

***NAUFRP Executive Committee
March 3-5, 2008
Washington, D.C.***

Present: George Hopper (NAUFRP President, MS State), Barry Goldfarb (NC State), International Chair, Bob Brown (NC State), Steve Bullard (Univ. of KY), Southern Region Rep, Keith Belli (Univ. of TN), Steve Hobbs (OR State), Peg Gale (MI Tech), North Central Region Rep, Al Ek (Univ. of MN), Perry Brown (Univ. of MT) ATR Liaison, Greg Biging (Univ. CA, Berkley), Dick Brinker (Auburn Univ.) Mike Kelly (Va Tech) Research Chair, Tim White (Univ. of FL) Secretary/Treasurer, Rich Thompson (CA Poly), Joe McNeel (WV Univ) Extension Chair, Pat Layton (Clemson), George Brown (AL A&M) Diversity Chair, Steven Daley Laursen (Univ. of ID) Policy Chair, Randy Nuckolls (Washington Counsel), Terri Bates

Guests: Dan Kugler (CSREES), Fred Hutchinson (Cornerstone), Nadine Block (AF&PA), Dave Tenney (AF&PA), Scot Jones (FLA), Frank Stewart (FLA), Rich Guldin (USFS), Alex Friend (USFS), Michael Goergen (SAF), Colien Hefferan (CSREES)

Welcome and introductions. George Hopper encouraged open discussion by all during the meeting. Copies of the 2007 Annual Report were distributed. It is on the website and sent to NAUFRP members electronically. Plans are to do this again next year in lieu of a newsletter.

The minutes from the October 22, 2007 Executive Committee in Portland, OR were adopted unanimously. These are posted to the website at www.naufrp.org.

George Hopper noted we are here to conduct the business of the association. Tomorrow's Congressional appointments are very important. NAUFRP is co-hosting a Congressional reception tomorrow. Last year's was a success. We had budgeted \$2,000 for a Congressional event this year though there were no specific plans. Joe McNeel approached George on behalf of the ECOP Forestry Task Force to jointly host a reception and we agreed.

Treasurer's Report, Tim White: A handout of 3 pages was passed out. Attachment one compared expenses projected for the year as of October 2007 with actual expenses. It was very close. Attachment 2 shows the 2008 budget approved by the Executive Committee last October in comparison with 2007 actual expenses. Attachment 3 tracked actual expenses from 2004 on. (Attachment) The USDA Forest Service grant has been closed out. There are still some CSREES grant funds at the University of Vermont that we will seek reimbursement from this spring.

George Hopper noted that NAUFRP traditionally focuses efforts on funding for McIntire-Stennis (McStennis), The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) and the National Research Initiative (NRI). For the FY09 budget, NAUFRP will request \$30 million for McStennis, \$8 million for RREA and \$256 million for NRI. George mentioned that the McStennis Strategic Plan is now tied to these funding levels. George and Perry Brown visited OMB budget examiners Noah Engleberg (CSREES) and John Pasquintino (FS) last week. George emphasized the need that everyone carry, and reinforce, the same message on appropriations. There was a question about a competitive element of McStennis. Mike Kelly reviewed that a small NAUFRP subgroup worked with CSREES on this a year ago. NAUFRP has been clear that a minimum of \$5 million is required for a competitive program to be worthwhile—and never at the expense of the base program. We have leave behind one-pagers for Hill visits. Since NASULGC is not making RREA a priority, it is important that we give it special emphasis. Also, more NRI money needs to be directed to forestry. At the last FRAC meeting, CSREES said they believed about \$16 million is going to forestry but that included \$5 million for the genome project; in reality, only about \$8-11 million of NRI funds are going to forestry. FRAC was given a list of all NRI projects for forestry. A copy will be provided to this meeting. **ACTION:** Mike Kelly agreed to review the list to see what is actually going to forestry. Steve Bullard pointed out that the 50th anniversary of the McStennis program will be in 2012. The only significant increases have come in conjunction with milestones and those were during Senator Stennis' tenure (10th and 25th anniversaries). It would be good to begin looking for a Congressional champion to generate

interest and support on the occasion of the 50th anniversary. **ACTION:** Bullard agreed to pursue this effort further.

