

NAUFRP Executive Committee
Reno, Nevada
November 4, 2008

Participants: George Hopper, President (Mississippi State University), Mike Kelly, Research Chair (Virginia Tech); Tim White, Treasurer/Secretary (University of Florida), Bruce Bare (University of Washington); Alan Ek, Ad Hoc (University of Minnesota); David Newman, Northeast Regional Chair (SUNY); Dan Keathley, Education Chair (Michigan State University), Peg Gale, North Central Regional Chair (Michigan Tech University), Joe McNeel, Extension Chair (West Virginia University), Barry Goldfarb, International Chair (North Carolina State University), Dick Brinker, BAC/FRAC Representative (Auburn University), Janaki Alavalapati (VA Tech), Steve Bullard, Southern Regional Chair (University of Kentucky), Perry Brown, ATR Liaison (University of Montana), George Brown, Diversity Chair (Alabama A&M), Hal Salwasser, President-Elect (Oregon State University), Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP Washington Counsel, Terri Bates, NAUFRP Executive Liaison

Guests: Dan Kugler, CSREES Deputy Administrator, Ann Bartuska, US Forest Service R&D Deputy Chief; Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator; Daniel Cassidy, CSREES, Michael Goergan, Society of American Foresters

A motion was made by Tim White to approve the March 3-5, 2008 Executive Committee minutes; Mike Kelly seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

President's Report, George Hopper: George reported on the March 2008 Executive Committee meeting, the several Executive Committee and member-wide conference calls. He has represented NAUFRP on monthly conference calls of NASULGC's Board of Natural Resources. The second annual 'Deans on the Hill' took place last March with 28 deans and directors represented. NAUFRP jointly sponsored a Congressional Reception with the ECOP Forestry Task Force. A NAUFRP Annual Report was issued for 2007 in lieu of a newsletter(s); the same is planned for 2008. The periodic electronic Washington Update has been well received by the membership. Policy matters NAUFRP has been involved over the last year include CREATE-21, Farm Bill and a USDA Energy Work Group. NAUFRP's budget is in good shape and we will consider grant proposals to fund projects as Strategic Investments that are consistent with NAUFRP's mission. It looks like federal funding for FY09 will approximate \$24 million for McStennis, \$4 million for RREA and \$200 for NRI. NAUFRP representatives met with OMB examiners this fall; this should be a continued, regular effort. The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorizes both McStennis and RREA and creates a new USDA research organization. As a result of previous NAUFRP work (the Keathley Report), CSREES and the Forest Service are sponsoring a National Needs Fellowship Program. Additional NAUFRP activities include planning for an undergraduate education summit and strengthening our partnership with the fish and wildlife university representatives. NAUFRP initiated a meeting with the NRI leadership last spring and we plan to make it an annual activity with consistent NAUFRP representation.

Treasurer's Report, Tim White: A handout of 3 pages was passed out. Attachment 1 compared actual and projected expenses for the year as of October 2008. Attachment 2 compared actual expenses to the approved 2008 budget and proposed a 2009 budget. Attachment 3 tracked actual expenses from 2004 onwards. All attachments showed annual cash carry-in for the year. There was significant income in 2008 from two federal grants supporting the McStennis Strategic Plan and the Forest Service Outlook process. These have both been closed out. The proposed 2009 budget was discussed and increases in compensation for Randy and Terri were added. A final vote on the proposed budget was postponed till later in the day after discussion of funding Strategic Investment proposals.

Research Report, Mike Kelly: Mike distributed a written report which included recommendations on how NAUFRP can provide input in the NRI program. A small NAUFRP group met with NRI program leaders last May. NRI panels have a very different outlook and we need to be communicating with them regularly,

especially if we desire to influence the RFAs. We also need to push faculty to participate in panels. Each National Program Leader has a sub group of regulars; they are not as diverse as we believed. We could develop and maintain a list of faculty willing to serve on a panel. Need to influence topics with back up of people with credentials appropriate to topics. Mike believes there is a sense among faculty that this is a waste of time. The NAUFRP group was told that the words “forestry” or “forestry resources” have been added more frequently to the RFAs. Randy notes we talk about this issue every year; we need to be committed – perhaps invest in having a graduate student review what is going to forestry in NRI. Dan Kugler says CSREES can do this. Creating a standing committee to work on this was suggested. Mike feels this is a responsibility of the Research Chair, working with regional research chairs. There is also work to do on integrating McStennis and NRI priorities. Late November appears a good time to influence FRAs that will come out in January. NAUFRP should coordinate closely with FRAC on these issues. It was also suggested that we need to follow-up and learn who is asked to serve on panels and who isn't. Keith Belli and Randy Nuckolls represented NAUFRP at a CSREES Stakeholders meeting for the new USDA research organizational structure in September. Randy said it sounded like they were headed in the direction of more long-term research money. Other discussion: the national program leaders advised targeting program leaders by program level. Many RFAs don't change. The appropriate time to submit names for reviewers is after the RFA is on the street. Dan Kugler said he would check the sequence and provide to George, Mike and Hal. George Hopper said we should consider having the NAUFRP budget cover this meeting. Joe McNeel moved that \$3,000 should be allocated in the NAUFRP budget for a designated small group to meet annually with the NRI leadership; second by David Newman. Discussion: should this fall under Strategic Investments or be a permanent part of the budget as a line item till no longer needed? Mike Kelly reinforced that we need to do this every year. Another comment that this should be left to the discretion of the Research Chair. Hal pointed out the need for regional research chairs. The Executive Committee approved the motion for \$3,000 in the 2009 budget as a line-item for travel to meet with NRI program leaders.

