



NAUFRP

National Association of University Forest Resources Programs

Creating Knowledge—Developing Leaders

DRAFT MINUTES

NAUFRP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Washington, D.C.

March 11-12, 2024

Participants listed at end of minutes.

Welcome --- introductions, review of agenda, approval of minutes --- Katy Kavanagh, NAUFRP President

The agenda was reviewed; an additional item was added to discuss election of officers this Fall.

A **motion** was made by David Newman and seconded by Don Hodges to adopt the Executive Committee minutes from October 24, 2023 in Sacramento, CA. Discussion: Linda Nagle has provided several edits to Terri Bates which will be incorporated. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report, Robert Burns: (Written Report and PowerPoint) The budget has been steady for several years. Robert reviewed 2023 and 2024 budgets. Cash carry-in from 2022 to 2023 was \$160,185. Income in 2023 was \$131,136; expenses were \$133,443. Cash carried into 2024 was \$157,878. Noted was the \$4,552 in interest earned in the PNC Bank Money Market account. A **motion** was made by Katy, seconded by Andrew, to add a new category to the budget to be called 'Awards' to be funded at \$1,250 in the 2024 budget; this would include any travel involved. The motion passed unanimously.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls: Randy reviewed status of FY 24 appropriations bills in Congress. President Biden's FY25 budget is to be released today. The Fall 2024 presidential election is going to overhang much of the year. The House is in play for next year. The Debt Limit Extension was suspended under former House Speaker McCarthy until early 2025. The Trump Administration's tax cuts for individuals will expire in 2025; Congress will need to take action. The Farm Bill will likely be extended until after the election. It is essential to work to educate members of Congress and university governmental relations personnel on the importance of forestry research programs.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report, Zhu Ning: Ning reviewed the two panels at last fall's SAF Convention that the committee developed. The NAUFRP Panel included Katy, Hans Williams, Bob Wagner, Todd Petty. It profiled NAUFRP under "Advance the Health, Productivity and Sustainability of American Forests". The second panel on Urban and Community Forests included representation from the Universities of Florida, California (Berkeley), Connecticut and Iowa State. At last Fall's meeting, the Executive Committee approved an award for diversity developed by the Committee to acknowledge the work of the late Dr. Yeonsu Kim. It has been drafted as an announcement to go out to NAUFRP institutions. The announcement was shared with the group for discussion. It was noted that some campuses have had to change the language around DEI due to state legislation; a different name for the award should be considered. Linda Nagel made a motion to name the award the 'Dr. Yeonsu Kim Champion Award'. Charles Goebel seconded the motion. Discussion: only the title is being changed. SAF accreditation standards related to DEI are unlikely to change and it will be incumbent on universities

to address those in language that works for them. The DEI Committee should come back to the Executive Committee with a comprehensive recommendation about the award's name and criteria; the Executive Committee should not be reworking this. Do not want to lose sight that the intent is to honor the work of Yeonsu Kim but recognize the wording needs to be changed. Katy wanted to table the discussion of a new name and asked the Diversity Committee to come back with a recommendation by the end of March so an award announcement can be advanced. Linda made a **motion** to withdraw her original motion; Charles seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Communications Report, Todd Petty: Todd circulated 'two-pager' on NAUFRP benefits/value. It is part of three-step effort to engage all potential institutions in NAUFRP membership as well as faculty. It still needs a bit of work and he asked all to provide feedback/commends. The second step is to focus on refreshing the website; he will reach out later on this. Third, he sees recruiting institution representatives happening at the regional scale. The next newsletter is planned for May. Discussion on NAUFRP presence at SAF Convention, in particular hosting a booth. A physical presence will reach new people including faculty and provide a profile of NAUFRP and McStennis. It will require resources (financial and staffing) and development of materials. Would a booth really reach a new audience? Would be good to have a map showing schools who receive McStennis funds as well as research forests. This should also be for the website. Other: ask Terry Baker for five minutes on a plenary session; cosponsor the quiz bowl, signage at the joint reception. Dennis Becker agreed to take the lead on this. Katy asked if there are other means to reach institution leadership, for example new Hawaii and Reno deans who do not have forestry backgrounds. A welcome page for a new administration but the question is who to focus on: dean or program lead. With colleges becoming broader, how do we get (forestry/natural resource) people into the leadership pipeline?

