

March 1-3, 2010
NAUFRP Executive Committee Minutes
Washington, D.C.

Participants: Hal Salwasser (Oregon State University), Tim White (University of Florida), Kamran Abdollahi (Southern University), Al Ek (University of Minnesota), Pat Layton (Clemson University), David Newman (SUNY-College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry), Jo Ellen Force (University of Idaho), Barry Goldfarb (North Carolina State University), George Hopper (Mississippi State University), Perry Brown (University of Montana), Jim Allen (Northern Arizona University), Keith Belli (University of Tennessee), Steve Bullard (Stephen F. Austin State University), Peg Gale (Michigan Tech University), Dick Brinker (Auburn University), Rob Swihart (Purdue University) Randy Nuckolls (NAUFRP Washington Counsel), Terri Bates (NAUFRP Executive Liaison)

Guests: Dan Kugler, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Meryl Broussard (NIFA), Daniel Cassidy (NIFA), Bill Goldner (NIFA), Louie Tupas (NIFA), Ann Bartuska, U.S. Forest Service (FS), Daina Apple (FS), Alexander Friend (FS), Hunt Shipman, Cornerstone, Tom Martin, American Forest Foundation (AFF), Rita Neznek (AFF), Wendy Fink, Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU), Dan Robison (NC State)

Meryl Broussard, Interim Deputy Director, National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA): Meryl described the organization of NIFA and its four institutes. The reorganization needs final approval from the USDA Secretary which should occur with 4-8 weeks. Most of the programs of interest to natural resources and forestry will fall under the Bioenergy Institute. The AFRI RFAs are going to look very different from the past with emphasis on larger, longer term, multi-state projects. The staff will be integrated (research, extension and education). There was a question about a letter last fall that went to Hatch fund institutions asking them to report on what they are doing in five emphasis areas. Meryl said the intent was to show how formula funds align with emphasis areas. AFRI's budget is proposed to double – many existing activities will be embodied in AFRI. The AFRI RFA should be out within 3 weeks. NIFA will be able to track dollars by state. NAUFRP is concerned with NIFA materials – they do not reflect or profile forestry. Action: Hal to send a letter to NIFA Director Roger Beachy expressing the latter concern.

Dan Kugler, Deputy Administrator, NIFA: A handout of Dan's talking points was distributed. Dan is currently wearing three agency hats including Transitional Leader for the Institute for Youth, Family and Community. The key word search for forestry resulted in showing \$2.6 million in FY06 of AFRI funds; \$8.3 million in FY08 and \$6.4 million in FY09. A second handout lists CRIS keywords for individual projects for "forestry". Dan asked NAUFRP to review this list and compile a list of terms being used by scientists but are not on the list; Daniel Cassidy will add these to next year's search. Dan also reviewed the Biomass Research and Development Initiative (9008 Program) and the status of the 1890 institutions coming into the McIntire-Stennis (McStennis) program. An update to the RREA Strategic Plan is just beginning; the lead will be at the Southern Region Extension Forestry.

Bill Goldner, National Program Leader for Small Business Innovation Research (biofuels and bio-based products), NIFA: Bill has a forestry background and worked for Union Camp/IP. Up to now, the USDA perspective on biofuels was all the money went to DOE and DOE looked back to USDA for biomass expertise. USDA brings the 'sustainability – stewardship' element. They had to change DOE thinking about what sustainability is. A new White House initiative, "Growing America's Fuel" (see White House website), addresses how USDA and DOE will focus on liquid transportation fuels. It is outcome driven and has a regional systems approach. There are incentives for helping the whole supply chain—feedstock development, sustainable feedstock production, feedstock logistics, planning and impact analysis. The problem with woody biomass is it is used for multiple things. AFRI had \$5 million last year; this year it will

be much more. The RFA will be out within the month. Awards may be quite large and up to five years. Program Contacts: Bill Goldner, Carmela Bailey and Dan Cassidy. The Biomass R&D Initiative (9008) competitive program focuses on three technical areas: feedstock (includes genetics), conversion and sustainability. \$28 million was awarded this last year. The 2010 RFA will come out about the same time as the AFRI RFA.

Minutes from September 29, 2009 Executive Committee in Orlando, Florida were approved without change.

The following items were added to the agenda for discussion: Fall meeting in Albuquerque, Action list from last fall's Executive Committee meeting, nominating committee.

