

NAUFRP Executive Committee
February 23-25, 2009
Washington, D.C.

Participants: Hal Salwasser, President (Oregon State University); George Hopper, Immediate Past President (Mississippi State University), Steve Bullard, Research Chair (University of Kentucky); Tim White, President-Elect (University of Florida); Alan Ek, Ad Hoc (University of Minnesota); David Newman, Northeast Regional Chair (SUNY); Dan Keathley, Policy Chair (Michigan State University), Peg Gale, Treasurer/Secretary (Michigan Tech University); Barry Goldfarb, International Chair (North Carolina State University), Dick Brinker, BAC/FAC Representative (Auburn University), Janaki Alavalapati (VA Tech), Keith Belli, Southern Regional Chair (University of Tennessee), Perry Brown, ATR Liaison (University of Montana), George Brown, Diversity Co-Chair (Alabama A&M), Rob Swihart, North Central Regional Chair (Purdue University), Jo Ellen Force, Western Regional Chair (University of Idaho), Jim Allen, Ad Hoc (Northern Arizona University), Kamran Abdollahi, Diversity Co-Chair (Southern University), Pat Layton, Education Chair (Clemson University), Allen Rutherford, Louisiana State University, Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP Washington Counsel, Terri Bates, NAUFRP Executive Liaison

Guests: Dan Kugler, CSREES Deputy Administrator, Dave Cleaves, US Forest Service R&D Deputy Chief; Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator; Donna Harman and Nadine Block American Forest and Paper Association, Jay Farrell, National Association of State Foresters, Tim Sanders, Cornerstone

A motion was made by Tim White and seconded by Perry Brown to approve the November 4, 2008 Executive Committee minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Hal Salwasser: Products needed from this meeting are \$30 million for the McIntire-Stennis program and \$8 million for the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA.) program.

The final 2008 Treasury and 2009 reports to date were reviewed. The Strategic Investments in 2009 need to be better identified individually in the next report. Peg noted that we plan to change tax accountants in the coming year.

REPORTS

Education, Pat Layton: Pat recently sent out a solicitation for CSREES Awards Recognition on the listserv. George Hopper has asked Colien Hefferan for \$35,000 in assistance for the undergraduate education summit. Two outcomes from the summit are desired: increased enrollments and review of course work content. The summit is planned for next year. NAUFRP will outline a message for Colien.

Research, Steve Bullard: Former Research Chair Mike Kelly worked to increase dollars to forestry from NRI. Building on his effort, a small NAUFRP group met with NRI National Program Leaders (NPLs) last spring. They learned from that meeting that we are attempting to make a cultural change and a negative feedback loop exists (the NPLs say more faculty are needed for review panels but our faculty don't want to participate without credit and support when forestry isn't getting serious funding). We are employing a new tactic of trying to work with the NPLs. We want to get good, qualified faculty on their 'short' lists. After creating a data set of faculty, there will be follow-up to see if faculty are being asked and then serve. This will become a regular mechanism. The regions will be involved. Note that the panels help set policy for the next round. Now is a critical time; language is being developed for RFA's. Keith and Steve are going to meet with the air and water, rural development NRI staff and possibly with Debra Sheily and Mark Poth. Randy noted a problem has been our inconsistency in the past. Other discussion: the NPLs have a huge amount of power and latitude; they get a high level of input from other stakeholders; FRAC can help work on this. Should faculty be encouraged to update their information with CSREES on line? Steve said yes. Steve

will follow-up with Regional Chairs, AF&PA and other partners. Hal will remind regions to appoint leads on this.

Diversity, George Brown: A Diversity Summit was held at Reno with student ambassadors and SAF student leadership. Issues they discussed included how to attract minorities, retention, workforce. The next step is to host a Diversity Summit which has been previously discussed by the Executive Committee. It was agreed to do this at the fall General Assembly meeting on September 30th in Orlando, FL. This will dovetail well with SAF Convention activities and receptions. George will plan to use the traditional NAUFRP General Assembly workshop time and engage a facilitator. The Forest Service might be able to provide the latter; plan to ask Dave Cleaves this afternoon. The NAUFRP meetings will be Sept. 29 and 30th. Dan Kugler has agreed to pay student travel.