Education Report, Andrew Storer: (Provided written report) Andrew has been reappointed to SAF's Education Policy Review Committee. He noted two new staff at SAF: Erin Turner, Director of Credentialing and Su Ann Shupp, Manager of Accreditation. Recent conversations have been about credentialing smaller programs but that has been put on hold as SAF seeks to rejoin (be re-accredited by) CHEA. The latter will impact NAUFRP schools because there will be certain requirements identified by SAF, one of which relates to how data about student achievement/outcomes is documented and where that data is found on program webpages. That information, by CHEA requirements, needs to be one click from the main program Home Page. SAF has a draft email communication (see his report) to NAUFRP accredited schools asking for a point person, especially for web content. Andrew suggests that the program leads should be one point person. He would like the Committee's feedback on this and whether to give NAUFRP representatives a heads-up that this will be coming from SAF. There are two specific questions to address: do we want separate contacts for our webpage and program or only one and should it be the program lead? He is not sure of the advantage of associating with CHEA; there hasn't seemed to be any disadvantages during the years away from CHEA. Comment: a lot of program leads do not control their webpages. Terry Sharik and Tara Bal are working on a manuscript that updates the previous SAF Journal of Forestry publication (2022) that relates to enrollment trends. There will be a presentation on this at the upcoming Biennial Conference on Undergraduate Education hosted by Oregon State University in a few weeks which will be virtual. Andrew's final topic is on the rapidly emerging and evolving topic of AI. He has been attending conferences geared towards provosts and has submitted an abstract for the Biennial Conference to speak about some of the challenges. It may be of value for NAUFRP to bring forestry programs together for a conversation about how we are responding to something that is changing so rapidly. It could be a topic for the General Assembly this fall with a panel from different institutions who are doing creative things with it.

Josh Stull, Stakeholder Affairs Officer, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area: (Powerpoint, provided to Terri) If NAUFRP representatives are in town, Josh can organize meetings. He reviewed NIFA organization. They have 365

employees; almost all are remote. The Director's, Dr. Misras, Vision revolves around 4Cs: capacity, cultivation, collaboration, communications and innovation. NAUFRP's McStennis project one pagers that are posted on the NAUFRP webpage were brought to his attention. Josh talked about the importance of participating in the upcoming Listening Sessions hosted by the agency. Randy commented on NAUFRP efforts to offer names of faculty expertise for review panels. Concern was expressed about a White House Executive Order that the bio economy is focused on biotech feedstocks at the expense of forests; can we influence that conversation? Josh said two points within USDA are the Office of the Chief Scientist and Office of the Chief Economist. It was noted that the President's Order on Indigenous Science can affect science positively and negatively and is that filtering down to NIFA. Dennis said it is of value to see the word 'forestry' more in NIFA language.

David Lytle, USDA Forest Service, Deputy Chief, Research and Development: David addressed Indigenous Knowledge (IK), a topic NAUFRP asked him to discuss. The agency recently developed a Tribal Action Plan (2023) which sets targets and expectations. Specific to R&D, they have just hired a new tribal research program leader to focus on engagement and research. Need to ensure tribes are supported in their use of knowledge and that appropriate IK is brought into agency decision making. David feels a challenge for the federal government related to R&D is they are often asked to be an arbiter for the quality of information that comes from tribal communities. He does not think this is their role. The FY24 allocation just approved by Congress is down from 2023. This comes on the heels of substantial changes in the budget over several years. There has been no real increase in R&D for some time. Congress did approve a cost of living increase last year but provided no additional money for this. They will likely have a reduction in headcounts through attrition. There is real synergy between FS and university research. Currently, R&D has almost 1,400 cooperative agreements (@ \$100 million) mostly with universities. Janaki discussed the challenge of finding faculty for certain conventional forestry disciplines like silviculture, entomology, disease. This impacts the entire forestry community; there should be a mechanism to address this. David cites the Pathways program as a possible means to support graduate careers; need to identify this early in the process. This is a conversation we need to have as a community; he is happy to sit down and discuss. Andrew raised the concern of shared positions between the FS and universities. David is aware that USGS has the authority for this but the FS does not, so the question becomes how do you sustain a long-term commitment to a position/person. He is happy to sit down and explore this too. Randy says we have wrestled with this matter for over 15 years; this is a good time to have a conversation especially if legislative language is needed. Would like to meet again with R&D Leadership as we did last year in Sacramento.

