

NAUFRP General Assembly
October 27, 2010
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Minutes

Welcome and Introductions: Hal Salwasser (Oregon State Univ.), President

Business

The minutes of the September 30, 2009 General Assembly meeting (Orlando, Florida) were approved unanimously after a motion by Perry Brown (Univ. of Montana), seconded by John Houghton (Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point).

Treasurer's Report, Peg Gale (Michigan Tech Univ.): A final 2009 financial report was provided as a handout. A 2010 financial report through October 15, 2010 was provided and discussed. Projected expenses were expected to be very close to income. A budget for 2011 approved by the Executive Committee was also distributed; it did not differ significantly from the 2009 budget.

Tim White (Univ. of Florida), President-Elect presented a powerpoint 'NAUFRP Overview & Recent Accomplishments'. The presentation covered in detail NAUFRP's special initiatives and the work of its committees in recent years. This will be posted on the NAUFRP webpage at www.naufrp.org with the intent to keep it updated.

Hal Salwasser commented on NAUFRP future directions which include completing the NAUFRP undergraduate education strategy, planning for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the McIntire-Stennis program, and increasing funding for the program. Discussion: there have been small increases in McIntire-Stennis (McS) dollars over the last 10 years, but they have not kept pace with increases in other programs. Is NAUFRP tracking what is coming from competitive dollars: Yes, but it is challenging to distinguish between natural resources and forestry. Although NAUFRP membership is 67 institutions, only a small number are actively engaged. There are opportunities to get involved including the undergraduate education action plan and the BNR Roadmap. Ann Bartuska has recently become the Deputy Under Secretary at USDA for Research, Education and Economics and can help in this respect. The AFRI program now makes available dollars for integrated extension and education activities; this development should be reviewed with possible future efforts focused on expanding and utilizing these funds for these purposes. It was noted that the National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP) have become active again and NAUFRP members were encouraged to support them. Our agendas largely overlap. A joint meeting is planned for March in Washington, DC and joint Hill visits anticipated. NAUFRP is in a good position (i.e. strategic planning and organization) to lead by example and target issues to champion. Frank Boetler noted his strong support for developing a BNR Road Map for Natural Resources: it can be a collective voice for sustainable natural resources and important politically.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls: Randy reviewed the potential political scenarios that might unfold next week with the national elections. There will be new Republicans on both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Congress' 'to do' list: Estate Tax (existing provisions are due to expire at the end of the calendar year) and appropriations bills. No one has been willing to do anything other than a Continuing Resolution before the elections. McS is at \$29.5 in the House and \$29.0 million in the Senate. A conference could go below either bill; a lot of new Congressional members will press to make a statement immediately.

Partner Reports: The Partner Panel was asked to specifically address the following questions:

1. What do partners believe is needed from university graduates?
2. What do partners need from universities in research and extension?

Sam Foster, Director, Quantitative Sciences, US Forest Service, Research & Development: PhDs need to broaden their thinking. Students need to be good at integrating and working across lines. They need to expect to compete for dollars. All operating dollars for Forest Service R&D are soft dollars. All agency research is about working with partners of which 75 percent are universities. As partners we need to constantly refresh our research agenda and work together to develop funding sources. The Forest Service has and will continue to invite faculty for sabbaticals and use their forests and range for university research. And the Forest Service needs to pay better attention to Extension.

Frank Boteler, Assistant Director, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment, USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA): Frank acknowledged that McStennis got him going in his career. NIFA has several foresters currently including himself, Daniel Cassidy, Catalino Blanch, Eric Norland and Mark Poth. A survey of agriculture employers several years ago showed they needed foresters with soft skills: abilities in verbal and written communications, (hard skills can be trained), team work, working well with diversity, conflict negotiation, understanding of government. Scientists need to be prepared to engage across multiple disciplines, be globally engaged, locally relevant and effective listeners with the capability of acting. They need to anticipate and adapt to change. The field of forestry is rapidly evolving. Research priorities are well laid out in the McStennis Strategic Plan. NIFA has a new framework and business model: focus, scale and impact. Focus will be more on societal issues; scale will affect grant size -- they will be larger and spread out to multiple institutions and disciplines with greater collaboration among and between institutions. Structures like Hatch are a good example. NIFA is encouraging APLU to support multi-state agreements.

