

**Minutes**  
**NAUFRP Executive Committee**  
**October 22, 2007**  
**Portland, Oregon**

Participants: George Hopper, Joe McNeel, Bruce Bare, Perry Brown, Al Ek, Dan Keathley, George Brown, Barry Goldfarb, Steven Daley Laursen, Dick Brinker, Steve Bullard, Tim White, Hal Salwasser, Peg Gale, Mike Kelly, Doug Piirto, Randy Nuckolls, Pat Reid, Terri Bates

Guests: Dan Edge, Rich Guldin, Daniel Cassidy, Colien Hefferan, Ann Bartuska, Fen Hunt, Terry Clark, Michael Goergen, Marvin Brown

Introductions were made. Agenda Reviewed.

Minutes from March 5-7, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

For the record, George Hopper clarified that archives for NAUFRP have been previously set up at Louisiana Tech by GH Weaver. Terri has been sending material there.

President's Report, George Hopper: One of last year's General Assembly Breakout sessions dealt with communications. As a result, we have taken several actions including making the Washington Update into a brief, electronic newsletter with four issues since last year. We have held a member-wide conference call and sponsored the 'Deans' On the Hill', an event which featured a fly-in of NAUFRP members. One question to address later is do we do the latter again? There was a lot of participation but it was also a big expense. The McStennis Strategic Plan was completed thanks to Perry Brown's leadership. We need to talk about how to market our Vision 'Forests for a Richer Future' both within the forestry community and externally. There has been a lot of activity around the Farm Bill. Clearly, this organization is engaged even though we are all volunteers. We advocated an increase in the FY08 appropriations for the McStennis, RREA and NRI programs. A new effort is underway as a result of the graduate needs outlined in the Keathley report that was instigated by NAUFRP. Discussion is underway about sponsoring a summit targeted at the undergraduate level. A healthy discussion is underway with the Forest Service on climate change. Note there are 22 new administrators within the NAUFRP community in the last two years; we need to get to know them and they us.

Dan Edge, Oregon State University: Dan is president of the National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP). George Hopper recently attended annual meeting of The Wildlife Society meeting and invited Dan to this meeting. NAUFWP currently has 54 paying schools; more are eligible. They conduct a faculty survey. Since Larry Jahn's death, they have had difficulty maintaining a staff/Washington presence and have suffered a leadership vacuum in the last several years NAUFWP is looking for an opportunity to get a representative established in DC. George Hopper suggested they pay for BAC membership. George also urged NAUFRP members to encourage their faculty to get involved. Perhaps there should be discussion of the two organizations sharing/pooling resources? We worked closely with Larry Jahn and Bruce Menzel at one time. NAUFWP has a place on the Board of Natural Resources. They have two dues structures. It was noted that some fish and wildlife programs receive McStennis dollars. George appointed a task group, (Hal Salwasser and Joe McNeel) to work with Dan Edge to develop a concept paper.

Treasurer's Report, Tim White: A revised financial report for 2006 was presented. Changes from what was presented to the Executive Committee in March were in the Income and Carry over Category. Double counting of grants occurred and there was really less carry over. The 2007 financial report was presented and reviewed. Expenses thru the end of the year are projected. The contribution to the IUFRO Conference and

the Congressional reception were not in the budget approved last year for 2007. There is interest in seeing more detail on what NAUFRP activities the UVM grant paid for; an accounting will be provided at the next Executive Committee meeting. The 2008 proposed budget includes a five percent increase for the Executive Liaison. There was discussion on what additional activities might be considered for funding: ANREP sponsorship, Congressional event, university-sponsored website for high school recruitment. A motion was made by Hal Salwasser to designate a new \$25,000 line item budget category for "Strategic Investments" for activities tied to the Vision and McStennis Strategic Plan. Further discussion revolved around what are strategic investments and how to define them. This would authorize \$25,000 but what would the process be to decide what is an appropriate activity? The Executive Committee would approve projects, even by conference call if needed. (IUFRO and the Congressional Reception would be examples of what would fall under this category.) This should be a one-time authorization; if not spent it would go back into carry-over for the future. The question seems to be where to focus the dollars: Washington, D.C. or on more open-ended projects? A friendly amendment to the motion was accepted. Motion reads "\$25,000 is authorized as a one-time budget line item for Strategic Investments in fiscal year 2008 for activities that further the strategic plan of the organization in all three mission areas". The motion was adopted unanimously. The 2008 budget bottom-line is now \$135,000. A final vote on the 2008 budget will be made at the end of this meeting.