Treasury Report, Peg Gale: Peg reviewed the written reports that were distributed. There was discussion on the need for a sustainable budget. The National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs will meet at the Virginia Tech Biennial Education Meeting in late March. The 1890 institutions have been written to and invited to become NAUFRP members.

Funding Requests: APLU's FY11 funding positions and NAUFRP's relationship with the Board of Natural Resources were reviewed and discussed. APLU can support RREA but Cornerstone will not lobby for it. It was the Executive Committee's consensus that BAC dues are of value. NAUFRP will support McStennis at \$35 million, RREA at \$8 million and AFRI at \$428 million.

Education Report, Pat Layton: Pat's subcommittee will meet at the Biennial Education Conference at Virginia Tech in late March. They will make assignments and develop a strategy for undergraduate education. SAF needs to be involved; Pat will touch base with Terry Clark. Terry Sharik has his latest enrollment survey out. The International Forestry Education Symposium will occur in May at Vancouver. A number of NAUFRP institutions will be represented. Will work with Jim Johnson or Terry Sharik to be a formal representative.

ATR Report, Perry Brown: The McStennis Strategic Plan has been 'freshened up' with more current language. Discussion determined that the word 'competitive' will be changed to 'targeted' or 'initiative'. Discussion of celebrating the McStennis 50th Anniversary with the goal of seeking \$50 million in appropriations and what needs to happen and/or be in place to achieve this goal. What does it buy? Maintaining capacity needs to be emphasized -- if the funding level remains unchanged then capacity is lost.

A motion was made by Steve Bullard, seconded by Perry, to adopt the goal of achieving \$50 million in funding for the McIntire-Stennis program by the 50th anniversary of the program. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ann Bartuska, Deputy Chief, US Forest Service Research & Development: PowerPoint presentation accompanied by handout. Ann discussed the FY11 proposed President's budget. FIA is down \$5 million. At the direction of OMB, the program will be discontinued in HI, AK, WY, and NV, however remote sensing will continue. Climate Change research is down \$3.5 million after it had an increase in FY10. \$1.5 million is shifted for comprehensive carbon inventory which was triggered by interest in a US cap and trade policy. \$12.95 million is proposed for renewable energy research which is level with last year funding. In FY11 budget, \$15 million is proposed for biomass energy grants which will be competitive dollars. Congressional appropriators appear intent on climate change, fire, invasive species and FIA. NAUFRP asked for Ann's help on resolving the ongoing issue of paying tuition for grad students. Ann talked about the cooperation and involvement she is having with the REE (USDA Research, Education and Economics) area: it's unprecedented and she has a very good relationship with Molly Jahn the Under Secretary who has a university background. Ann suggested it would be good for NAUFRP to try and meet with Molly. Establishing a small group was suggested that would identify and work on this issue and bring to Molly and Ann. Ann says the same applies to overhead. Ann asked for help to determine how much in grants are going

to fund students. Perry emphasized this three-way conversation is very important and Ann added this needs to include ARS and perhaps business operations. Ann thought a list should be developed. Hal asked Steve to take the lead on this. Randy encouraged others to identify similar impediments that need discussion. Hal noted there is a lot of overlap in certain areas such as climate change and asked how do we improve coordination? Ann agreed it needs to happen. One means is thru the Office and Science and Technology Policy (OSTP): it is their responsibility to coordinate science. NSF does not coordinate with others.

Research Committee Report, Steve Bullard: Steve distributed notes from meetings with NIFA's AFRI program leads in December, 2009. The meetings included Tim White and Keith Belli. The meeting objectives were to continue dialogue with the program leaders as they write RFAs and to send a message about the need for a higher profile for forestry. A second handout depicts the webpage that allows a search of potential review panel members that NAUFRP has built. The research committee recommends that RFA's be posted on the NAUFRP webpage as well as examples of funded research. Steve made a motion for this recommendation, seconded by David Newman. Discussion: how much management of the webpage is needed? Steve, as research committee chair, reviews and keeps up the list on the webpage. On the original list, 57 had responded and a good percentage have been asked to serve. Steve and others will be meeting tomorrow with Colien Hefferan and Jim Spurling to discuss NIFA support for the 50th Anniversary. A history of McStennis has been jointly drafted and was distributed. The motion passed unanimously. Other discussion: 1) suggestion to work with Pinchot Institute, Kennedy Library and Grey Towers; 2) it would be good to have the numbers on grad students; 3) need to identify potential Congressional champions; 4) link to Kennedy connections such as Peace Corp 50th Anniversary; 5) focus on outcomes (Dan Kugler pointed out that McStennis dollars do more ESA research then the FWS budget); 6) biofuels research under McStennis dates to early years, we can argue we were there way ahead of time. Email comments to Steve Bullard on draft McStennis paper. Steve has also been working with AAAS as NAUFRP's representative to write comments on R&D budgets