APLU/BAC/CLP Report, Linda Nagle: (Written report provided.) Linda reviewed the BAC FY25 budget process and request. McStennis funding is at \$38 million; the request is \$48 million. McStennis is holding steady which is a victory in the current environment. NAUFRP has representation on the Commission on Food, Environment and Renewable Resources. Dennis is serving on the Capacity Funding Task Force. There are a number of APLU visionary efforts and documents underway one of which is a BAC BAA Vision Document. Linda attended an in-person meeting last November where a vision document draft included three broad statements. She tried to get natural resources/forestry included but they did not make it. Another visioning effort underway is agInnovation (formerly the Agriculture Experiment Station Section) which is rebranding itself. Robert Burns attended an in-person facilitated meeting last week, Linda participated by Zoom; it was a very productive and collaborative. (Linda highly recommended the facilitator.) Linda asked how does NAUFRP want to be engaged when this vision document comes out. We are all playing a role of trying to bring forestry/natural resources into the conversation, these opportunities enable us to help craft the messages. Andrew asked Linda how to help support her. Linda said it is very helpful to have two people at the table where possible. Linda pointed out a link in her report for the National Climate Change Roadmap. She recommended Doug Steele's monthly FANER (Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources) Newsletter.

Maria Janowiak, Director, USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub and Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science: (Powerpoint, available from Terri) Maria reviewed the history and mission of the Climate Hubs. ARS, NRCS, FS are the principal agencies involved. There are 10 regional hubs, each have a director and co-lead. They are designed to be conveners by regional stakeholders; intended for producers and practitioners. The hubs are not research entities. The Northern Forest Climate Hub is the only one focused entirely on a sector (forests).

Doug Steele, Vice President, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU): The FY25 budget has a twenty percent increase for USDA research at the macrolevel although he does not know yet how that actually breaks down. His team exists to provide a national voice for advocacy and messaging for agriculture/natural resources/forestry issues. In FY26, they plan a more aggressive effort on increasing capacity program funds by 25 percent. Priorities: communications and markets. APLU is putting pressure on NIFA to be more engaged internationally.

Dave Tenny, President and CEO, National Alliance of Forest Landowners: NAFO established a Global Forestry Task Group last Fall to look at policy originating outside the US government and has the potential to influence US domestic policy and trade. An example is EUDR (the European Regulation on Deforestation-free Products). The Task Group is to provide a heads up for what is coming. Focus is on Green House Gas Protocol and implementation of EUDR to ensure it does not harm the US sector. They continue to be proactive on Climate Change and Biodiversity. For the former, they want to ensure the integrity of claims about forest and carbon. They are part of a MOU with FS and other partners (US Endowment, American Forest Foundation, American Wood Council) to build a platform for measuring, monitoring, reporting, and verification – a Turbotax for carbon. Data sources will be FIA and mill data. The build out, optimistically, will take two years. The MOA commits dollars through the Forest Service and NRCS. The platform will need a permanent host outside of USDA (university suggestions are welcome). For Biodiversity, they are part of a MOA FWS for the nationwide Wildlife Conservation Initiative. It is about conserving common, at-risk species through forest management. Research will typically benefit other species (gopher tortoise). Tools are being developed to change fundamentally how it works. There will be new kind of agreements with the FWS; the first will be bats and if that goes well, then the next will be pollinators.

NIFA Program Updates, Eric Norland, NIFA Science Liaison; Diomy Zamora, Program Leader for Forest Resources Management: Eric noted the recently released Climate Change Roadmap which is a very broad research framework developed by the land-grant system. Extension will meet to discuss how to take it through the Cooperative Extension system. It is to be implemented through partnerships. The AFRI RFA has \$80 million for sustainable agriculture; the number of forestry proposals has increased. Eric encouraged faculty to work with the Climate Hubs; they are doing a lot of complementary extension work at the regional level. AFRI developed an Extension and Climate Hub Partnership Program that provides money to facilitate and encourage this. The USDA Forestry Research Advisory Council (FRAC) met for the first time in seven years in January. Representatives on it include Myron Floyd, Adrain Leighton (Salish Kootenai), Shibu Jose (Univ of Missouri), Jim Gan (TX A&M). Diomy discussed the FY26 budget; he and Daniel can use examples of McStennis and RREA projects. He is on USDA Reforestation Strike Team to develop recommendations for accelerating tree planting. SBIR program has \$10 million in funding.

APLU Capacity Funding Task Force, Dennis Becker: Dennis is on this committee. They have only had one organizational meeting and are determining what their charge is.

