

DRAFT MINUTES

National Association of University Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP)

General Assembly Meeting Minutes *(Generated by ChatGPT)*

Date: September 17, 2024

Location: Loveland, CO

1. Welcome and Introductions

Presenter: Katy Kavanagh

Katy Kavanagh opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. (See attendance list at end of document.)

2. Approval of Minutes (October 25, 2023)

Motion: Andrew Storer moved to approve the minutes from October 25, 2023.

Second: David Newman

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously; minutes approved as presented.

3. Treasurer's Report

Presenter: Robert Burns

A text report and accompanying table were presented. Robert reviewed annual income and expenses for 2023 and year-to-date 2024. Carryover funds exceeded \$150,000 in both years.

- The number of institutions paying dues increased slightly.
- New items:
 - NAUFRP hosted a booth at the SAF Convention for the first time to increase name recognition.
 - Funds are budgeted for the Yeon-Su Kim Champion Award recipient in 2025.
- The Executive Committee approved the 2025 budget on the previous day.

Motion: Andrew Storer moved to adopt the 2025 budget.

Second: Don Hodges

Outcome: Motion approved unanimously.

4. NAUFRP Activities in 2024

Presenter: Dennis Becker

Dennis reviewed 2024 activities via PowerPoint and encouraged members to involve faculty in committee work.

Highlights by Committee:

- Communications: Newsletter, McIntire-Stennis one-pagers, refreshed logo.
- Diversity: Developed wording and structure for the Yeon-Su Kim Champion Award to promote inclusive excellence and belonging. Executive Committee approved award and travel funding.
- Extension: Two 2025 Family Forest Education Awards to be presented this afternoon.
- Education: Focused on CHEA accreditation. Members experiencing challenges with

“achievement data” requirements should contact Andrew Storer.

- International: Focused on the IUFRO World Congress (Stockholm, June 2024).
- Policy: Topics included Forests in the Farm Bill, the Forest Climate Working Group, and USDA Forest Research Advisory Committee.
- Research: New Chair, Rick Kobe, continues work on research priorities and metrics for McIntire-Stennis outcomes.

5. NAUFRP By-Laws Amendments

Presenter: Robert Burns

Proposed By-Laws changes were previously distributed and posted online. Key amendments include:

1. Updated language to include natural resources more broadly.
2. Added representation from 1994 institutions receiving McIntire-Stennis funding to the Executive Committee.
3. Specified that the Executive Committee will meet at least twice annually.

Motion: Wes Burger moved to adopt the proposed changes.

Second: David Newman

Outcome: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Enhancing Diversity in NAUFRP Degree Programs

Presenter: Wes Burger

Mississippi State University aims to align undergraduate enrollment demographics with state high school demographics by 2030. MSU invites institutions to join the Forestry Workforce 2030 Alliance—a collaborative, adaptive initiative to improve diversity across forestry education programs.

Call to Action: “Will You Join Us?”

7. Federal and Partner Updates

a. Kevin Kephart (USDA NIFA): Provided updates on appropriations, priorities, and FY25 budget proposals. Emphasized that competitive programs (e.g., AFRI) address national priorities, while capacity programs (e.g., McIntire-Stennis) address state and local needs. There are 60 NIFA programs supporting forestry research; a summary was requested. Announced a new NIFA Task Force on Traditional Knowledge.

b. Randy Nuckolls (NAUFRP Washington Counsel): Suggested that Dijomy collaborate with NAUFRP Research and Regional Chairs to host webinars about the 60 NIFA forestry research programs. Discussed implications of upcoming elections: reduced higher education funding, potential Executive Orders, and differences between NAUFRP and NAUFWP.

c. Rae Tamblyn (#forestproud, SAF): Presented on #forestproud, an SAF outreach initiative connecting schools, students, and communities to the role of forests in supporting jobs, sustainability, and climate solutions.

d. David Lytle (USFS R&D): Reported that the USDA Forest Research Advisory Council

charter has been renewed; meeting planned for November. FS R&D funding continues to decline; research scientist numbers dropped from 1,000 to 430 over the past 40 years.

