF requirements. They are all different so it is hard to have a single model. Terry discussed staffing, an upcoming technical conference, Forest Proud. SAF will celebrate 125 years in 2025. They are in the process of rebranding, will have new membership rates and plan to pilot organizational memberships (maybe NAUFRP institutions).

Robert made a motion, second by Andrew Storer, to allocate funds for the development of McS 'swag' for use at SAF and for an amount to be determined for McS project award. Discussion: Katy to appoint a subcommittee (Linda and Bob) to explore and make recommendations for funding a communications intern, developing McS materials for convention and proposed McS project Award. The motions was approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

*(Discussion from some of the presentations is available in a longer version of the minutes upon request.)*

**Participants:** Katy Kavanagh (President, Oregon State University), Janaki Alavalapati (Immediate Past President, Auburn University), David Newman (At-Large, SUNY), Robert Burns (Secretary-Treasurer, West Virginia State University), Andrew Storer (Education Chair, Michigan Tech University), Dennis Becker (Chair-Elect, University of Idaho), Dale Greene (At-Large, University of Georgia), Don Hodges (International Chair, University of Tennessee), Linda Nagel (BAC/BNR representative, Utah State University), Rich Kobe (North Central Chair), Bob Wagner (Research Chair, Purdue University), Hans Williams (Southern Chair, Stephen F. Austin State University), Myron Floyd (Policy Chair, North Carolina State University), Bill Hubbard (Northeast Chair, University of Maryland), Terri Bates (Executive Liaison), Randy Nuckolls (General Counsel)