International Report, Don Hodges: IFSA participated in the NAUFRP General Assembly last October in Sacramento. There, they proposed an MOU with NAUFRP. Communications with them since have been very slow going and nothing has materialized to date to report on. The IUFRO International Conference

will be in June 23-29, 2024 in Sweden. Don is on the Board and will be attending; Robert Burns is the official US representative to the International Committee and he will be there (others attending are Katy, Linda, ...) In 2029 IUFRO will be in Nairobi. The IUFRO leadership would like to see more NAUFRP institutions join.

Policy Report, Myron Floyd: Myron is Vice-Chair on FRAC. Themes they are focused on include wildfire science and technology, forest health and communications. Recommendations under discussion by FRAC: 1) \$50 million for McStennis to account for inflationary costs (this also includes covering graduate student costs); 2) amending the McStennis authorizing legislation to allow tuition for graduate students in cooperative agreements; 3) strategic partnerships that connect university forestry/natural resource programs with community colleges to grow the pool of prospective graduate students. Comments on the last: this would be great to think about with SAF. Four-year programs struggle with relationships with two-year programs. If we could sort this out, it would lead to more students in the pipeline – its access equity. Myron asked the group about the process for handling letters NAUFRP is asked to sign-on to. Response was to forward to Executive Team and appropriate committee chairs; ensure these requests are evaluated for advocacy and/or special interests.

1890 Institution Representative, Kozma Naka: There is a 1890 Cooperative Agreement with urban forestry (\$34 million). The 1890 Scholars Program is for agricultural and related programs; there are not many applicants. A February 12th meeting with the Southern Research Station and 1890s was held where the FS outlined their priorities; there have been a lot of changes within the Station. Fire Consortium. Alabama A&M is the only HBCU school with traditional forestry program.

Regional reports

Northeast Report, Bill Hubbard: (written report) Bill is working with Robert to update Northeast lists and re-invigorate the region. Six schools responded to his query. They potentially will have a hybrid meeting. Several states are involved in a meeting in Syracuse on Mass Bio that will be in September. There are/will be new deans at Vermont, Penn State and Delaware; the two-pager will be valuable to orient them. Maine has indicated their interest in combining online graduate courses with other forestry schools for a 100 percent online graduate degree. SUNY and Vermont are hiring faculty.

North Central Report, Rich Kobe: Updates for the region: Jessica Guerevitch at Purdue has stepped down and the Interim Department Chair is Zhao Ma. Iowa State's BS in Forestry has been re-accredited. Michigan State has a hybrid online MS in forestry which is in its second year. SAF approved the first stage. Michigan State's most recent tenured faculty is joint with Public Health focused on the impact of forests on human health. New director of their Forest Carbon and Climate program. Close to hiring a silviculture position.

Southern Report, Michael Blazier: The region's Comparative Data Survey has just been sent out. Plans are for Southern NAUFRP to meet in conjunction with the Southern Group of State Foresters June 3-6.

Western Report, Charles Goebel: (Written Report) A summer meeting is planned for July 15-16 at Oregon State University. University of Washington reports plans for new building. Washington State lost faculty to Oregon State. New dean at University of Hawaii. University Montana appears ready to re-engage with NAUFRP.

Katy asked all the regional chairs to provide updates on institution changes at the regional levels. Randy added this will help with the communications piece to help recruit institution representatives. Other discussion: invite retired NAUFRP reps, depending on where SAF convention is, to NAUFRP reception/meeting; reach out to two-year/community colleges and invite to SAF (not just administrators but also faculty); there are ways to be more inclusive.

Other NAUFRP Topics

Research Chair: Need to select a new Research Chair. Several names were suggested. It is an important position, not only because of McStennis but also the work with NIFA program managers and institute directors as well as with FS R&D and APLU. This person can set the agenda (example: John Hayes work on APLU Forest Health White Paper, Red Baker organized panels from other agencies to speak to the Ex Com). Charles and Rich were asked to consider and let Katy know. Faculty can be included on committees.

1994/Tribal Institutions Representative on NAUFRP Executive Committee: This topic recently came up in a discussion between Katy and Adrian Leighton (Salish Kootenai College). Katy believes there are 35 tribal colleges of which 18 have forestry/natural resource programs and thus eligible for McStennis funding. This is important representation to have. The President would have the discretion to appoint this position. Do we have to amend the bylaws to create this position? The Secretary would need to propose this amendment at least 20 days before the General Assembly. A **Motion** was made by Myron Floyd to amend the NAUFRP By Laws to create a representative from the 1994 institutions to the NAUFRP Executive Committee and increase the voting membership from 19 to 21. Second by Linda Nagel. Discussion: clarification this would add another Ad Hoc position to the Executive Committee for a total of four. The motion passed unanimously.