8. Presentation of 2025 NAUFRP–NWOA Family Forest Education Awards

Presenters: Bill Hubbard and Mark Megalos (NWOA)

- Comprehensive Program Award: University of Idaho Extension Forestry – Idaho Forest Stewardship Program.
- Individual Program Award: Purdue University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension – “Forest Management for the Private Woodland Owner Course.”

9. SAF Updates

Presenters: Rebeca Turner (President) and Terry Baker (CEO), Society of American Foresters

- SAF partnering with USFS on the National Capitol Christmas Tree and with Job Corps on conservation education.
- Mature and Old Growth Summit report forthcoming.
- CHEA Review Board to review SAF membership early next year.
- SAF will publish a 125th Anniversary Book in 2026.

10. NAUFRP Elections

Facilitator: Katy Kavanagh

- Secretary-Treasurer: Robert Burns (re-elected unanimously)
- President-Elect: Linda Nagel (elected unanimously)

11. AI in Forestry Education Workshop

Moderator: Andrew Storer

Discussion covered:

- Existing and needed policies on AI use across institutions.
- Support NAUFRP leaders and faculty need to navigate AI tools.

Andrew demonstrated ChatGPT applications for educational purposes.

12. Resolutions

Presenter: Katy Kavanagh

Resolutions were read honoring:

- David Newman (SUNY) – retirement.
- Jeff Stringer (University of Kentucky) – retirement.

Dennis Becker read a resolution recognizing Katy Kavanagh for her service as NAUFRP President and Executive Committee member.

13. Ten-Year Update on National Natural Resource Enrollment Trends

Presenters: Terry Sharik and Tara Bal (Michigan Technological University)

Reviewed undergraduate and graduate enrollment trends (2005–2022) across 82 NAUFRP institutions. This is the first time graduate enrollment trends have been considered.

Findings show growth in Natural Resource enrollments compared to national declines in

other disciplines. The programs covered include Environmental Science and Studies, Natural Resources Conservation and Management, Fisheries and Wildlife, Forestry, Natural Resources Recreation, Range Science and Management, Watershed Science and Management, and Wood Science/Products. A link to the study will be posted on the NAUFRP website following publication.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

Attendees:

Participants: **Katy Kavanagh**, President (Oregon State University), Paul Winistorfer (Virginia Tech), Linda Nagel, BAC Representative (Utah State University), Jo Ellen Force (Retired, University of Idaho), Perry Brown (Retired, University of Montana and former NAUFRP President), Wes Burger (Mississippi State University), Dennis Becker, President-Elect (University of Idaho), Robert Burns, Secretary-Treasurer (West Virginia University), Chris Keyes (Utah State University), Erin Kelly, At Large (Cal Poly Humboldt State University), Terry Sharik (Retired, Michigan Tech University), Andrew Storer, Education Chair (Michigan Tech University), Jan Thompson (Iowa State University), David Auty (Northern Arizona University), Zhao Ma (Purdue University), Joe Knight (Virginia Tech University), David Newman, At-Large (SUNY), David Flashpohler (Michigan Tech University), Jeff Hatten (Oregon State University), Rich Kobe, Research (Michigan State University), Adrian Leighton (Salish Kootenai College), Myron Floyd, Policy (North Carolina State University), Randy Nuckolls, General Counsel, Andrew McBroom (Stephen F. Austin State University), Don Grebner (Mississippi State University), Don Hodges, International (University of Tennessee), John Goodburn (University of Montana), Red Baker (University of Florida), Nate Nieblink (University of Georgia), Bill Hubbard, Extension (University of Maryland), Kristen Nelson (University of Minnesota), Adam Daigneault (University of Maine) Buck Vandersteen, NAUFRP CARET Liaison, Diomy Zamora (NIFA), Mark Meglos, (National Woodland Owners Association), Rae Tamblyn, #forestproud, Kevin Kephart (NIFA), Terry Baker (Society of American Foresters), Rebecca Turner (Society of American Foresters), Tara Bal (Michigan Tech University) *Virtual:* Hans Williams (Stephen F. Austin State University), Eric Norland (NIFA), Zhu Ning (Southern University), Kozmo Naka (Alabama A&M University)