BAC Report, Dick Brinker: BAC met in November to lay out and decide on targets for FY11 funding requests. McStennis is one of the top priorities. There are 14 other initiatives identified by APLU but Cornerstone will not carry all of these. Seems Cornerstone was ultimately responsible for the Hill letter from commodity groups. The senate committee report language has been the same for several years; Randy believes it is time to update/refresh that language.

FRAC Report, Dick Brinker: Dick is chair of the USDA Forest Research Advisory Committee. It last met in 2008 but has been unable to meet since because they lack a quorum. Appointments of staggered terms were caught up with the Administration change and subsequent directive that all advisory committees be reviewed (FRAC is established in statute). A letter was sent to Secretary Vilsak last November but there has been no response. Dick understands the appointment process may have to start over. On the good side, agency funding for FRAC has more than doubled and will support 2-3 annual meetings. Daina Apple (Forest Service) currently has staff responsibility for FRAC. She said they are waiting on the agency to determine how to approach the current dilemma: they first need to establish if all the nominees are still available. The best case scenario is getting things in place by end of the fiscal year.

Michael Goergen, Executive Vice-President, Society of American Foresters: SAF is looking at the possibility of a Terrestrial Ecology Accreditation Program. A Task Force is currently evaluating this. (Terry Sharik is on this Task Force.) This appears to be a demand coming from students and not so much employers; accreditation ties to licensing. They are also considering a "Ring Program" for graduates of SAF-accredited programs and are polling students; so far, this appears very popular. SAF membership is strong (about 14,000) given the economy.

Hunt Shipman, Cornerstone: Hunt reviewed the 13-14 budget priorities for FY10; they were fairly successful. The overall goal was to not lose any ground and there was an increase in 10-11 of the priority areas. Fifteen USDA agencies received increases last year. For FY11 they have narrowed priorities down to

seven. NIFA's budget is flat in the President's proposed FY11 budget. The next step is the budget resolution. The coming fall elections could have significant impact: the political environment in the House is more adverse and there may be a change in party control. CARET was in town last week and carried McStennis at \$35 million. There will be a joint 'cops' meeting in July. It will be the beginning discussion for FY12 appropriations 'themes' and the fall annual APLU meeting will be the first round of talking about actual numbers which will then be finalized next Jan/Feb. Dick Brinker briefed Hunt on NAUFRP's goal of \$50 million on the 50th Anniversary. Hunt was asked about how much confusion there is on the Hill between forestry research and FS Research. He affirmed quite a bit. It is important to distinguish FS R&D from 'universities' -- the fundamental difference being the universities produce the next generation of scientists and focus research on private lands.

Extension Committee, Joe McNeel: The RREA Strategic Plan is being updated. It is important for NAUFRP to be involved with this effort. Some focus dollars have gone to UGA to begin this. Joe was asked how many proposals were received for the focus dollars? He said about 8-10 of which 4 were funded. It's a great example of what could be done thru a McStennis competitive piece.

Diversity Report, Kamran Abdollahi: George Brown is completing the final paper from last fall's Diversity Summit sponsored with SAF. Kamran is working with SAF to increase 1890 student participation. He wants to develop a pdf Action Plan to go on website with partners

International Report, Barry Goldfarb: Barry noted the International Forestry Education Symposium, May 17-21 in Vancouver has already been discussed.

Southern Regional Report, Keith Belli: Southern NAUFRP will meet in conjunction with the Southern Group of State Foresters in Biloxi, MS June 8-10. They have traditionally met at the FLA annual meeting but they are holding that on the west coast this year. Keith encouraged the other regions to meet with FLA when the opportunity presents. As Keith indicated at the last Executive Committee meeting, the Recruiting Survey's preliminary analysis will be completed by April and full analysis by the end of the summer. Future plans are to extend the focus to other disciplines (they have been surveyed but just not focused on yet). This will be circulated to all. The first year, they looked at all students, but from here on, they will focus on new and transfer students.