Policy, Dan Keathley: In Florida, the Executive Committee discussed assessing our schools on climate change, renewable energy, carbon policy to develop a general scenario of our science and outreach capacity (Janaki, Dan and Joe O'Leary). Dan wants to ensure the survey provides meaningful output. He was asked who the audience? It is to use in DC with funding agencies and Congress. We want to determine where the integration is occurring and what questions need to be posed. Hal believes there will be federal legislation on climate policy. Would we want a research title? Our efforts could go to influencing that. Other discussion: it was pointed out we don't have a social part (i.e., working with private landowners); there are a lot of areas of need we can identify; maybe survey FTEs, courses, ... It is useful to remember that NAUFRP's number one priority is the science of integration; we need to articulate what the science of integration is. Hal admonished the need to emphasize integration in McStennis research on top priorities such as climate, renewable energy, water, forest-related jobs.

Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC), Dick Brinker: BAC met two weeks ago; Dick handed out a priorities list that they finalized. Cornerstone wanted to limit the number of priorities. Two items were eliminated because no one showed up. There were eight votes at the table. RREA was voted down 3-5. Youth at Risk voted up 5-3. BAC took off two targeted lines and added one back. Discussion followed on a competitive component of McStennis. NAUFRP developed a structure with Colien 3-4 years ago. We need to stay on message; there must be at least a \$5 million increase before a competitive program can be considered. Now that the 1890s institutions are eligible, McStennis would need to have a \$30 million base program before competitive grants can be considered. George Hopper expressed great disappointment for lack of BAC support for RREA as Tim Sanders (Cornerstone) joins the meeting. George made a motion that Hal write a letter to the President of BAC expressing disappointment and support reconsideration of RREA as a priority; second by Tim White. Motion passed unanimously. (Letter sent March 9, 2009)

Cornerstone Report, Tim Sanders: Cornerstone has tried for years to get BAC/NASULGC to reduce its list of priorities. When Senator Bennett was appropriations subcommittee chair, Utah State University made a big push on RREA but was unsuccessful. BAC looked at this and said 'move on'. For FY09, there are nine unfinished appropriations bills and these have been rolled into one Omnibus which will pass the House this week and the Senate next. McStennis is at \$27.5 million. The BAC priority list gets \$60 million in increases. BAC fought hard to get AFRI in the Stimulus bill but the conference worked from an OMB list which didn't include it. AFRI is at \$201 million in the Omnibus bill. For FY 2010, there will be no Administration budget till mid April, however big broad concepts will be introduced this week by the President. Member and Committee deadlines will be earlier than the Administration's detailed budget. Tim was asked how BAC cross walks these big themes to line-items; he is uncertain. He does believe the emphasis on competitive programs will continue, if only because Noah and Adrian are still at OMB. CARET is in next week. Tim advised on the importance of continued follow-up with Members and their staff. Randy noted that the Chairman put out a directive about 'transparency' and earmarks and asked Tim if this will cause Members to ask for everything? Tim said earmarks aren't going to go away but there could be fewer of them. The President wants to back to the earmark level of 1994.

US Forest Service, Dave Cleaves: Ann Bartuska has been named the Acting Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. USDA has 227 political appointments; only about 13 are in place. The Stimulus Packages means \$1.3 billion to the Forest Service: \$650 million to facilities, \$500 million each to National Forest System and State and Private for fuels treatment. This Administration has signaled it is going to be very aggressive about transparency. They are making decisions based on jobs with focus on 'targeted, timely, and temporary'. R&D needs to do better at quantifying jobs. They had seven days to put together a package for \$150 million to go to mega fire risk areas. The real Stimulus research dollars went to NIH, NASA and NSA. USDA Secretary Vilsack is to talk to the DOE Secretary about "Green to Green". USDA has not been as aggressive on wood to energy as DOE. Dave was asked if there is a possibility of increased research dollars in the annual budget because it is freed up by Stimulus dollars (facilities for R&D)? He was also asked about the specifics of the S&PF Stimulus dollar projects which he was not sure about. Hal indicated he has had a conversation with Ann about the FS and NAUFRP not being in sync: NAUFRP's themes are emerging issues/integration and the Forest Service R&D's are 'growth platforms'. Dave thinks we should pick 2-3 priorities and use the same language. Hal says its climate change, energy and jobs. Dave was asked the status of ULTRAS; he said the RFP should be out within a month and will get a heads-up, pre-announcement out. He was also asked the status of NEON but was uncertain. It will be key to sit down in small groups to talk about the FY 2011 budget. Though the FY2012 budget is out there yet, the FS will be trying to link recovery to themes in those budgets. NAUFRP asked Dave if the FS can provide a facilitator, preferably Nancy Walters, to help with the Diversity Summit.

