

General Assembly  
October 23, 2007  
Portland, OR

Introductions (see separate list of attendees)

Agenda reviewed

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from October, 2006 (Pittsburgh, PA). The minutes were approved unanimously.

President's Report, George Hopper: NAUFRP has been active and energized over the last year. The financial picture is stable. Last year's meeting workshop indicated a strong interest for more internal communications. As a result we have developed a new electronic Washington Update that comes out periodically. Several conference calls have been held with the Executive Committee and the full membership. NAUFRP sponsored several events including 'Deans on the Hill' and a Congressional Reception in conjunction with the Executive Committee meeting last March 3-5. NAUFRP spearheaded the McStennis Strategic Plan that was recently completed. It is on the website and there are copies here. NAUFRP's Vision "Forests for a Richer Future" is also posted on the website. Both documents position NAUFRP strategically. We've been engaged on the Hill on a variety of issues – Farm Bill, CREATE-21, BAC, FRAC. Funding continues to be a common issue of interest to us all. An anomaly last year provided \$30 million to the McIntire-Stennis Program; we are trying hard to hold that number for the coming fiscal year. We are also supporting RREA at \$8 million and NRI at \$256 million. NAUFRP is working with the Forest Service to develop a competitive element to the global climate change program. An older NAUFRP endeavor on graduate education needs is being used and has led to a national needs graduate and post doctorate fellowship grants program with CSREES. NAUFRP appreciates CSREES Administrator Colien Hefferan's support for this. A new initiative for is developing an undergraduate education conference; we'll spend time on this in a workshop later today. NAUFRP welcomes the 22 new administrators that have joined the ranks in the last year of more.

Treasurer's Report, Tim White: A 2007 financial report to date and a 2008 budget adopted by the Executive Committee were presented. The 2008 budget includes approval to contribute \$5,000 to the Biennial Education Conference at OSU next year and \$2,000 for a Congressional breakfast or lunch.

Research Chair, Mike Kelly: Mike worked on the McStennis Strategic Plan. He has met and worked with Colien Hefferan to target NRI funds of direct interest to our association in a 'dedicated' way. We need to get much more engaged individually in the NRI process. Panels are under represented from our areas. NAUFRP members are urged to look at the NRI topic areas and get their faculty to volunteer.

Education Chair, Dan Keathley: FAEIS is evolving; it is being updated and will begin to include Hispanic, 1994 and 2-year programs. They are seeking input from users on report building. NAUFRP members should receive a survey to this effect in the near future. SAF has completed standards for an urban forestry accreditation program. We are working towards a Summit on undergraduate education. A first step is working with the OSU Biennial Conference on Education which will be March 13-15, 2008 at OSU. All are encouraged to participate and to get faculty there. There will be an opportunity for input beginning with this afternoon's workshop.

Washington Counsel's Report, Randy Nuckolls: Though Randy is often a spokesman for NAUFRP in Washington, Congressional members really want to hear from their individual constituents. It is important to develop and cultivate these relations. Typically, Members think of their Deans and State Foresters as the 'go to' for forestry advice. Randy urged NAUFRP members to invite Members and/or their staff to your

campuses. It is important to figure out what they are interested in and what the issues are they are concerned with. We started the year with 'Deans on the Hill' and worked to integrate our issues with NASULGC/BAC. At issue was CREATE-21 (C-21) which was intended to restructure the enterprise of research at USDA and to increase funding. It has ended up in the Farm Bill with restructuring of CSREES only. McStennis was funded at \$30 million for the year. Right now the House has a small increase over the previous year's level and the Senate provides \$30 million. The 'environment' in Washington right now is toxic. Most of the year has focused on the Iraq war. The President is going to keep himself relevant as a lame duck by vetoing certain measures. We're rapidly approaching the presidential election year. The Democratic majority in the Senate may increase by 3-4 members in next month's elections. A series of senior House Republicans are retiring. NRI funding may increase a little. Randy seconded Mike Kelly's urging that NAUFRP members get involved with the NRI peer review process. We should go meet and build a relationship with NRI staff. Global Warming is going to continue to be a big topic; the government has lagged behind the business/private sector on this. The outlook for future Congressional earmarks? They'll continue but at a lower level. Ag approps and the possibility of a presidential veto? Likely Congress will pass a Continuing Resolution through Dec, maybe mini-bills.