Northeastern Report, David Newman: A joint meeting of the Northeast and North Central regions is planned for April 26th in Philadelphia. Michael Rains from the FS is very involved. State Foresters have also been invited.

North Central Report, Rob Swihart: In addition to the joint regional meeting, the North Central is starting a Comparative Salary Survey based on what the South and West do. Their region is also trying to develop talking points for each university from each state and would like to include State Forestry. Keith reinforced how useful it would be to have a template for state information. Florida has something like this and Tim will send to the Executive Committee.

Western Report, Jo Ellen Force: The WFLC has indicated a little interest in acknowledging that universities exist and have a role in the west. They have had a leadership change as Jay Jensen has left to become the USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources. A spring meeting had been planned in CA but it may be delayed or a conference call substituted.

Tuesday

The Senate Appropriations report language needs to be revised and perhaps simplified. We don't need to put a lot of emphasis on \$50 million for 50th Anniversary at this point; the focus now is on attaining \$35 million. It may be harder now than originally to identify potential Congressional champions; they would need to be

from forested states. Discussion of the Congressional Forestry Caucus: it's been around in various forms for many years but is now the Healthy Forest Caucus (Schrader and Walden are the leaders).

Rita Neznok and Tom Martin, American Forest Foundation: Open discussion began with Rita and Tom about NAUFRP's plans for McStennis 50th Anniversary and a need for champion(s). Perhaps the Forestry Caucus will support. It was noted that previous forestry caucuses in Congress have rarely put emphasis on research however Rita says Walden and Schrader are open to ideas. They have focused on public lands in recent months. AFF landowners have worked to get Southern Members on the Caucus with recent focus on FIA. Randy suggested a special task force to reach out to landowner groups: research should include education. Tom pointed out that 2011 will be the UN Year of the Forests and 2012 will be the next Farm Bill. Tom thought it would be good to link emerging threats to increasing McStennis funding. AFF has developed a broad set of goals and mission with focus on three priorities: 1) stem the loss of American woodlands (they had a focus group about what language to use for working forests – the focus group had no idea what a working forest was, but they got ecosystem services though they didn't think there was a problem. AFF will work the next couple of years on publications profiling some of these issues.) 2) enhance the quality of management of American woodlands and 3) ensure decision makers and educators know the value of forests (they are working with a coalition, including NAFO, on a common policy agenda and advancing tax and appropriations issues.) 'Family Owned Woodlands or Forests' has no sympathy. AFF will shortly have report on what the threats to American woodlands are and follow-up over the next years with a series of reports that go deeper. AFF is working on the following policy issues: Forest Climate Working Group, appropriations, No Child Left Behind, invasive species, estate tax, forests in the Farm Bill, green building materials

Other:

The Policy Chair will select the next BAC representative upon Dick Brinker's retirement.

The Nominating Committee (Hal, George, Tim, Peg, Rob, David and Jo Ellen) asked Steve Bullard to stand for the office of President-Elect and Peg Gale for Secretary-Treasurer for 2011-2012; both accepted.

National Program Pieces Needed: Chronological History, 50 bullet points: what have we done threats and solutions, opportunities?

FY13 will be the target for \$50 million for the 50th

Approved October 26, 2010
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Action Items:

- Invite the 1890 leads to the NAUFRP regional meeting(s) and Fall General Assembly in NM.
- Resolution in honor of Colien Hefferan at Fall General Assembly.
- Hal -- letter to Director Roger Beachy *DONE*
- Executive Committee to review and provide feedback on list provided by Dan Kugler/Daniel Cassidy of CRIS keywords and compile terms scientists are using but not on list. *In Process*
- International Forestry Education Symposium, May 17-21, Vancouver: someone to ask Jim Johnson or Terry Sharik to formally represent NAUFRP
- Tim to send Florida state briefing paper to Executive Committee (from regional report discussion)
- General Assembly Program - draft agenda.
- Issue of Tuition for Grad Student: Steve Bullard to send email and solicit input and then meet with Ann and Alex (and Molly Jahn) – also to discuss joint positions.
- Develop new/modified Senate Report appropriations language.