Undergraduate Education: This is being headed by Dan Keathley. A show of hands indicated that most everyone present will have people going to the education meeting in Corvallis later this month. **ACTION:** Hopper agreed to work with CSREES to secure modest funding to support strategic planning for undergraduate education.

Strategic Funding Requirements: Barry distributed draft guidelines for the NAUFRP Executive Committee to use when considering special funding requests. These were developed with Peg Gale and Tim White. Proposals would be one-page in writing from Regional chairs or Executive Committee Members. There was discussion on whether to cap proposals. The consensus was that proposals need to be limited to not exceed \$5,000 and to not draw down cash reserves below \$50,000. The Guidelines were accepted with the above caveats. **ACTION:** Goldfarb agreed to make final. (Note: Review of the By-Laws indicates implicitly that a majority vote of the quorum present carries.)

NAUFRP Archives, Al Ek: Initially Al was going to propose archiving NAUFRP materials on the website. The primary alternative would be with the Forest History Society which would charge in addition to fees for cataloging. We need to assess what we have, especially in terms of early documents and catalog what we have. Also, we need to survey our members for materials. Al will find out what the specific costs would be with the FHS and we'll reach a conclusion at the Reno meeting next fall. There was a question of whether we already have a history of the association or the McStennis Program. Don Thompson has done a history of the first forty years of McStennis. It may be warranted to tie something to the fiftieth anniversary of McStennis in 2012. **ACTION:** Al Ek will follow-up with Larry Tombaugh.

NRI-CAP Proposal, Mike Kelly: NAUFRP submitted a proposal in the competitive program within NRI. Mike arranged for a conference call with Colien Hefferan but she was just back from international travel and unsure of the proposal's status. He then saw her at the BAC meeting. Mike senses Colien would like to do it but that her staff is opposed. Discussion/Comments: we need to be consistent with our approach and message. Mike believes they fear the precedent. Are there other groups that apply similar pressure? Pat Layton has learned thru FRAC that some of the NRI reviewers participate in the next planning stage so it's key to get panelists. Are any of our scientists on the NRI panels doing the planning? It was suggested that NAUFRP should develop a document annually that lists NRI forestry projects and then compare to RFPs. The forestry contribution of total NRI is very small, about \$5 million; the FS is still unhappy about it. Of the 16 NRI staff, 12 are micro-biologists. In the past, appropriations used to break NRI funding into categories. Where is NASULGC on this? Their typical response is 'we don't try and direct any of this internally.'" This has been an issue for years; we are only going to be successful over time through sustained efforts and acceptance of incremental steps. Mike reinforced the need to help ourselves by getting our faculty on the panels. Randy suggested we try and assemble proposals that aren't accepted. **ACTION:** Mike will follow-up to get the total forestry dollars funded by NRI and get a list of faculty approved to serve on NRI panels.

Diversity, George Brown: George reviewed the Diversity Strategic plan and steps taken since the NAUFRP meeting in Edmonton. He met with Dan Kugler last October. The next step is to prioritize and identify action steps needed. The plan calls for forming a diversity team. George shared a handout listing organizations that should be included; the discussion identified additional groups to include. With SAF as host, this team will meet in about six month for two half-days. George hopes CSREES will assist with travel costs.

Climate Change, George Hopper: In last year's appropriations process, NAUFRP supported \$4 million in the Forest Service's budget for climate change research. The USFS got \$2.5 million and they were going to direct 30 percent to the universities. At the end of the day, they decided not to do this. They recently sent out an internal RFP with strong encouragement to partner with universities. George said the FS didn't think there was enough money to send it out efficiently in a competition. Ann said she got a strong message from the appropriations committee staff to this effect and to use the money to build USFS capacity. Perry Brown heard the same from Chris Topic (House Interior Appropriations staff.)