Research Chair Report, Mike Kelly: Mike is working on a CAP proposal for CSREES; Colien Hefferan has previously suggested we come forward with one. We have a different strategy for developing a competitive piece; this has been emphasized by the Administration and is addressed by the McStennis Strategic Plan. Mike is working with Al Ek and they believe only 7-8 percent of NRI is going to forestry/natural resources. Al said this can go forward in either of two ways: 1) to Colien as a concept from NAUFRP to go under NRI with elaboration on priority problem areas or, 2) NAUFRP seeks Congressional language regarding NRI. Mike has tried to keep this very consistent with the McStennis Strategic Plan.

ATR Liaison Report, Perry Brown: The McStennis Strategic Plan is finished. Thanks to Don DeHayes, Mike Kelly, Peg Gale and Hal Salwasser for their work with him on this effort. Dan Kugler is happy. Oregon State is the publisher. Three hundred copies have been printed and are being distributed to CSREES, every NAUFRP member and the ATRs. Perry expects each school to brief their State Forester and other key stakeholders at the state level. The Plan has been posted on the NAUFRP webpage and delivered to Fitz Elder and Ann Bartuska. Hal suggested that we will need to review the Plan in a year and half or so with the new Congress and Administration. The Executive Committee expressed their appreciation to Perry for his considerable work on this.

Budget Advocacy Committee Report, Dick Brinker: BAC met in July to draft priorities for the 2009 budget. These will be finalized in November at the NAULGC meeting in New York City. NAUFRP's priorities have been put forward as 1) \$30 million for McStennis and 2) \$8 million for RREA and support for an increase in natural resources within NRI. Dick has indicated that if McStennis were to be funded a second year at \$30 million, we might be willing to put \$5 million in a competitive program. George urged Dick to have BAC support the FS global climate change proposal.

USDA Forest Research Advisory Committee, Dick Brinker: FRAC met last January in Madison, WI. Greg Johnson from Weyerhaeuser continues to chair the committee. They drafted a report at that time seeking additional information prior to their next meeting on USDA's research strategy in the areas of ecosystem services, climate change in forest ecosystems and forest bio-fuels and bio products. The report also included recommendations that USDA continue research in nanotechnology and pine genome research. The also initiated a letter to the Secretary about proposed changes in McStennis funding saying that a competitive element should only be added if there are additional funds. The letter also voiced concerns about the CREATE-21 proposal. And finally, FRAC initiated a letter to Colien Hefferan regarding the National Research Initiative requesting she provide a specific outline of how the reported 2007 NRI RFA \$60 million

and how much is actually going to forestry/natural resources. FRAC is scheduled to meet several weeks from now.

CREATE-21, Pat Reid: Pat reviewed the chronological development of the CREATE-21 (C-21) proposal and the initial legislation, HR 2398, which became the Research Title in the House Farm bill minus inclusion of the USDA Forest Service and Economic Research Service. Ultimately, the C-21 proposal evolved to establish and National Institute of Food and Agriculture which captures the competitive programs. Of any new funds, 70% would be competitive and 30% would be for capacity research. Sixty percent would be for basic research and 40% for integrated. The Senate Farm Bill is closer to the original C-21 proposal; it would do away with CSREES (but not include the FS). Under Secretary Gale Buchanan is not happy with it.

Policy Committee Report, Steven Daley Laursen: Steve provided a written report providing context for all the Farm and Energy Bill discussion now underway in DC. Randy added that a Farm Bill mark-up could go pretty fast as early as this or next week.

Diversity Committee Report, George Brown: George reviewed the Diversity Plan passed by NAUFRP in Edmonton (2004). SAF Council endorsed it last June. George was in DC last week and met with FS and CSREES; all are on board. Dan Kugler is willing to support travel for the next step which plans for a 12-15 member panel to meet in DC to develop a national strategic plan. It is to include all the natural resource professional societies. Dan Edge says this will be of high interest to The Wildlife Society as well as the Fisheries Society. It would be good to get non-Executive Committee members involved. George will seek input electronically. A letter of invite will go out from SAF and NAUFRP. George was encouraged to involve MANNRs. Hal says he is committed to following through on this when he succeeds as president.

Education Committee Report, Dan Keathley: Dan is on a FAEIS advisory panel. There is a survey going out to users. It will be used to adjust the system to better serve users. He noted SAF has a new accreditation in urban forestry. Dan has a committee working with the biennial conference on education. The workshop from this General Assembly meeting will feed into it. The conference will be used to hone areas for NAUFRP to focus on. Dan Edge is a co-chair of that steering committee. NAUFRP holds the key to making this conference happen; we need to attend and make sure faculty across all disciplines are there. A call for papers is out.

