

**NAUFRP Executive Committee Meeting**  
**September 29, 2009**  
**Orlando, Florida**

Executive Committee Participants: 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), George Brown (Alabama A&M University), Rob Swihart (Purdue University) Randy Nuckolls (NAUFRP Washington Counsel), Terri Bates (NAUFRP Executive Liaison)

NAUFRP Member Participants: Bruce Bare (University of Washington), Keith Gilles (University of California, Berkley), Steve Selin (West Virginia University), Mary Watzin (University of Vermont)

Guests: Dan Kugler (USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service), Dave Cleeves (USDA Forest Service), Daniel Cassidy (USDA CSREES), Mike Zupco (National Association of State Foresters, John Hayes (National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs - University of Florida), Michael Goergen (Society of American Foresters)

Tim White (NAUFRP President-Elect) chaired the meeting for NAUFRP President Hal Salwasser acknowledging that Hal would be arriving for the reception tonight and would chair the General Assembly tomorrow. Joe McNeel (Extension Chair) has had to return to Morgantown for a family emergency. Dan Keathley (Policy Chair) canceled his plans to attend because of state budget difficulties.

The Agenda was reviewed and accepted without change. The minutes from the February 23-25, 2009 Executive Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. were accepted without change.

Treasury Report, Peg Gale: Peg reported on the status of the NAUFRP Treasury and provided a written report that compared the 2009 Actual Budget thru August 31st to a projected budget and the 2009 budget approved by the Executive Committee last November. Income is expected to be on target. Expenditures will be slightly above with overages primarily in Executive Committee travel. A second attachment tracked actual budgets from 2004 forward. Brief reports were provided on the 'Strategic Investment' grants that were awarded by the Executive Committee for 2009. A motion was made by Steve Bullard, second by Al Ek, to reimburse Mississippi State \$2,500 for managing the NAUFRP webpage. The motion was approved unanimously. Discussion noted that the reserves are being drawn down. Dues are based on the McIntire-Stennis (McStennis) formula. There may be implications as the 1890's begin to receive McStennis funds. Perry reviewed that NAUFRP/NAPFSC representatives went to visit Alabama A&M and Southern to invite them to join. Maybe someone can visit the 1890 institutions. Keith Belli attended a meeting of 1890 administrative heads in August. It was determined that NAUFRP will write a letter of invitation to the 1890's. They need to be recruited and will be a good addition. Further discussion was held on the need for a paper-based newsletter; there has been a budget item for this for several years but NAUFRP has moved first, to an electronic newsletter, and secondly for the last two years, an electronic annual report. It was agreed to eliminate the budget item for a paper based newsletter in the 2010 proposed budget. Homework: review implications of the 1890's becoming eligible for McStennis funds. There are no regional grants proposals for 2010 so the \$5,000 proposed for 2010 was deleted. There was further discussion about drawing down the reserves. It was agreed that for the General Assembly report tomorrow it would be clearly acknowledge that the Executive Committee recognizes that the current budget level is not sustainable and will give it careful review over the course of the next year.

Diversity Report, George Brown: A joint Diversity Summit with SAF is planned for tomorrow afternoon's General Assembly session. It will begin with student presentations followed with breakout sessions where groups will address identified issues and action item needs (short and longer-term).

Research Report, Steve Bullard: Steve reviewed the meeting of NAUFRP representatives with CSREES national program leaders (NPLs) for the National Research Initiative and subsequent objectives and outcomes. NAUFRP has developed a list of potential candidates to serve on review panels and has had good feedback from the NPLs; Steve would now like to contact the faculty on the list to find out if they are being contacted. His sense is that the list is being used and faculty contacted. Steve is working with Karen Brasher, NAUFRP's webpage manager at Mississippi State, to do this thru NAUFRP's website. Karen will probably have it up and running in October. Steve noted that there is \$3,000 in the current year budget for travel to DC for a follow-up meeting with NPLs; no trip is planned yet. Discussion: These meetings have been very useful and have established continuity and a consistent focus with the NPLs. It was suggested that NAUFRP members who are in DC for other meetings might also scheduled visits with the NPLs following a consistent message based on a "one-pager" of key messages. Fall is the best time to target these meeting because that is when the NPLs are starting to plan RFAs for the next year. There was further discussion on a comment from David Newman who has recently served on a panel that the forestry proposals he saw were not very good. David added that the panel of 18 he served on was very diverse, young and he was the only forestry person. He did not detect any bias against forestry by his fellow panelists; in fact they were all very supportive. Perry noted that we have a USDA Secretary who is interested in forestry and the American Public Land Grant Universities (APLU – formerly NASULGC) annual meeting is coming up in DC and will be attended by a number of NAUFRP members thus offering opportunities for meetings at USDA. He would like to get an electronic copy of Steve's list of NAUFRP faculty. Steve noted that he has been on the NASULGC B&L Committee but is going off it. They do not have any Experiment Station Directors on it. George Hopper supports a "big-picture" message with broad/strategic themes to share with AFRI program leaders – something that will be useful and tangible for them.