Dan Kugler, CSREES Deputy Administrator: Dan distributed a report to NAUFRP on CSREES activities. FY08 dollars will be going out shortly. The President's proposed FY09 budget is consistent with previous years. They are working with the Forest Service on the post graduate National Needs Fellowship Program. The RFA will be out later this month. It will be one-half million dollars for 10 years. Because the FS sent their funds directly to CSREES, it allowed CSREES to keep this to forestry only. The RFA will also be on the CSREES webpage and Dan will send to Terri to distribute. On the issue of NRI dollars to forestry, they have been doing a key word search in all NRI proposals. The appropriations report language (NAUFRP's) opens the interpretation up – the language is very broad. If the key word search uses 'forestry' the amount will be less than \$8 million. They are currently revising the McStennis Administration Manual which will be open for comment; Dan will send it to Terri. One change will allow an increased amount to be carried forward past the fiscal year. Other: Every government program is going to go thru one portal. CSREES foresters are Eric Norland, Daniel Cassidy and Catalino Blanc. Eric is the designated lead among them. Daniel is very active in the field of biofuels and they expect him to move to the FS in the near future for a temporary assignment. George Hopper expressed appreciation to Dan for listening and taking steps with the National Needs program. Questions/Comments: Can you go back to previous year on the NRI word search? Yes. What is the real possibility of increasing the carryover every year? Dan was very optimistic. Will a draft of the draft Manual go to the ATRs? Yes. NAUFRP members will be asked to provide comments to Perry Brown.

George Hopper reviewed and discussed the various NAUFRP handouts on appropriations. He hopes that NAUFRP members have, or will, share the McStennis Strategic Plan with State Foresters. It's not necessarily a 'leave-behind' for on the Hill.

Relations with the National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP): Hal Salwasser, Joe McNeel and Dan Edge were going to work on this but there is nothing to report at this time without Hal. Bob Brown believes this will be discussed at the upcoming NAUFWP meeting at the North American Wildlife Conference that happens later this month.

Fred Hutchinson, BAC: BAC's focal point is CSREES funding. Their tact this year is to prioritize 14 line items including McStennis. They are seeking the high marks of FY07. The President's FY09 budget is dead. Congress is currently discussing subcommittee allocations; they have competing priorities. Follow-up should include 1) thanks for meetings this week; 2) March 13 further follow-up noting that March 17th in the deadline for member letter requests. George Hopper reinforced NAUFRP has developed our Vision and McStennis Strategic Plan and more champions are needed. George expressed disappointment about RREA coming off the BAC priority list. Further Discussion. RREA was the only thing to come off the priority list; several other items came off but were added back in. Need to work on BAC committee members to correct this in FY 2010.

Policy/Farm Bill, Steven Daley Laursen: The focus for NAUFRP policy has been on the Farm Bill for the last two years. That is coming to an end. Steven has tried to visit with others (NSF, National Sustainable Forest Policy) about a future new focus. Randy suggested the Policy Committee look at where there may be future dollars: climate change, alternative fuels, nano-technology, ecosystem services – maybe put together a task group. There has already been an Energy Bill and soon a Farm Bill with energy components and, at some later point, a Climate Change Bill. Randy suggests a small committee to figure out where DOE is going in the next 5 years, NSF, Farm Bill, ... This may be a good opportunity to get faculty involved. It would be useful to identify within our membership those with expertise on energy. On Farm Bill, the House has not named conferees though the Senate has. There is a new wood energy program in it. There is a Congressional - Administration fight looming per the financing. The current bill lapses March 15th. Chairman Peterson says let it lapse to return to the 1930's level as a threat. Farmers are about to start planting and need to know what to expect. The Administration is threatening a veto.

Budget Advocacy Committee (BAC), Dick Brinker: Dick attended a BAC Committee meeting in New York City last November where they tried to pare down BAC priorities from 14 items to 6 or 7. However, only two items were eliminated and one of those was RREA. Mike Kelly attended the last BAC meeting where two items were added back but those did not include RREA. On the positive side, BAC is focusing on McStennis. We need to get others to work on BAC. Dick Brinker will draft a letter from the NAUFRP Executive Committee to Bob

Steele, BAC chair with cc's to McPherson and Ian Mau and the NAUFRP Executive Committee regarding the RREA issue.

