

**Draft**

## **NAUFRP Executive Committee Minutes**

**March 4-5, 2025**

**Washington, D.C.**

Welcome and introductions (list of participants at end).

Dennis reviewed the meeting agenda and asked if there were any additions; there were none.

Approval of September 16, 2024 Executive Committee Minutes. These have been circulated via email. Linda Nagel has provided several edits that have been incorporated. A **motion** to accept the minutes was made by David Newman and seconded by Don Hodges. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report, Robert Burns: PowerPoint presentation and written report. Highlights: dues payments were up in 2024 by \$12,500 from 2023. Total dues received in 2024 were \$137,472. Interest from the PNC Money Market account was \$6,238 in 2024. Expenses in 2024 were \$141,484, about \$13,000 under budget. Carryover into 2025 was \$160,000. Convention meeting costs and reception are increasingly higher. Actual costs related to the NAUFRP booth at SAF were about \$1,000; \$5,000 was budgeted.

President's Report, Dennis Becker: Emphasized focusing on committee efforts with tangible outcomes. There are no formal committee reports for this meeting. Instead, this will be a working (SWOT) session on NAUFRP's direction and relevance. Topics of focus: the NAUFRP website and newsletter, SAF Convention, Diversity Committee and membership dues. It is critical to maintain dues; Dennis sent a letter last week acknowledging what's happening at the federal level and describing what we are doing. Expecting serious impacts from less federal funds and people and the possibility of whole programs going away.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls: Randy discussed the House passed Budget Resolution. Once a resolution is in place, the Reconciliation process begins. A Continuing Resolution (CR) funding all federal agencies expires March 14<sup>th</sup>. Significant cuts are anticipated in the Administration's FY26 budget. Noted is the activity of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and 'pausing programs' that have already received appropriations. The debt limit needs to be raised. Working to try and educate on the value of program funding. Advice: Tell success stories about how programs positively impact citizens when advocating for funding.

Doug Steele, Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU): Urged NAUFRP participation in CARET (Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching). There are 300 CARET representatives and there can be multiple ones for a university including students. Discussed language shifts in DEI/climate framing. APLU is a plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging NIH actions limiting indirect costs for federal agency research grants. APLU sent a February 14<sup>th</sup> letter to the Secretary of State addressing the freeze on USAID and department funded grants. The agInnovation Research Roadmap has been

completed. Beginning focus on capacity programs for the FY27 budget. There is a need to align messages with the Administration's priorities but not to back off values we support. With all that is happening, this may be a challenge and opportunity to rethink how we do things.

Terry Baker, CEO and Su Ann Shupp, Accreditation Manager, Society of American Foresters (SAF): SAF will submit its final CHEA application narrative by April 1. SAF should have a response within 90 days (July) and then plan to develop Accreditation Guidance. This year's Convention will be in Hartford, CT and celebrate SAF's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The second Rising Professionals conference will be held in Madison, WI in April. The next joint SAF-CIF conference will be held in Calgary in 2026. SAF joined fellow professional societies on a joint statement on the federal workforce. SAF does not have a DEI program. SAF is engaging with the Tribal Timber Council who will host a symposium in New England in conjunction with the Convention.

Dave Tenny, CEO, National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO): The experiences of the last weeks are unprecedented. The Rules and Theory of the Game are Disruption for the sake of Disruption. Recognize there is little we can do. Next steps are to determine how to become relevant to departments through intersecting, without sacrificing, what we want in the long term. Dave predicts large amounts of USFS R&D will go away; universities will fill the breach. U.S. domestic productivity is primacy. You need to find a direct line between work you are doing and the Administration. The Administration does not want to talk about climate and biodiversity; NAFO is not backing away from these but not leading with them either at this time. It is important to frame these topics/issues (climate means build with wood). Dave emphasized reframing; not changing what is desired for the long-term.

SWOT: Dennis and Linda introduced the SWOT activity. Discussion: currently we do not clearly translate what we do, who we want to be, how to achieve it. NAUFRP can provide a unified national voice, increase value to American people, respond to crisis and opportunities; NAUFRP represents leaders of forestry programs; there is a difference between members and stakeholders; NAUFRP should focus on mentoring new administrators and advocate for the McIntire-Stennis program; NAUFRP should serve dues paying members; interface with Forest Service on behalf of individual schools, relationship development with Executive Branch/managers and advocate with a collective voice; recognize important partners (McS, SAF), impacts to all schools, issues that impact all organizations, what things are impacting all but we are not involved in (individually); can organize/coordinate speakers at meetings (i.e., USDA Under Secretary -- this is more tactical); educational opportunity for members. Dennis wants to frame these things around what we need to maintain, preserve, and avoid.

Those present participated in the exercise identifying what NAUFRP should try and ACHIEVE, PRESERVE AND AVOID. Photos were taken and the responses/feedback summarized by Andrew and Robert (attached).

***Discussion and Priority Tasks: Meshing Themes with Committees:*** Discussion on aligning themes with the committees from the summary (attached).