Education Report, Pat Layton: The Education Committee is preparing a strategic plan for undergraduate education. Pat has received a \$25,000 grant from CSREES for this purpose. They will begin with taking into account the Diversity Strategic Plan and the outcomes from tomorrow's session. They are working with the planning committee for the Biennial Education meeting to incorporate speakers and expect to develop white papers from this. The Biennial meeting will be at Virginia Tech in March 2010. NAUFRP regional chairs are participating. The grant will help with travel. The committee plans to have a draft by next summer to bring back to this group for next Fall's meeting.

ATR Report, Perry Brown: NAUFRP has been pushing hard to get McStennis to \$30 million. Right now it is at \$28.5 in the House and \$30 million in the Senate. Work on the McStennis Administrative Manual has stalled. This affects the issue of carryover: currently only five percent of McStennis funds can be carried (compared to Hatch which can carry fifty percent forward). The Manual was going to increase the level. CSRESS has revisited the data used in the McStennis formula and updated it with the most recent available. Perry is not pleased with the harvest data which comes from 2006. Perry reviewed the schedule of historically black universities (1890s) joining the McStennis program. He has surveyed NAUFRP members on how they are utilizing the McStennis Strategic Plan and heard back from about one-third of them. All were unanimous that they were using the plan. About seventy-five percent have projects in ecosystem services and two-thirds in attitudes and behavior. The lowest level of feed back is in areas of conflict and decision making. The bottom line is the Strategic Plan is be used and valued and we need to report to CSREES and Fitz on this. However, the Strategic Plan needs to be freshened up and Perry will target this for Jan-Feb (so it will be ready for FY11 budget discussions) with a draft for next November. George Hopper encouraged that we be thinking about asking for more than \$30 million in 2011 and we need to be talking to the National Institute for Food and Agriculture.

FRAC Report, Dick Brinker: The USDA Forest Research Advisory Committee has not met this year. It was given a new charter last December along with new appointments but everything got hung up when the new

Obama Administration put a hold on all new federal advisory appointments. Without the new appointments, FRAC does not have a quorum and thus cannot meet till new appointments are made. Dick is the current chair.