Forest Research Advisory Committee (FRAC), Dick Brinker: FRAC met last November in Berkeley, CA. They have since tried to schedule a meeting with the USDA Secretary to deliver their report. Two key points that FRAC is recommending include 1) NRI recommendation to separate out forestry research and 2) FS R&D and CSREES joint study on partnership formation.

American Forest and Paper Association, Nadine Block and Dave Tenney: Two policy areas of interest to NAUFRP that Dave and Nadine are involved with are climate change and biomass energy. AF&PA is participating in a Forest Carbon Working Group that has developed a set of principles that apply to working forests. Biomass energy has been a challenge to AF&PA because their members range from being fully integrated companies to manufactures and/or landowners. They have been able to coalesce around some basic principles so far. There has been a new association formed of large landowners, primarily REITs and TIMOs, called the National Alliance of Forest Owners. AF&PA has assigned a task force to look at how they can work together. This new organization will have an office address in DC. Randy suggested the NAUFRP Policy Chair could work with them. AF&PA appropriations testimony will address research and McStennis funding. Rayonier will be hosting the next Deans' Tour which will probably be in Florida in the fall. Further discussion about the LEED Green Standards and AF&PA's reorganization.

International Forestry, Perry Brown: Perry is part of an Ad Hoc Working Group on Forestry Education in North America (includes Canada and Mexico). They will be distributing a survey to ascertain what is happening at individual institutions. Perry will send this thru the listserve. It will be very brief. The responses will go to a meeting in June. **ACTION:** Perry will see that the final report is shared with NAUFRP.

McStennis Strategic Plan, Perry Brown: It appears that we have exhausted almost all of our supply (500 copies) of the strategic plans. **ACTION:** It was agreed that additional copies will be printed.

US Forest Service R&D: Rich Guldin and Alex Friend: Ann Bartuska could not be here today because she is out of town on a review of the Rocky Mountain Research Station. The President's FY09 budget is about the same as last year but this is a \$23 million reduction from what was enacted in FY08. FIA appears to have a one percent increase but in reality it is down seven percent (the S&PF part is not there). Fire costs are driving the FS budget. They are going from 550 to 500 scientists: 10% are retiring voluntarily. S&PF has major reductions across the board. Biomass and biofuels are not in the President's budget. The Forest Products Lab plans a cellulostic plant in WI. There is \$19 million for climate change research. They have a 20 year history in this area and are well positioned. A short coming is that they have a lot of research on the shelf that needs adapting to decision making. The Hill appropriated \$2.5 million in FY08 for this and suggested it be competitive across disciplines. There is a call for proposals out to the Stations. This is short term, intended to produce applications for tools within the next year. For this they are targeting 25% of the available dollars to cooperators. Discussion/Comments: The RFP refers to "NGO's" does that include universities? It should. Rich said they have stopped doing reviews by unit (there are 150 units and it's a major effort). Hence, they have developed a peer review process with 2 major reviews annually by program area.

Forest Landowners Association (FLA), Scott Jones and Frank Stewart: Scott provided an overview of FLA. They have a long partnership with southern NAUFRP. FLA lobbies in DC which is a fundamental mission. Frank is their DC lobbyist. They just had a fly-in and carried McStennis and RREA appropriations on the Hill. These are always top priorities. Other FLA issues are: definition of biomass in the energy bill, Oberstar bill (Clean Water), death tax repeal, Canadian Lumber, and seasonal planters. Their goals are to strengthen grass roots and PACs and they have adopted a sophisticated electronic system, Capital Advantage Systems towards this end. A private landowner focus group has looked at research and technology transfer and FLA wants to develop their website to post university research. The new forest landowner group, NAFO, was discussed; 6 of the 8 members are also FLA members. (Plum Creek started this new association after dropping out of AF&PA last fall). Dick Brinker and Barry Goldfarb are on FLA's Board.