Extension Committee Report, Joe McNeel: Joe co-chairs the ECOP Forestry Task Force along with Scott Reed. NASULGC wants to discontinue the Task Force but the committee is seeking to extend its life for at least one year. It was formed initially to work towards an increase in RREA dollars. CSREES has a new competitive grants program within RREA of about \$450,000. Joe is not sure the call for proposals went out very well. Only about five proposals were received; all were funded. Appears the information is going to Extension Directors/Leaders. George asked Joe to look into how the RFP went out; it could have been sent to the NAUFRP listserve. Joe noted that ANREP will meet May 20-23, 2008 in Madison, WI.

Al Ek reported on the USDA energy meeting he represented NAUFRP at in September in Washington, DC. It was called by the Under Secretary. It was not a very environmentally-oriented group; mostly agency people and agriculture at that. There were a few university folks. He also met with NRI staff.

North Central Regional Chair, Peg Gale: The region is planning a larger meeting next spring at the University of Missouri. They will be inviting the Forest Service and State Foresters from the region.

Southern Regional Chair, Steve Bullard: The Southern Group met last May in Charleston. They are in process of working with State Foresters who have concerns over enrollment levels. A Southern Leadership Tour is planned for November at Amelia Island. This is done every other year. Steve and Tim White are on the program. The next Southern Regional meeting will be spring 2008 in Chicago in conjunction with the Forest Landowners Association annual convention.

Western Regional Chair, Doug Piirto: The Western Region had a great meeting last June in Utah. They focused on enrollment trends. An action item from that meeting was to become more involved in the Western Council Leadership group. They have a lunch meeting planned tomorrow.

Washington Counsel, Randy Nuckolls: Expects Congress to pass an omnibus appropriations bill in December. Major issues right now are Iraq and childrens' health. The current Continuing Resolution (CR) goes to Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. The Senate Farm Bill is expected to be voted out of committee this week and will go to the floor soon after. The only Senate Democratic seats in play for the November elections are LA and SD; the Republicans have several more (VA, NM, AK, CO). The presidential nominees will be determined very early next year. Hope to sustain global warming monies for the FS. The issue is getting a lot of profile with Congress. Members and staff have found it harder than they thought to craft legislation. George Hopper commended Randy for the new electronic Washington Update.

Discussion of Marketing and Exposure of the NAUFRP Vision and Strategic Plan: Hal is a member of the National Commission on Sustainable Forests (NESF); they will be releasing a declaration next January that will highlight the lack of a clear, national policy for the nation's forests. We should incorporate the McStennis Strategic Plan into our goals and select action items to focus on. Need to expose the Vision and McStennis to the forestry profession and FS. Colien Hefferan said she is already using the McStennis Strategic Plan (i.e., the NRI for FY09). A one-page summary would be good for Congress but the overall substance is very important. Ann Bartuska sees concepts in the McStennis Plan that evolved out of discussions back in Olympia, WA. It reinforces where we should be focusing and prioritizing. She thinks it is time to reengage with the Station Directors. May need more emphasis on ecosystem services and biofuels. Colien says the FY09 budget is not going to be an opportunity for new things. Randy says look at this as a step/sequence to move into with a new Administration.

Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator: Colien expressed appreciation for all the help and input on the McStennis Strategic Plan. It really justifies putting resources in the program and builds consensus. One thing not emphasized in it is the ongoing discussion of biofuels. It amazes her how all the discussion is on corn-based ethanol, especially when the ecosystem is so fragile. Colien noted the outcomes she has seen come from NAUFRP beginning with the 'Keathley' report which has served as a blueprint for the graduate fellows program. She hopes to see \$500,000 annually for the program in support of the issues NAUFRP identified and more integration. Fire management is a major problem. Conifer Cap Program: this has been talked about for years but there has been difficulty finding resources to fund the program. There is a lot of enthusiasm for it. It is the largest cap project ever - \$6 million - and it will produce very good science and visibility (research and application). They have been looking at NRI and whether they are giving forestry/natural resources justice. Colien noted the Congressional language regarding this issue of two years. They believe \$6-\$10 million is going for forest research. Looking across program lines for forestry opportunities, but to be successful, need a lot of application. NAUFRP needs to push CSREES and also provide applicants. Colien noted her visit to the Targee National Forest Visitors Center; there was no mention of science. The Graduate Fellows Programs will be an open call after Christmas. Discussion on a dispersed vs. concentrated Forest Science Program: fixed and variable, where continued emphasis is on forest science but without new dollars, can't expand. NRI is 20-30 programs with 2-3 emphasis areas.