NAUFRP Elections and By-Laws: There needs to be a call for nominations for NAUFRP President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer and the names need to be publicized before the General Assembly meeting in September. Robert Burns is willing to continue in the role of Secretary-Treasurer. The President-elect would assume the office of President in 2027. Katy asked Robert to take lead on reviewing the By-Laws for further changes. They were last amended five years ago. The current By-Laws will be circulated to the Executive Committee with suggestions for changes to come back to Robert who will review with Randy. He will circulate proposed changes to the Membership at least 20 days, but not more than 40 days before the General Assembly meets on September 17th. Need to look at wording for the 1890s representative and what constitutes a quorum.

Jay Farrell, Executive Director, National Association of State Foresters: Jay introduced Sheridan Davis as NASF's Communications Director. Jay provided background on himself. Scott Phillips, (SC State Forester) NASF President, is working to update their Strategic Plan. Three areas of focus now are: markets, wildland fire and workforce. A current issue is EPA's Particulate Matter (air quality, regulatory). Research in this area is important and needed. NASF convened a January meeting to focus on the Wildfire Commission Report released last year. More than 150 attended and reviewed/analyzed 148 recommendations to focus on 10-12. Jay reviewed and shared last year's State Forester survey on workforce issues and challenges. (This was circulated to the NAUFRP Executive Committee)

Terry Baker, Chief Executive Officer, Society of American Foresters: Terry introduced Su Ann Shupp, Manager of Accreditation, and Erin Turner, Director of Credentialing (joined virtually). Last week's Old Growth Summit (Katy is on Steering Committee) was successful. At the same time they held, with the Forest Service, a Keystone Agreement Partners Summit. SAF has a unique role in leveraging partners and as a convener. In February, they held a 'Rising Professionals' Conference and plan to host it again next year. Also sponsored a two-day pilot conservation field based program with the Forest Service for students not in forestry. The Urban and Community Forestry Certification was launched last fall; they had over 200 applications in the first weeks. Starting work on the Forest Technician Certification. CHEA Recognition is in process; they are to submit April 1, 2025. SAF has started an Organizational Membership which allows entities of 10 people or more; there is a discount for academic institutions. It is intended to explore and engage more people. The South Carolina Forestry Commission was the first to

join; VaTech is interested for their faculty on the natural resources side (access to content, journals). Terry would like NAUFRP thoughts on this for students. Terry proposed Rae Tamlyn present to the NAUFRP General Assembly on Forest Proud. She is able to talk about ways of recruiting, language and marketing to the next generation. Andrew relayed that the Executive Committee discussed the CHEA requirement of having program data one-click off the home page; NAUFRP thinks it best to have the accreditation person as the single contact (this is likely the program lead) versus multiple people involved. Another problem is that the program does not control the webpage at some institutions so the program lead will have to take that request elsewhere. Erin Turner said they have drafted an email that includes screenshot examples of schools who are highlighting the information they are looking for. They do plan to send that out. Andrew said that draft is in the appendix of his written report. Terry Baker said they will provide to Terri Bates to share with the Committee. Janaki commented on the challenges of sustaining certain disciplines like silviculture and the need to work together on supply chain. Janaki also asked about the opportunity of NAUFRP having a few minutes on a SAF Plenary session to discuss the association. Katy asked if SAF keeps track of administrative changes (people, structures) and how they impact forestry programs; Terry said they keep up with administrative changes through accreditation but not impacts; that might be a joint project someday. Charles likes the idea of an organizational student membership. David said the Leadership Academy has been a huge success in his state and he recommends it for all regions.

National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP), Todd Petty: Todd is on the NAUFWP Executive Committee; John Carroll (Univ of Nebraska) is president. Todd liked the SAF proposal about a SAF Organization membership for students and will carry that back to NAUFWP. They have ongoing questions about certification with their professional societies (TWS & AFS). There are natural synergies around the diversity and enrollments surveys as well as funding sources. Important to think about Hatch; it is broad with a lot of overlap. Todd did an informal survey of funding from the Infrastructure Bill; wildlife and fisheries are getting an enormous amount as are forest carbon and wildfire from a wide number of agencies. EPA will be releasing almost \$2 billion before the end of the fiscal year; much will go to climate resiliency (flooding, wildfire and carbon storage). Randy added NAUFWP has done a good job building out internally. They do a better job at Zoom webinars but struggle on the financial side. Long term vitality is a problem. They have the same issue of what is the value of membership. Perhaps there is a conversation down the road about sharing administrative support. Consider a joint leadership meeting in DC followed by separate sessions. Todd will take the latter idea back to NAUFWP. Perhaps there are opportunities for joint committees like research. There are a lot of shared issues, i.e. workforce/enrollment trends, diversity issues, etc. --