BAC Report, Dick Brinker: A couple of things have happened to raise tensions with the Budget Advocacy Committee (BAC). First, last spring, the Administrative Program Head and Experiment Station representatives determined that BAC was too large and sought to reduce the number of members on the Policy Board. Dick believes this really came from Cornerstone's desire to reduce the number of appropriation priority requests going to the Hill by decreasing the diversity on the Policy Board and BAC. The vote required a two-thirds majority and this was not achieved. NAUFRP and the other associations that were targeted remain and the composition is the same. Then a letter was sent to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees thanking them for supporting the Agriculture Food Research Initiative (AFRI - formerly NRI) with a large number of commodity groups signing on. That letter included disparaging comments about Senate Report language that supports higher funding targeted to forestry and natural resources. NAUFRP held a conference call (Hal, Tim, Dick, George Hopper and Randy) and agreed that Hal would write to Scott Smith, BAC Chair, expressing surprise and concern about the lack of communication on this. Smith responded that the initial letter was not generated by BAC but by Cornerstone. No one has accepted responsibility for writing the original letter to the Hill. Randy adds that this issue is out there and it would not be good for Cornerstone to become an enemy of our programs. They have been supportive until now. It was noted that they have dropped RREA as a priority item to essentially an honorable mention. The language the letter complained of has been in Senate Report language for 4-5 years because the committee believes forestry is not getting a fair proportion of the competitive program funds (NRI/AFRI). Randy also noted that increases in McStennis over the last several years have been at a higher percentage than Hatch fund increases. An action item for NAUFRP members should be to contact their Ag Deans and get them to support forestry/natural resources with APLU. Dick will attend the November BAC meeting and support \$35 million for McStennis as a request in FY 2011 and \$8 million for RREA (though he doesn't expect RREA to be more of a footnote in the end.) Randy warned that BAC may come out formally opposing the Senate language that target forestry in AFRI.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls: Right now it seems Washington is disproportionately and terminally bogged down, still the appropriations bills are quietly moving through. The House is done and the Senate almost; they just need to wrap up 2-3 conference reports. There is a Continuing Resolution (CR) thru October 31<sup>st</sup>. Randy is increasingly less optimistic about health care legislation; it's currently a mess right now. Action on Climate Change legislation is not likely to happen till next year. Senator Boxer (D-CA) is expected to drop a bill in this week and begin hearings but Randy doesn't believe it will go anywhere unless the health care debate collapses. RREA funding is flat. Perry has already noted the House and Senate levels for McStennis; the conference bill will likely split the difference. Everyone is looking for the first real Obama budget. Randy has met with Rajiv Shah, the USDA Under Secretary for Research and Education; he is quite impressive. Shah is a medical doctor who has been with the Gates Foundation working on African issues. He has the White House ear and is going to have some very big ideas and initiatives coming out of USDA intended to reinvigorate USDA research entities and activities with momentum to cooperate with other agencies. Roger Beachy will be the new Chief Scientist – or Director of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture. Harris Sherman has been nominated to be the Under Secretary for Natural Resources. He comes from Colorado with a natural resource background. Jay Jensen is the Deputy Under Secretary overseeing the Forest Service. Senator Blanche Lincoln (AR) has just been named Chair of the Agriculture Committee thru the shuffling of chairs with the death of Senator Edward Kennedy. She will be good for forestry and has a farm background. Perry added that we should have good support from the new Forest Service Chief; he has a lot to learn but is a good listener.

International Report, Barry Goldfarb: Last year Barry reported on the NASULGC Higher Education Grant Program. A team of faculty from six NAUFRP members submitted two proposals – one centered on East Africa and one on West Africa. Neither of the proposals was successful. Some have questioned whether proposals focused on natural resources received a fair hearing. He has also heard other comments about a poor review process. George Hopper will be the NAUFRP representative at the World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires this October; he will be part of the formal US delegation.

Western NAUFRP, Jo Ellen Force: Western NAUFRP met in Seattle last May with the Western Forest Leadership Council (WFLC) for a two-day meeting and field trip where increased coordination was discussed. A subgroup was appointed in a July conference call to meet with the WFLC and on Thursday they will discuss next steps. Western NAUFRP wants to take some ideas from their southern colleagues about how to better interact within their region; Perry and Joe O'Leary will be working on this. The issue of indirect costs with the Forest Service continues; they have no task force on this now. Barry pointed out another similar and relevant issue is that FS can pay stipends for graduate students but not tuition. The Executive Committee agreed to discuss these last two issues with Dave Cleaves this afternoon.

Southern NAUFRP, Keith Belli: Southern NAUFRP met last Spring with the Forest Landowners Association (FLA) and they will hold a meeting here tomorrow morning. A major focus of the last year and a half is the Recruitment Survey. All 17 southern schools are participating this Fall. A long-term goal is to branch out to other regions and to focus beyond forestry which is the priority right now. The data over time will tell what brings students to us, and what messages are getting to them. The plan is to go to a paperless process in time. Keith was asked whether there has been consideration given to surveying students who choose not to go into a program. Keith said yes if we can find that group, we want to know. They have learned that there is a large correlation when a student knows someone who is a professional forester. They have also learned that students have had to stave off family opinions against their choice of forestry. Keith says they plan to share copies of the survey with everyone. Southern NAUFRP traditionally meets at the time of the FLA annual meeting. Most of the southern universities are members of FLA and it's been both a good value and a good group to be affiliated with. FLA is trying to become a national association and is scheduled to meet in Washington state next year. It may be good for the other regions to try and meet with them. There was a question about senior exit surveys and Pat was asked to send an email to listserv on this.

Northeastern NAUFRP, David Newman: Northeastern NAUFRP plans a meeting with Michael Rains and State Foresters in Philadelphia next spring.

North Central NAUFRP, Rob Swihart: North Central NAUFRP will meet tomorrow to discuss their plans.