Ann Bartuska, USDA Forest Service, Research and Development Deputy Chief: Discussed FS R&D staff changes. Ann referenced the Olympia Washington meeting of several years ago; the issues/topics that came up there seem to be a driver of future forest science. A R&D focus area in 2008 will be climate change research strategy. They held a recent meeting in Denver to identify gaps in the global climate change portfolio. This will be the basis for spending the \$2.5 million in the appropriations bill; almost all of the money will be competitive. She expects partnerships with university collaborators but it will also be the FS. There has been a great deal of emphasis on Fires and Fuels, especially in decision support tools mitigation. Forty-three percent of next year's budget is fire suppression. FS is almost there for FIA annual inventory in

the FY08 budget but the 09 will take three steps back. There is a lot of interest in ecosystem services, biomass/energy, urban natural resources and global competitiveness. Competitive opportunities also include climate change, coupled with human natural systems through the National Science Foundation. FS is supporting CSREES graduate fellowship program. Next year they will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first research watershed; this will raise the visibility of these sites and interactive collaboration.

USFS S&PF Redesign, Rich Gulden, USDA Forest Service: Rich briefed the committee on the FS State & Private Redesign effort. In the last years there has been focus on FS capacity building grants but it has been hard to show tangible evidence of results. The redesign effort began about a year ago and deals with cooperative fire, forest health and cooperative forestry programs. The programs and their delivery have been reorganized and will be more accountable to making changes on the ground. The first focus is on national issues. Handouts and slides. Rich was asked if the data collected will be available and he said yes.

CSREES National Recreation Research Strategic Plan, Fen Hunt, CSREES: Briefing on the National Recreation Research Strategic Plan. Handouts provided. Fen wanted to know how they can effectively work thru NAUFRP to integrate this into the McStennis Strategic Plan. Hal recommended they reach out to the recreation industry and outdoor groups with the aim to establish something like an excise tax to finance recreation (similar to fish and wildlife). A comment that the audience is not well identified in the recreation plan. Also, although the McStennis Strategic Plan does not explicitly recognize recreation, it is felt it does so implicitly thru ecosystem services; maybe future iterations will better capture this.

Michael Goergen, Executive Director, Society of American Foresters: Michael welcomed NAUFRP to the Convention and expressed appreciation for the time and energy put into the society. REI is a sponsor which is a big deal! SAF has recently completed a comprehensive member survey and learned the value that its members place in the accreditation process. They have added a new accreditation program in urban forestry. SAF saw a gain in student membership last year.

Terry Clark, Associate Director Science and Education, Society of American Foresters: Terry provided a briefing on the new urban forestry accreditation process. Greg Brown chaired the committee. They have been aware of the demand for some time. A number of associations have education programs but did not want to take on the accreditation process themselves.

Marvin Brown, National Association of State Foresters (NASF): NASF has been very engaged in the S&PF Redesign process. At their recent annual meeting they voted to support the direction it was taking. The writing was clearly on the wall with the appropriators: they want more results on the ground. The required state assessments will identify what the states should focus their dollars on. A separate concern of NASF's is the growing percentage of the FS budget going to fire suppression costs and especially where it appears headed in the next two years. Marvin continues to work with the SAF-NASF Joint Task Force on Sustainable Forest Policy in the US. They have met with a number of diverse groups to see what the common issues and concerns are; they have found a lot of commonality (fragmentation, forest health,...) and support for their fundamental goals. They have draft language that will be discussed on a Thursday panel.

#### Further business:

Dan Keathley made a motion which was seconded that NAUFRP would contribute \$5,000 to the Biennial Education Summit. Discussion: this meets the criteria discussed earlier of meeting NAUFRP vision and goals. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of like support to the upcoming ANREP Conference next May. Funding could go to scholarships; the last meeting had 150-200 in attendance. The value would be the RREA linkage which is part of the NAUFRP mission. Since ANREP is a regular meeting, would this be continuing or one time

funding? A motion was not made but it was suggested a proposal could be brought back to the Executive Committee focusing on how NAUFRP can better engage with ANREP.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize \$2,000 for a Congressional breakfast or lunch next March in conjunction with the Executive Committee meeting. It was adopted unanimously.

The proposed 2008 budget was approved, including the additional \$7,000 in amendments as passed by motions above.

A task group (Barry, Al and Tim) will develop criteria for considering proposals in line with NAUFRP Vision and

A motion was made and seconded for a point of order that we amend the 2007 budget to be in line with expenditures. It was adopted unanimously.

*Approved March 3, 2008*