USDA Forest Research Advisory Council (FRAC), Dick Brinker: FRAC had been scheduled to meet Feb. 3-4 on the premise that new appointments would be made. The former USDA Secretary made the appointments but before they were processed the new Administration put a hold on all new appointments. Peg raised an issue for FRAC that came up at the recent ATR meeting regarding the McIntire-Stennis formula – what, or how recent, is the data that is being used. Dick was asked about having a NAUFRP presentation on research priorities. Hal asked if FRAC has been effective? Dick said yes, there have been successes, and cited examples of the national needs fellowship program and pine Genome project.

National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO), Dave Tenny: Dave reviewed NAFO's membership and number of forest acres represented by the new association. NAFO priorities are: climate change, renewable energy, environment and taxes. A common theme for all the priorities is 'Keeping Forests as Working Forests'. NAFO represents the first time an organization has formed centered around advocacy for forest landowners. They have had a lot of interest from ngo's. Dave was asked how NAUFRP can help NAFO? Dave said by providing credibility for policies such as sustainability. Randy asked what NAFO members think about NAUFRP schools? Do they recognize the need for science and what universities provide? Dave said it was variable. The profile of NAFO companies has changed. They are very lean. Comment: since NAFO is so young, maybe we can think about a joint dialogue. Dave described NAFO's governing structure: they have a 21-member Board and under it an Executive Committee. The chair is Matt Donegan. Dave was asked on the issue of sustainability, does NAFO have a mechanism to analyze where research/information needs exist and then the ability to dialogue with the universities? Dave said yes. They do have a budget for research (\$50,000). Dave sees it as very doable to focus together on common research priorities. Randy said it would be good to build a relationship between the key leadership of both organizations.

Donna Harman, President and CEO, and Nadine Block, Forest Policy Director, American Forest & Paper Assn: Discussion about the changing industry. Donna doesn't think the Stimulus Bill will fix housing; perhaps some other Administration proposal will. Other AF&PA interests are tax policy, clean air, climate change (regulation, litigation and legislation). AF&PA is trying to organize its members around common principles. Their members are very much interested in workforce issues; they want to ensure their industry is one people want to work for. Renewable energy is an opportunity. Fifteen million acres of timberland are connected to manufacturing operations. Are there ways NAUFRP can talk to AF&PA's leaders about future research and technology needs on the manufacturing side? Donna said AF&PA's mission is to focus on public policy for the forest products industry. The opportunities for engaging have changed. They look to

AGENDA 2020 for technical needs and have individual relationships with the universities. TAPPI is the pulp and paper side. The CEOs did a comprehensive policy review last fall and the most significant issue of interest was biomass. The industry is integrated but not so the individual companies. The supply chain parts are owned individually. NAUFRP can help with educating policy makers about the ‘complexity’ of the industry and tying it back to the implications to the real world with emphasis on the interdependencies with universities.

International, Barry Goldfarb: Barry provided an update on the NASULGC and US Department of Education Higher Education Initiative in Africa. An ad hoc group of faculty from seven NAUFRP institutions submitted two proposals for planning grants up to \$50,000 each – one led by Northern Arizona University and the other by Pennsylvania State University. Included in the proposals were statements of support on behalf of NAUFRP, with the intention of drawing on the expertise of many institutions if the initiatives go beyond the planning grant stage.

ATR Liaison, Perry Brown: The ATR meeting was held in January with about 50 ATR’s present. A number of topics were discussed including the McStennis formula, multi-state projects, carryover of McStennis funds, eligibility of 1890 institutions, institutions reporting, who ought to be the official ATR from an institution and an update of the McStennis regulations and administrative manual. NAUFRP will be asked for comments on the latter. It worked well to have people call in to participate.

South, Keith Belli: At a regional meeting last March, representatives from Southern NAUFRP discussed what messages and tools are effective with recruiting. From that they planned a survey using focus groups to get the questions right. The survey will be generated this Fall and the results will feed into the undergraduate education summit. They are asking recruiters to put together ‘best practices’ to create a clearing house. Southern NAUFRP will meet at the end of May in conjunction with the Forest Landowners Association at Amelia Island, FL.

Northeast, David Newman: A joint meeting with the North Central region is planned in Philadelphia at the end of April. They are working with the Forest Service and State Foresters.