There was discussion on the comparative data survey the South does. Terri is to send to Rob Swihart a copy. The Executive Committee would like to do this at a national level. Keith and Bruce will work with regional chairs to see if a common survey can be developed.

The date for winter Executive Committee meeting in Washington, D.C was set for March 1-3 with plans to start at 10 a.m. on Monday to allow those that can to travel that morning. (The President's Budget is scheduled to be out Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>)

Dave Cleaves, US Forest Service: Ann Bartuska continues to be the USDA Acting Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment. Secretary Vilsack is both supportive and interested in forestry. A major agenda item for him is climate change. He has a true feeling for the plight of rural America but sees how new markets such as bioenergy can play a positive role. Water and carbon will also get emphasis. The latter will be treated at a landscape scale with the National Forest System at the center. Dave recalled that at NAUFRP's meeting last, Ann discussed R&D strategic priorities and growth platform areas -- this ended up being confusing to others, especially OMB. Current emphasis and Critical Focus Areas will be: climate change, forests and energy (bioenergy), urban natural resources stewardship (ULTRAs), watershed restoration and management (experimental forests are a collection but they want a network/infrastructure), fire and living in fire ecosystems (this expands fire suppression efforts to cooperate with communities where fire is inevitable). Dave has read the McStennis Strategic Plan and sees three major areas of intersection with the FS F&D focus areas. These are the new science of integration, risk/decision making science, and ecosystem services. The 2011 and 2012 budget process has begun with mapping the Secretary's Vision. There is work to be done for natural resources R&D. Dave and Michael Rains worked on the Stimulus funding; they kept getting hit with how R&D can't show a link

between R&D dollar investments and jobs/returns. This is a key area to partner with NAUFRP on. The issue of cooperative agreements was discussed with Dave as well as the issue of FS paying stipends but not tuition. There is a lot of pressure from university administrations about indirect costs. Dave committed to follow-up and look at the structure of FS Cooperative Agreements.

Dan Kugler, CSREES: Dan discussed the new USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) which becomes a USDA agency on October 1. He echoed Randy's comments on Shah – that he's a very different person and brings a very different atmosphere into USDA. On the whole, the new Administration has brought in an amazingly energized young group of people who don't know anything about government -- but they are fast learners. They don't see borders, have big expectations and are looking at big new initiatives. The aim was to have a world class scientist to head NIFA and it will be Roger Beachy. The Farm Bill mandated USDA research to restructure and reorganize. There are five high priorities that feed into the Secretary's Initiatives: 1) climate change 2) bioenergy 3) food safety 4) childhood obesity and 5) international food security. The 2011 budget will be gigantic and structured around the previous named priorities. In the FY2010, AFRI will see a \$60 million increase which will also align with the five priorities. Every CSREES function and authority will walk over to NIFA; extension and research will remain integrated. The RREA National Focus Awards, which are jointly funded with the FS, are going to Univ. of Arizona (forests and climate change) Mississippi State and the University of Georgia. Within McStennis, Catalino Blanche will continue as the science lead but Eric Norland is to the forestry leader and oversees Catalino. As Dick Brinker said, FRAC has some problems resulting from the new Administration's moratorium on new nominations and appointments. They will probably have to go back out and solicit new nominations. NIFA and FS need to get together on this. The 1890's coming into McStennis were reviewed again. After years of discussing how much money goes (or doesn't) to forestry in the competitive programs, it looks like about \$7 million went in 2008. They are working on discrepancies that suggest it is higher. The Secretary's priorities will likely translate into themes in AFRI. Eric added that if there are no forestry proposals, then no forestry panelists will be sought. The 9008 Biomass program will fund 9 projects of which four are forestry related. There was \$20 million for this in FY2010. Three awards were made under the National Needs Fellowship Program going to the Universities of Florida, Missouri and Texas A&M. Grant funding has gone to Clemson for the NAUFRP Undergraduate Education strategic planning. Dan noted that a number of McStennis projects falls within the scope of the Strategic Plan and he knows we are discussing 'refreshing' it. Steve Bullard asked about the limit of 5 percent carry over in McStennis. Eric said this is not yet resolved and Dan affirmed it's just a matter of getting this thru the system.