National Association of State Foresters (NASF), Jay Farrell: Jay started as Executive Director about four months ago. He provided an overview of NASF and its organization. In addition to Jay, they have all new staff: government director, communications and finance directors. The overriding priority at the moment is the President's FY09 budget proposal; it's unprecedented. Other issues/concerns are: firefighting liability and costs, FS S&PF Redesign, Policy on Sustainable Forestry. Questions/Discussion: What is the status of state plans? This is part of the Redesign process. This year's commitment is 15% of the budget; each region is developing their own process.

George Hopper asked that FS, FLA and NASF participate in NAUFRP's effort to evaluate undergraduate education.

Southern NAUFRP Regional Report, Steve Bullard: Southern NAUFRP met last year in conjunction with the annual Forest Landowners Association meeting in Charleston, SC. The Southern State Foresters are very concerned with enrollment trends. The Southern Leadership Team met in Florida last November. As follow-up to all the discussion on enrollment, they plan a one-day meeting on March 28 with facilitated discussion about what works and doesn't per recruitment. They will develop actions that can be taken jointly and these will be discussed at the next Southern NAUFRP meeting in April (Chicago). This March meeting will be focused on undergraduate recruiters. Their Comparative Data Survey will be sent shortly

Northeast-Midwest Region, Peg Gale: They will be holding their first regional meeting outside of SAF in five years. It will be June 16-17 in St. Louis, MO. Anne Bartuska and Michael Rains have committed to attend. Each university will have an opportunity to discuss their programs. They are also inviting State Foresters to talk about their needs and how they can work together.

Western NAUFRP, Rich Thompson representing Doug Piirto: Western NAUFRP will meet in Fairbanks, AK June 18-20.

Society of American Foresters, Michael Goergen: SAF is developing accreditation standards for two-year programs. NAUFRP members expressed concerns that accreditation of two-year schools will lead to assumptions that graduates will be viewed as certified/professional foresters. Tools are needed to distinguish between two-year and four-year degrees as well as strong clarification that a two-year program does not necessarily transfer into a four year program. Michael Goergen said he will recommend to Council that they delay implementation of the two-year accreditation program because they don't have the comments needed. Discussion on certification and accreditation: some States are using SAF certification in lieu of their own state exam. NAUFRP conveyed to Michael that recruiting is a big issue for the schools and there are jobs out there. It was suggested that the natural resource societies could jointly develop a generic brochure that individual universities can buy and then tailor to their individual institutions. A career video is in the works for June. Suggestion to try and develop an electronic brochure that schools can together 'advertise' to a new generation that has IPODs and FaceBook. Al Ek is experimenting with billboard advertising – it's inexpensive. Other discussion: state agency salaries are not staying up with the market. Steve Bullard said this was discussed at the Southern Forest Leadership meeting last fall and that the Southern Group of State Foresters is very aware of the salary issue. This will be taken up at the one-day facilitated meeting in later March. Action steps, long and short-term, will be identified and taken to the Chicago meeting. George Brown provided Michael with an update on Team Diversity. Plans are for a meeting in September. The Executive Committee wanted it to be clear in the minutes that there was strong consensus that SAF should move to stay accreditation for two year programs. **ACTION:** George Hopper and Tim White are to follow-up post Council with Michael to see how the meeting and discussion went and what can NAUFRP do. Michael agreed to provide funds towards the Team Diversity meeting in September. Barry Goldfarb reminded the Executive Committee that there is dedicated website about forestry careers hosted by NC State. **ACTION:** He will send information on this to the listserve. Perry reinforced the importance of developing a brochure describing what you get with a two-year, four-year and masters degrees. There is significant common ground in recruitment – this organization should consider a survey.

Colien Hefferan, USDA CSREES Administrator: Colien met with the Ag Extension State Directors yesterday. She acknowledged the budget is troubling to all – it continues the path of multi-state projects with serious cuts.