North Central, Rob Swihart: Trying to fill regional representative slots. Attempting an informational campaign for forestry via a journalism class at university of Missouri.

West, Jo Ellen Force: Trying to schedule a meeting May 12-13 in Seattle when the Western Forest Leadership Council will meet. Western NAUFRP has been trying to join the WFLC but have met continued resistance.

Jay Farrell, Executive Director, National Association of State Foresters: NASF has completed a transition year; they have all new staff in place. John Shannon, Arkansas State Forester, chairs the NASF Forest Health and Research committee. NASF is looking to FY2011 as the real opportunity to work with the new Administration on the budget. It has been a difficult year with the Administration’s budget. Asked what education/skills are needed, Jay said competence in forest policy and communication skills. Climate Change, renewable energy and fire suppression funding will be the issues of major focus by NASF. State assessments are a priority and need to be completed by Sept. 2010. The Stimulus Bill provides \$250 million to S&PF but they are not sure yet how it will all translate. There should be opportunities for schools to work with State Foresters. State Forester stimulus projects should be anything that creates jobs. A GAO report will be released tomorrow assessing moving the USFS to USDI. NASF will testify at a house hearing. Hal raised the possibility of a MOU with NASF.

Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator: Colien noted that McStennis FY09 funding will be increased. The new Farm Bill makes 1890 institutions eligible for the McStennis program; 17 states have 1890’s. No more than 10 percent of McStennis funds can be shifted in one year within a state. All formula programs

have increases in FY09. AFRI received a greater increase than expected, however, they were not successful in sustaining AFRI in the Stimulus package. The FY10 budget process will be very compacted and confusing. OMB will not release details till April 13th. Work on the FY11 bill will begin in May/June; this will be where the new Administration really exerts its policies. FY10 will be the first NIFA budget. It's hard to anticipate whether the Stimulus bill will grow or bar growth in programs. Colien still believes long term growth in the future will be in competitive programs. She's sure the Administration will put emphasis there. The USDA Deputy Under Secretary nominee, Katherine Merrigan, is very committed to small agriculture. She will be controversial but likely pass in the end. USDA has over 300 political appointments; only about 7 are in place. NIFA will formally be in place in October 1, 2009. Discussed the need for stakeholder input on NIFA; the structure and visibility of forestry and natural resources with NIFA should be addressed. NAUFRP comments should expand on language that talks about natural resources and be explicit about forestry and how its breath relates to other federal and private entities. AFRI has much more flexibility than NRI due to the Farm Bill language. NRI was only about research and IFAS was integrated. AFRI can fund integrated projects in addition to funding "stand alone" research, education and extension activities. An example might be cap and trade: there could be a research component as well as education and extension. Mandatory dollars came with the following new programs: specialty crops, organics, biofuels and beginning farmers and ranchers. It's possible the secure dollars for these programs will free up base dollars for other areas. Discussion of Chief Scientist, Under Secretary and NIFA Director -- it's not clear whether the Director will report to Under Secretary or Secretary. Everything CSREES does now is sustained.

Dan Kugler, Deputy Administrator, CSREES: CSREES is waiting for an undergraduate education proposal from us. Dan also now oversees the 4-H Program and would entertain ideas from the universities on it. He was encouraged to look at the FS Youth Corps program. He has had no response from four of the 1890 schools (FL, GA, LA, ?). CSREES sent a letter to the Governors on January 2 to the 17 states with 1890's; Dean and Directors were cc'd. Thirteen 1890's responded: 8 are going to include their 1890's in McStennis for FY09; four will come in the next fiscal year. The agency will look closely at their research programs. They must be peer reviewed. Dan will send a final list to Terri. The issue of McStennis carry-over was discussed; currently its five percent. Hatch may be up to 100 percent. The administrative handbook deals with this by increasing the carryover level for McStennis. It is out for review. NAUFRP will write Colien on this issue. FRAC is at a standstill till new members are appointed. The Bush Administration had approved six new members but the Obama Administration put a general hold on new appointments. They will not hold a meeting till the appointments are final. Dan will send Terri the report on the ATR meeting outcomes to forward. A question/comment was raised about the cases where McStennis money goes to in an Agricultural Experiment Station; it doesn't seem to get into programs and is generally lost. Dan said that institutions don't have to have a specific forestry program but can be doing something related to McStennis priorities. The CRIS system (Current Research Information System) will be replaced with a new version October 1st.

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Orlando, Florida