Mike Zupco, National Association of State Foresters (NASF): Though Mike works for Southern NASF he represents NASF today. They just had their annual meeting last week. NASF passed a key resolution affirming FIA is a continuing high priority which they advocate base funding to support all states on board. Two areas of potential collaboration with NAUFRP are FIA and Emerging Markets. NASF looks to NAUFRP guidance on research funding and priorities. Mike noted that the National Council of Forestry Association Executives is working on an issue of national agriculture statistics and commodity products. It doesn't cover private land and they want to get some focus on this. It might also be useful to apply to non timber products such as pine straw. The Farm Bill is driving the state assessment process. The actual work is happening at state levels. NAUFRP should ensure the universities are engaged with these assessments which cover all lands. The deadline for their completion is June 2010. Pat voiced concern about the state wildlife assessments: they were separate from forestry and never integrated. And water is not covered anywhere. In SC, they have a forestry-wildlife working group which is trying to identify what is in the wildlife plans and should be pulled into the state forest assessments. Mike noted the Secretary's recent speech supporting forests and an all-lands approach. NASF was pleased with this. NASF has continuing internships; Terri has traditionally gotten these from NASF and sent them out on the NAUFRP listserv. Tim confirmed that NAUFRP wants to maintain a good working relationship with NASF and we have talked in the past about a possible MOU.

Michael Goergan, Society of American Foresters: Michael expressed some frustration with the convention numbers: they are down when they expected a better turnout in the southeast. This could be the tough budget times, but still they have an exciting program. Michael thinks SAF's influence on the Hill is strong but it could be

more coordinated. Tim White asked for an update on accreditation and the process. Michael thinks it is going well but knows there continues to be frustration in all the work impact that goes into the process. The Accreditation Committee is pleased with how things are going. It's expensive. Pat related to Michael that NAUFRP is working on a Strategic Plan for undergraduate education; Michael said Terry Clark would be very good to include in our process. Barry asked if Michael could see the staff/accreditation committee sharing information on what other schools are going – maybe in a summary form. Steve Bullard asked about the opportunity of redoing the Pinchot Institute Study. Michael has talked to Al Sample about this. The initial funding came from the Ford Foundation, probably about \$60,000-\$75,000. The Ford Foundation is not funding many forestry projects these days. Michael expressed concern with the Accreditation Committee. The people on it are 20 years and more into their careers and may not be as tuned in deciding what forestry needs or where emphasis should be in current times. He believes we need to be asking the question does accreditation help the universities and/or students. How can accreditation be more effective in helping universities and students on issues like employer needs. Is accreditation adding value? Steve reminded that the Pinchot report surveyed students and their employers to identify gaps. Tim asked Pat to ask thru the listserve for Employer Survey documents/instruments.

John Hayes, University of Florida representing the National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs: John Edge from Oregon State University is the current President. Their association has been dormant for the last several years which has caused problems. They are currently trying to update their member lists and initiate a webpage. They've recently determined three areas of activity: 1) re-engage nationally (in the past they have been active in government affairs) and they are looking at a couple of models (TWS has offered a partnership); 2) partner with NAUFRP – Dan Edge will be contacting Tim and/or Hal and 3) salary survey. They are plotting future directions for fisheries and wildlife education: possibly a Blue Ribbon Panel with TWS and AFS with a focus on educating future professionals. They don't have an accreditation program and there are mixed feelings on this. They do have a certification program thru TWS. Tim said NAUFRP welcomes the opportunity to discuss ways to increase and help NAUFRP. Expects groups from both our associations could develop talking points/bullets of activities we can do together (Hill visits, APLU, ....) Pat related NAUFRP plans for undergraduate education strategic plan. Perry commented that it might be really useful for NAUFRP to help us at USDI and vice versa for us to help them with USDA. Rob Swihart commented that he is been able to compare and contrast the two associations. One real bond for NAUFRP is the McStennis dollars and the link it provides. The salary survey would be an area for joint effort. Merging our focus areas would bring added leverage with APLU. NAUFRP invited NAUFRP to our March meeting. Jo Ellen commented that Accreditation and McStennis provide linkages for our members. Does the NAUFRP have criteria for members? There must be over 200 programs around the country. John says it is pretty broad. Perry commented that the wildlife association does not have many deans; it would be helpful leverage to work with us. John responded that their association culture is a roller coaster. Rob Swihart suggested appointing a liaison to go to both groups; he would be willing to represent NAUFRP.

Meeting Adjourned.

*Minutes Approved March 1, 2010*