The research formula cuts in the Administration's budget are not tradeoffs for other things (i.e. increases in NRI). The cuts continue to reflect the Bush Administration's philosophy on formula based funds -- its philosophy, not merits. There are pressures on the Administration's budget this year. In reality, this is the Administration's last budget and philosophic opportunity to put something forth. WIC funding in the USDA budget is a major problem; it is like a mandatory spending program but funded out of discretionary funds. It's cutting a lot of flexibility out of the budget. On the Hill, the President's position on formula has essentially been irrelevant but the appropriations committee staff is going to have trouble reconciling things this next go-round. Some items are going to be hard to restore. McStennis is in good shape because of the great Strategic Plan. Colien has to support the President's budget but acknowledged NAUFRP's special effort to work with the agency in the last years. It has been a positive experience and they (CSREES) recognize NAUFRP has worked to expand not replace. The FY09 proposed budget is a 2 ½ percent decrease from last year's President's budget and sixteen percent less than what was appropriated. NRI focus is on energy, biomass and sustainability issues. There is a \$2 million increase for new programs that address responsiveness/resilience of communities (i.e., Katrina) towards applied research. There is a \$1million NRI increase for environmental research and an increase for homeland security which they hope to increase further to involve extension. But basically it's a flat budget in very difficult year. Colien encourages all not to pit programs against each other; that's never effective. NAUFRP's proposal for the next round of NRI is very intriguing. They are looking at how to incorporate it within NRI and how it could be part of a proposal to work with other agencies. Colien is excited about what her staff and others are doing on ecosystem services. Diana Jerkins is putting together a program which will probably be announced in the fall. Colien says they take the Congressional report language on NRI (and forestry) very seriously; it's written very open-ended. NAUFRP probably wants to take another look at it because it can be interpreted very broadly and she's not sure we're getting what we want. George Hopper asked Colien to address RREA and why it remains level. Colien says it seems to have plateaued at \$4 million. A challenge from the President's budget perspective is it is looked at by OMB as a small program, albeit very effective. Almost any program under \$5 million is hard to weigh in at OMB on. Colien suggested thinking about rolling RREA in with another program. RREA could become the forestry component of the sustainable agriculture program which is growing and popular. When you are not successful year after year you have to look and ask hard questions. CSREES tried to expand RREA by sending funds to the 1890's but this has not really worked because there is so little money. The Sustainable Ag program, established with the 1985 Farm Bill, is not formula based. It would be hard to create a new formula program. The risk of trying something new is not as high as rot and stagnation. Randy suggests another option is to get RREA above \$5 million. He further points out that CREATE-21 got lost in all the administrative/agency reshuffling; they lost sight of their fundamental purpose of doubling the funding. Increasing the funding for the agriculture-forestry research enterprise should be the focus of the next administration. The time might be ripe now to begin setting the stage for increases through climate change, biofuels, and food safety. Colien agrees it is important to have new ideas for a new administration based on the McStennis Strategic Plan. George Hopper thanked Colien and Dan Kugler for the graduate fellowship education program and noted CSREES support for the Keathley Report and Strategic Plan. He briefed them on NAUFRP's next plans to focus on undergraduate education. Colien said they probably have not given enough attention to the multiple benefits of university undergraduate training; it would be invaluable to figure out the benefits of training undergraduate researchers. Questions/Comments: Al Ek points out the pressures on the FS budget, especially S&PF from which many of the schools receive money. Can CSREES help in some way? Colien says they have reimbursable agreements with DOD; it's a great model and maybe its time to talk to the FS about. Comments on the Institute for Food and Agriculture – there is a continuing concern of just where forestry would fit. Even with the name, you don't see forestry. Colien says that in conversations with the Hill per Farm Bill, the staff are acutely aware of forestry. Randy asked how we can do better with NRI? Colien says go to grants workshops, serve on panels, come in to visit NRI staff. Mike Kelly said he was glad to hear our proposal is still being considered. We are trying to achieve our goals in a different way; it's what we think is important.

ROUNDTABLE

Meeting Adjourned.