Diversity Committee, Zhu Ning: Ning will convene the committee to discuss a new name, function and purpose that they will bring to the Executive Committee. A **Motion** was made by Ning to remove the Diversity Committee page from NAUFRP website until a new title has been approved with goals and objectives; the motion was seconded by Linda Nagel. Discussion: the NAUFRP By-Laws will have to be amended/changed if there is a new committee name. The motion passed unanimously

Communications, Todd Petty: The Committee (need to add members) will work to 1) freshen the NAUFRP mission, goals and priorities and integrate into the one-pager, 2) cleanup the website (will not plan to overhaul at this point; Andrew will communicate with the MichTech IT staff), 3) coordinate the 2025 booth at the SAF Convention (Linda and Dennis agreed to help). Dennis to email communications to membership in April/May in lieu of a full newsletter.

Research, Rich Kobe: The Committee's number one priority is to ensure NAUFRP is engaged with creating a system that will collect national research priorities for forestry. Rich will self-nominate himself to the American Forest Congress to be held this coming July in DC. Longer term, he will pursue conversations/meetings with the Forest Service R&D Deputy Chief and Station Directors. The committee will work with NIFA program managers to ensure FNR is well embedded in competitive grants. With Katy's help, the committee will conduct an inventory of industry forestry research cooperatives. Specifically, Katy will develop a spreadsheet for tracking and send to Rich; they want to think about what kinds of data would be useful to collect.

Education, Andrew Storer: The committee will focus primarily on two things: 1) maintaining NAUFRP's relationship with SAF working through the Education Review Policy Committee (ERPC) and liaising with the SAF Committee on Accreditation, and 2) how to better track graduate outcomes from NAUFRP programs and how that may shift given what is currently happening. This will include how best to present (criteria and metrics) this information.

Extension, Bill Hubbard: Bill's priority will be to better fit the committee into NAUFRP's mission, goals and objectives. Focus will be on the Family Forest Education Award cosponsored with the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA). The call for nominations is about to be released. There may be opportunities to look at new people/leaders to work with through the Extension Committee.

International, Don Hodges: Committee tasks are to continue relationships with IUFRO (International Union of Forestry Research Organizations) and the IFSA (International Forest Students Association). In May Don will attend a IUFRO board meeting in Vienna, Austria. He will stay informed on the Regional Science-Policy Information Networks, a IUFRO pilot project in Europe and Africa, *to "bring together regional research representatives to foster collaboration, raise the visibility of regional research, and provide science-based policy options in policy discussions and processes, while also facilitating communication with policy-makers to better understand their needs and provide more relevant scientific results."* The IUFRO World Congress will meet next in Nairobi in 2029 and Don will solicit action items and topics to engage on behalf of NAUFRP.

1890s Representative, Kozma Naka: Kozma will reach out directly to 1890s and discuss benefits of engaging them more with NAUFRP.

APLU Liaison: NAUFRP will seek to strengthen its partnership with APLU. This will involve working with Doug Steele to rebuild the Board of Natural Resources and engaging more with NAUFWP. Randy believes we should bring the NAUFRP and NAUFWP together. NAUFWP is mostly faculty but the organization structures are very similar (dues structures are different).

2025 SAF Convention: Discussion of joint reception with SAF and the booth. There appeared consensus that people liked having the joint reception. There was also consensus to explore other meeting venues off convention site in Hartford; that should help cut expenses. Booth: Funds (\$5,000) for a NAUFRP booth were already approved in the 2025 budget. Last year's cost was a little more than \$1,000. Todd, Linda, Dennis agreed to lead on this. Terri to secure registration.

Policy Committee, Myron Floyd not able to attend this meeting.

CARET Coordination: This is an audience we need to focus on. Are there ways to raise NAUFRP participation in CARET? Representatives are chosen by the Dean based on involvement; the university pays travel. Should this meeting occur simultaneous with the CARET meeting? There may be other CARET sessions to participate in. It would be good to see their agenda. Buck suggested a program on McS within CARET's agenda. Linda said there has been an effort to 'educate' CARET delegates of what they are being asked to advocate on.

There was consensus to have regular check-in calls; things are changing so fast. Randy suggests mid-April and will work to set up. Maybe talk about regional issues at the check in. Dennis has talked to Peter Newman (Univ of Vermont) and thinks he will become the new Northeastern Chair.

Adjourned

*(Draft Meeting Minutes Partially generated by ChatGPT)*

**Meeting Participants:** Dennis Becker, President (University of Idaho), Katy Kavanah, Past President (Oregon State University), Todd Petty, Communications (University of Georgia), Don Hodges, International (University of Tennessee), Kozma Naka, 1890s (Alabama A&M University), Andrew Storer, Education (Michigan Tech University), Rich Kobe, Research (Michigan State University), Robert Burns, Secretary-Treasurer (West Virginia University), Terri Bates, Executive Liaison, David Newman, At-Large (SUNY ESF), Zhao Ma, North Central (Purdue University), Linda Nagle, President-Elect (Utah State University), Doug Steele (APLU), Randy Nuckolls, General Counsel, , Eric Norland, NIFA Science Liaison, Bill Hubbard, Extension (University Maryland) Zoom: Adam Daigneault (University of Maine), Wes Burger (Mississippi State University), Allen Rutherford (Louisiana State University), Zhu Ning, Diversity (Southern University), Michael Blazier, South (University of Arkansas, Monticello), , Buck Vandersteen, CARET Delegate Liaison, Erin Kelly, At Large (Humboldt State University), Charles Goebel, Western (University of Idaho)