Enrollment Trends, Terry Sharik: Terry has received data or partial data from 44 school programs; he has used data from 33 programs to develop this presentation. The highest enrollments were in the mid-1980's. Overall enrollments have been increasing the last 3 years. Whereas forestry was 40% of enrollments it is now 20%; the numbers for fish, wildlife and conservation biology are higher than forestry. The areas of watershed/hydrology and wood products have been decreasing but none as dramatically as forestry. Terry conducted a student survey 3 years ago and will be redoing it at this convention. It is asking why students are interested in our fields. Three years ago the survey showed student interest was stimulated by their love of nature but also that they had some hesitancy because of perceived lack of jobs and low pay.

Diversity Chair, George Brown: NAUFRP approved a National Plan for Diversity at the Edmonton meeting. (It is on the NAUFRP webpage.) Last June the SAF Council endorsed this plan. Next summer, SAF will host with NAUFRP, a group of 12-15 to meet in DC to develop a national strategic plan. It is to include all the natural resource professional societies.

Extension Chair, Joe McNeel: Joe represents NAUFRP on the NASULGC ECOP Forestry Task Its founding objective has focused on efforts to increase RREA funding. Scott Reed and Steven Daley Laursen also serve on the task group. The group is looking at ways to revitalize and keep RREA directly in front of NASULGC, however the latter is considering sun setting the task group. CSREES took about \$400,000 off the top of RREA to fund competitive grants. There were only five proposals and all received funding. Joe noted the S&PF Redesign will affect a number of programs and will be gauged around national themes. ANREP will meet next May in Madison, WI. Concerns were voiced about how the RREA RFP was advertised.

ATR Liaison Report, Perry Brown: The McStennis Strategic Plan is finished and out. Special appreciation goes to Peg Gale, Mike Kelly, Don DeHayes and Hal Salwasser for their work on it. Each school will get about a dozen copies; please brief your State Foresters and other key constituencies in your states. George Hopper acknowledged a special thanks to Perry's leadership on this effort.

Budget Advocacy Committee, Dick Brinker: Dick represents NAUFRP on this NASULC committee which has a total to 30-35 representatives. Their purpose is to discuss and prioritize issues that the lobbying firm Cornerstone works on in DC. At their July meeting Dick presented NAUFRP's appropriations priorities for FY09 which were \$30 million for McStennis, \$8 million for RREA and \$256 million for NRI. Discussion of a specific forestry/natural resources component in NRI is not well received by the aggies but he will continue to push this. Randy reinforced the importance of NAUFRP's seat at this table and the need to stay consistent with our message not only with BAC but also with Colien Hefferan and others. Randy also addressed the

need for NAUFRP to be more deliberate in getting our folks on the NRI panels as well as interacting with NRI staff. Follow-up was requested on identifying the NRI program leaders.

USDA Forest Research Advisory Committee (FRAC), 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. They 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.

Policy Chair, Steven Daley Laursen: Discussion on the status of the Farm Bill in Congress and outlook for its passage. RREA is reauthorized and McStennis language included in both the House and Senate bills. The Farm Bill coalition which NAUFRP participated in was effective in getting a lot of forestry provisions included; it demonstrated how varying interests can work together in a coalition. CREATE-21 has been a delicate issue for NAUFRP with NASULGC. Agenda items for the coming year that Steven will be working on include: discussion on a policy for sustainable forestry in the US, Forest Health, NRI funding and regrouping around RREA.

The 2007 Family Forest Education Award, sponsored jointly by NAUFRP and the National Woodland Owners Association was presented by Joe McNeel and Keith Argow to the University of Florida's Forest Stewardship Program. Tim White accepted the award.

Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator: Colien met yesterday with the Executive Committee and is pleased to be here with Ann Bartuska. The McStennis and RREA Strategic Plans now provide the tools to argue for more resources for both programs. She is excited about the challenges of the new science of integration and how research, education, extension and international fit together. CSREES has a new program this year: the National Needs Fellowship program will focus on four areas that underlie forest science. The RFA will be out this winter. This is a result of the work lead by Dan Keathley several year's ago. There will be \$500,000 this year; the Forest Service has contributed dollars as well. The four areas are improving decision making sciences, use of landscape analysis, forest health and ecosystem processes. Audrey Trotman is the program leader. They have given a grant to ??? , a tribal school to develop a four year forestry program and they will be working with other tribal schools. Colien noted the FY07 appropriation increase in McStennis was due to a larger issue with Congressional earmarks. The program is well matched, approximately 1:4 and it's the mostly strongly matched program of any of the formula programs. Colien thinks in reality the match is even higher and that it really leverages significant dollars, probably close to \$100 million. She extended special thanks to the small group that worked on the design for a potential McStennis multi-state program. Growth in the McStennis program could happen in this area. Structure is important to growing the program (i.e. multi-state). A key question is how does funding match up with where the McStennis Strategic Plan is going? (i.e. outdoor recreation, science of integration, ecosystem services). McStennis is designed to provide stability to institutional programs. The conifer genomics award has been made. It was enabled by NAUFRP, industry, and FS R&D. It is the largest CAP program yet -- \$4 million (\$2 million from FS) and its truly a multi-partner effort. It may generate interest on campus for other forest genomics. Question about the RFA: it came out this Fall as a general genomics call. Need to do a better job of letting forest researchers know about opportunities. *Something about Invasive species REE ??? ? to be announced later this year* *Something about NSF to include cultivated land in mixed use area; interaction of land use??* CSREES is working with the 1890 Agroforestry Consortium; they want to see it grow. Most institutions here were eligible for the RREA redirected funds. New directory

out for cooperative forestry extension. On biofuels, there is much focus on corn not much discussion around woody mass. We all have responsibility to push to get the discussion back on tract to include woody mass—we need to push to be involved in the biofuels debate. It's going to continue to be an issue and we need to ensure the discussion is broader. Other discussion: maybe have NRI folks meet with NAUFRP on to how to apply and/or how to become a reviewer. Colien said they had two conferences in the last month; also a grant workshop at regional level. They will come to us and do a workshop; regional chairs could host a workshop. Other comments: There is a lack of understanding about NRI. Who are the program leaders? Colien says they have a data base of scientists and draw reviewers from there. The program leaders also have their networks; they like to have some continuity in a panel. Their data base is used by other agencies as well (ie.,NSF, DOE).

Ann Bartuska, Deputy Chief, USDA Forest Service Research & Development: The Chief's themes are climate change, water, reconnecting with people/kids with nature. The agency's Strategic Plan has science in each piece. Climate Change is a R&D area of emphasis; they have actually been doing this since the 1980s. The House and Senate have provided \$2.5 million in the current appropriations bill. FS R&D had a recent meeting in Denver to determine gap analysis for critical needs. It will be a competitive process partnering FS with non-FS) Other areas of focus are fire and fuels, invasive species, FIA Ecosystem services, biomass to energy, urban natural resources research, global competitiveness. Actions of note: competitive opportunity in climate change; coupled human natural systems with NSF (RFP is on the street); education and outreach (cost-sharing with CSREES for graduate fellowship); improving science delivery (partnership with extension); experimental forest and range (celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year of first experimental forest). Question about FS interaction with CESUs? Ann says CESUs seem to be locally driven. Discussion about grants, cooperative agreements, earmarks. (*Terri is out of room*) Rich Gulden commented on NAUFRP's interest in building interest of pre-college kids in natural resources careers; the FS Chief is really supporting kids in the woods. Ann said urban forestry has a part in bringing woods to kids.

Breakout Sessions: Dan Keathley has summary.

Meeting adjourned.