Jay Farrell, Executive Director, National Association of State Foresters: NASF's focus is keeping forests in forests and as working forests. There is a need to sell forests as central to the nation's infrastructure (i.e. important to the nation as schools and roads are). For the purposes of this panel, Jay did an informal survey of State Foresters (handout). Summarizing, universities should maintain traditional forestry education programs and strengthen communications training and education. Many State Foresters cited the need for communications skills, with some suggesting adding communication requirements and more emphasis on marketing, public relations and community outreach skills. On research needs, State Foresters commonly cited climate change impacts, invasive species/forest health, ecosystem services and forest markets (quantifying economic and ecological benefits and challenges associated with carbon, energy and water, etc.) remote sensing/inventory, and social opinion. Universities should consider framing future research around priorities identified in Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies. Partnerships between State Foresters and universities are highly valued and help leverage limited resources. Internships and extension activities are commonly cited as positive partnership examples. Note that NASF offers 4 paid internships annually (these are advertised thru the NAUFRP listserve). Some State Foresters expressed concern that universities appear to be abandoning forestry extension.

Carlton Owen, President and CEO, U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities: The Endowment is focusing resources on forest retention, economic opportunities and community leadership. Viable markets and an environmental infrastructure are important. A current Endowment focus is a three-year Forest Health Initiative which includes the Endowment, US Forest Service, Duke Energy and American Chestnut Foundation. There is a need to come with urgency to solving certain problems; if we can do this, it may resonate better with the public. Encourages working and thinking across traditional university lines. A second Endowment project includes collaborating with NRCS on watersheds to garner public understanding that forests are key to providing one-half of their drinking water. A third focus is on woody biomass markets – which would not be needed if we had traditional markets. Endowment grants

are big and they focus resources on getting results. Non-profit organizations need a different set of skills. Technical skills are self-evident; individuals need the ability to make social and political evaluations in the context of policy-making. They need to have the ability to do more with less; this is a new norm. Similar to what Sam Foster has already said, research priorities are first and foremost water, then, working landscapes (getting people to think across lines), woody biomass, forest health.

Scott Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Forest Landowners Association: FLA has a strong working relationship with Southern NAUFRP. Background on FLA. Research needs are in the areas of policy (TIMOs and REITTS don't own everything but are important), markets (ensure sustainability for traditional and new markets--efficiencies are needed). Scott showed a map depicting US mill closures. Important policy issues to FLA are ESA and biomass definition.

Discussion/Comments from the audience:

- Each organization was encouraged to define and budget internships and be consistent with them. The internship process can be chaotic; it would be good to make more known nationally. Sam Foster responded that the FS hires 4,000-5,000 temps (seasonal) annually. His agency and the universities don't always know how to plug into each other and we need to do better. Carlton Owen noted the Endowments has an internship program.
- It is increasingly difficult to do business with FS research (i.e. indirect costs). Sam said the process is broken. He is willing to pay reasonable overhead and believes Jim Reaves will too. Tim White commented that the indirect cost issue is an on-going one that NAUFRP is working on with the Forest Service. Sam reinforced the need to take this up with Jim Reaves directly.
- Comment that the 21-year olds are not going to get it because they don't have the context – a model is the engineering system where they get the fundamentals in school and go back for professional skills.
- Sam commented that today there are only 2 sectors providing forestry research information: federal agencies and universities. Most of the dollars are federal and we need to work together. Carlton agrees a new model may need to be created (i.e., commodity check-off).
- Frank Boetler says NIFA supports developing a new pedagogy; more resources are needed for this. Advises don't lose sight of the formative experience kids have in institutions.
- Bill Hubbard talked about the RREA Strategic Plan Process. Input is needed from NAUFRP, especially on action items.

The 2010 Family Forests Education Award was presented by Joe McNeel, NAUFRP Extension Chair and Keith Argow, National Woodland Owners Association, to the Woodland Leadership Institute at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point.

NAUFRP Resolutions recognized Dick Brinker, Dean, Auburn University Dean, on his retirement and Hal Salwasser for his leadership as NAUFRP President the last two years.

Nominations: Steve Bullard was nominated as President-Elect by Perry Brown. Call for nominations from the floor: there were none. A voice vote was unanimous for the candidate.

Adjourned

Note the General Assembly session was followed by NAUFRP Regional Meetings.

*Approved
November 2, 2011
Honolulu, Hawaii*