

NAUFRP Member Conference Call  
August 5, 2008

Participants: (listed at bottom of document)

Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP General Counsel, reviewed the status of the FY 2009 federal appropriations bills. Congress adjourned last week. The appropriations process had come to a halt because of partisan differences. The agriculture appropriations bill has been completed at the Senate Appropriations full committee level and at the House Appropriations subcommittee level. Neither House adopted the President's budget proposal which would reduce McStennis funding level to \$19 million and makes a portion competitive monies. Levels provided by House and Senate range between \$24 and \$26 million. Randy observed that NAUFRP has worked hard over the last years for the gains received. The agriculture bill is unlikely to be completed till after the November elections, if then. Congress will come back in for a brief time in September and likely pass a Continuing Resolution till after the election. Funding provided for RREA in FY09 by Congress is flat (\$4 million). The big fight in the appropriations process has to do with energy and oil prices – namely off-shore drilling. There was an effort to allow this in the Interior Appropriations bill and when that failed, efforts were directed elsewhere and Chairman Obey (D-WI) took consideration of all bills off the table for now. The House Interior Appropriations subcommittee provided some additional monies for the Forest Service outside of the fire and President's budget. So far, the FS has spent 75 percent of their fire budget. Comments were made that some institutions are expecting FS F&D to try and pull back from releasing grant monies. NRI is at last year's level in both the House and Senate which is about \$200 million. A question was asked about expanding the number of institutions eligible for McStennis funds. Perry Brown reported that the new Farm Bill specifically makes 1890 universities eligible. However, he noted it has always been the case that the funds go to the states and then the Governor has the discretion to allocate McStennis to institutions with forestry programs. Several states allocate to multiple institutions.

Dick Brinker represents NAUFRP on NASULGC's Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC). BAC met July 22 to discuss funding priorities for FY 2010. Dick reviewed that last year BAC carried McStennis and NRI forward as a FY 2009 budget priority but dropped RREA because they wanted to reduce the number of items on the priority list. At the July meeting, each organization at the table got to present two of their priorities; for NAUFRP, Dick presented McStennis at \$30 million and RREA at \$8 million. What comes out of this will be presented at NASULGC's November meeting. Dick said there was some confusion and uncertainty for the group regarding how to proceed in light of the reorganization of programs as a result of the new Farm Bill. For instance, the NRI will be replaced by the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), a competitive program with a \$700 million authorization level. The Farm Bill outlined six areas for AFRI funding; forestry is included within one of these. It is unclear how all this will come together.

George Hopper referenced that NAUFRP has been carefully tracking what NRI dollars are going into forestry research; it has been disappointingly low. Tim White and Mike Kelly reported that they with Steve Bullard met with CSREES/NRI staff in May with the purpose to see if and how to increase opportunities for forestry research within NRI. Essentially they concluded that a new approach is needed. CSREES leaders had previously led NAUFRP to believe we could bring a proposal for a forestry area within NRI but the NRI program directors made it clear they would not go for this. The minutes summarizing that meeting are ready to be made available to the NAUFRP membership. Mike Kelly will send these out along with their recommendations. Comments from members on the call appreciated the efforts made on this issue and expressed concern that with the name change it will be even more difficult for forestry to compete for funds in the future.

A meeting of the ATR's on the McStennis program was held in conjunction with NAUFRP's meeting in Pittsburgh two years ago. Perry Brown is the NAUFRP ATR liaison with CSREES. He has asked CSREES if they would like us set aside two hours of the NAUFRP General Assembly for another meeting in November. He has had no response and is close to assuming CSREES is not interested. Perry also reported that NAUFRP has been invited to return to meet with OMB budget examiners to talk further and more specifically about the proposal in the McStennis Strategic Plan for a competitive program element. They are looking at September for this meeting.

Dan Keathley, NAUFRP's Education Chair, is heading up plans for an undergraduate education conference. CSREES has a funding proposal on behalf of NAUFRP for this effort. It will attempt to address questions NAUFRP has been discussing for some time dealing with undergraduate education (i.e., new technologies needed, curriculum on carbon trading and woody biomass, diversity, recruitment and retention of the, significance of accreditation, ...). This would occur sometime over the next academic year with a conference and white paper delivered to the NAUFRP membership and CSREES.

The dates have been set for the NAUFRP General Assembly and Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will meet all day on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> and the General Assembly will meet all day Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> with a kick-off reception on Tuesday evening. It is duly noted that this conflicts with Election Day but SAF sets the convention dates and we traditionally work around them. As discussed already, there is consideration to devoting two hours of General Assembly time to an ATR McStennis meeting. For the afternoon also, Hal Salwasser is putting together a workshop to dialogue with those employers hiring NAUFRP graduates. He plans to invite representatives from a TIMO, State Foresters, consultant forester and the Forest Service. George encouraged all to bring 'mementos' from their institutions that can be used as door prizes. Watch for more information to come via the listserv and on the webpage.

The NAUFRP Executive Committee had questions and concerns arising from the March meeting when Michael Goergan met and briefed them on the development of accreditation for forestry technical programs. A draft was sent to NAUFRP members for

review and comment in May. Because no NAUFRP members provided comments, George Hopper appointed an ad hoc group to review the draft and make substantive comments back to George within three weeks. The group will be headed by Al Ek and include Bruce Bare, David Newman and Dan Keathley.

George Hopper reviewed that NAUFRP currently has a modest surplus in its budget. The Executive Committee adopted guidelines to consider and allocate funds for proposals from NAUFRP members that support projects in line with the NAUFRP Vision. George sent these guidelines out on the listserv in July. They are also posted on the webpage.

AF&PA and Rayonier will host the biennial Deans Tour this January 14-16, 2009 in Amelia Island, Florida. A 'Save-the Date' announcement has gone out on the listserv and is posted on the webpage. Nadine Block is the contact at AF&PA and would like to know if there are specific agenda items that NAUFRP members would like to see addressed on the agenda. George Hopper encouraged all to try and attend.

Note: [www.naufrp.org](http://www.naufrp.org)

Conference Call Participants: George Hopper (Mississippi State Univ.), Jim Zaczek (Southern Illinois Univ.), Rick Hall (Iowa State Univ.), Randy Nuckolls (NAUFRP General Counsel), Keith Owens (Oklahoma State Univ), Steve Bullard (Univ. of Kentucky), Dan Keathley (Michigan State Univ.), Terry Sharik (Utah State Univ.), Tim White (Univ. of Florida), Joe O'Leary (Colorado State Univ.), Dick Brinker (Auburn Univ.), Kean Ward and William State (Alabama A&M), Bob Brown (North Carolina State Univ.), Jo Ellen Force (Univ. of Idaho), Keith Blatner (Washington State Univ.), Bruce Bare and Bob Edmunds (Univ. of Washington), Perry Brown (Univ. of Montana), David Newman (SUNY), Mike Kelly (Virginia Tech), Bill Copy (Univ. of Arkansas), Hal Salwasser (Oregon State Univ.), Alan Ek (Univ. of Minnesota), Larry Forcier (Univ. of Vermont), Terri Bates (NAUFRP)