Communications Wrap-Up: Todd will focus on updating the NAUFRP website and printed materials. Materials for a booth need to be designed by a professional; will not be difficult but we would need to buy somebody's time. Andrew made a **motion** to approve up to \$5,000 for a booth at SAF and to develop materials for it. Don seconded the motion. Discussion: want a banner/map that can be used repeatedly and at different venues. Want handouts (stickers, magnet, field notebook. May be good to have another session on NAUFRP like last year. The motion was approved unanimously. Dennis, Todd and Linda agreed to work on this.

2024 Annual Meeting Plans: Will be at Loveland, CO. Logistics are that the primary hotel and exposition center are very close; everything else is at least a mile away. Executive Committee to meet Monday, September 16, joint reception would be Monday and General Assembly on Tuesday (note earlier SAF Plenary session start). Denver airport is about 45 minutes away from Loveland; Fort Collins is about 20 minutes. SAF is in early days of exploring reception site options. Terri to explore off-site Executive Committee meeting venues (Colorado State ((talk to Eric Toman)), New Belgium brewery, Will anyone be wrapped up in Accreditation Hearings on Monday or Tuesday? Apparently not. Plan to start Executive Committee about 10:00 am on Monday. Please let Katy know of topics.

Forest Service R&D Committee: This was discussed in Sacramento; need to pick back up on it. Several volunteered to be on a subcommittee that develop topics to meet with the Station Directors about. That is Don, Rich, Myron, Janaki and Bill. Katy will reach out to Valarie Hipkins to identify people on their side and then we will set up a meeting.

Last items: Biennial Conference Abstract deadline is March 18; the meeting will be virtual April 23-24. Brenda McComb is the new *Journal of Forestry* editor. Brenda reached out to Katy to encourage that faculty submit to the publication; they are working to bring up the level of publications.

Participants: Katy Kavanagh (President, Oregon State University), Todd Petty (Communications Chair, Clemson University), Linda Nagel (BAC/BNR Representative, Utah State University), Randy Nuckolls (Washington Counsel), David Newman (At-Large, SUNY ESF), Don Hodges (International Chair, University of Tennessee), Erin Kelly (At-Large, Humbolt CalPoly), Charles Goebel (Western Chair, University of Idaho), Robert Burns (Secretary/Treasurer, West Virginia University), Andrew Storer (Education Chair, Michigan Tech University), Rich Kobe (North Central Chair, Michigan State University), Kozma Naka (1890s Representative, Alabama A&M University), Terri Bates (Executive Liaison) Attended virtually: Dennis Becker (President-Elect, University of Idaho), Zhu Ning (Diversity Chair, Southern University), Michael Blazier (University of Arkansas), Nate Nibblelink (University of Georgia), Eric Norland (NIFA Liaison)
Virtual: Bill Livingston (University of Maine), George Criner (University of Maine), Allen Rutherford (Louisiana State University)

MOTIONS, ACTION ITEMS, NOTES/FOLLOW-UP

Motions Passed:

- Minutes from October 23, 2023 NAUFRP Executive Committee approved
- Amendment to 2024 Approved Budget to add 'Awards' line at \$1,250.
- A motion to rename the Diversity Award was withdrawn and sent back to committee.
- A motion to create a representative from the 1994 institutions to the NAUFRP Executive Committee and increase the voting membership from 19 to 21 -- this would add another Ad Hoc position for a total of four.
- A motion approved \$5,000 for SAF booth and materials development (working on this are Dennis, Todd and Linda)

Other

- NAUFRP By-Laws to be circulated and reviewed by Executive Committee; proposed changes to come to General Assembly at Fall meeting.
- Ning and DEI committee to review/revise Award and bring back to Executive Committee by end of March for approval so it can be circulated to listserv for September meeting
- Research Chair Appointment
- FS R&D Committee: Katy to followup with Valarie about FS Station Directors and NAUFRP meeting. From NAUFRP: Don, Rich, Myron, Janaki and Bill
- David Lytle: willing to sit down and discuss 1) pipeline issues (silviculture, entomology, disease,..) and 2) shared positions and authorities
- From Jay Farrell, information on reference to Georgetown study
- Newsletter in May