Dan Kugler discussed the Farm Bill Section 9008 biomass program. It is moved to CSREES and means dedicated funding starting at \$20 million and going to \$40 million by 2011. Daniel Cassidy is on the team. The RFA is in draft status; it should go out in early January.

McStennis/ATR Liaison, Perry Brown: Perry has copies of the McStennis Strategic plan if needed. The FY09 McStennis budget is up slightly – a little over \$26 million. The Continuing Resolution takes agriculture programs thru March 6, 2009. A change in the Farm Bill makes 1890 schools eligible for McStennis funds. In September, Perry and Randy met with the OMB Budget Examiner for McStennis, Noah Engleburg; this is a regular visit. Noah knows NAUFRP will resist moving dollars to a competitive program without a significant increase in the base program. We have told him we would consider it if there is an increase – at least 20 percent -- for multi-state programs. This is consistent with the Strategic Plan. Noah was very interested that some schools have a competitive process for McStennis dollars. We need to explain this in more detail noting that not all schools have such a process. There will be an ATR meeting on January 29 in the Washington, D.C. area.. An advance agenda and/or guidelines for the January ATR meeting was requested. Perry will meet with Dan Kugler, Eric Norland and Catalino Blanche on December 8th to discuss these things.

Extension Report, Joe McNeel: There is no change in the allocation for RREA. A focus award was made in 2008 for \$297,000. This was captured from programs who did not submit a national report. There were eight submissions. The Universities of Massachusetts and Connecticut each received \$63,000 and the University of Georgia and Oregon State each received \$85,000. ECOP is closing out the Forestry Task Force with a November 19-20th meeting in Washington. The Task Force was initiated to focus on funding for RREA. Extension Foresters are meeting on Wednesday this week.

Education Report, Dan Keathley: There continue to be problems with the numbers reported for FAEIS with inconsistencies and discrepancies for both enrollment and faculty. It is important to ensure that reporting and data from NAUFRP institutions separates forestry from other natural resource areas. Plan to hold a conference on undergraduate education in spring 2009. The focus will go beyond curriculum and look at issues related to engaging the best and brightest, diversity, new approaches and a proper balance of programs. The Oregon

State education conference earlier this year will help. Dan Kugler added that CSREES and the FS are committed to contributing \$250,000 annually for the next 10 years to the National Needs Fellowship. Three awards were made in FY08 for a total of \$537,000: OSU, Univ. of Montana and NC State. Perry Brown also added that Noah Engelburg (OMB) is very interested in what campuses are doing on climate change – not so much in research but with curriculum. We may want to consider a brief survey.

Forest Research Advisory Council, Dick Brinker: FRAC has 17 members; a number are rotating off this year. There were actually 20 candidates for 6-7 slots open this year, two of which are academic slots. FRAC met once in 2008 and produced 2 recommendations for the USDA Secretary. The first is to address a more coordinated research effort towards forest and natural resource science under NRI. The second recommendation was to explore increased emphasis on applied research partnerships. FRAC will meet in early 2009. Dick will succeed Greg Johnson, Weyerhaeuser, as chair. Academics on FRAC are Joe McNeel, Pat Layton, Bob Taylor, Keith Gilles. The USDA charter for FRAC is going through the renewal process. The federal agencies (USFS and CSREES) have requested additional funding to support two meetings annually.

Diversity Chair, George Brown: There will be a Diversity Summit on Thursday during the SAF Convention. Building upon the Plan for Workforce Diversity approved by both NAUFRP and SAF Council, a Summit is planned for next spring or summer. It may be useful to coordinate with the Undergraduate Education Conference. Note the NC State website <http://communityfordiversity.ncsu.edu> invites information and articles that are helpful to all.

Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC), Dick Brinker: Priorities NAUFRP has consistently presented to BAC are increased funding for McStennis and RREA. BAC has identified 8 priority areas for FY2011. It meets next Saturday in Chicago; George Hopper will represent NAUFRP. The number of issues will be reduced and finalized in January. NAUFRP's issues need to be translated to fit within the new AFRI which replaces NRI under new Farm Bill legislation. CSREES has identified 4 areas to structure its FY2010 budget recommendations around. There were no options for outside input. NAUFRP will try and cross walk forestry issues with the agency's 4 foci which are: sustainable bio fuels, global climate change, nutrition and work force development. BAC will continue to support formula dollars but not sure at what level. George Hopper reinforced that the McStennis Strategic Plan is the guiding document; there are seven themes, though with no particular priority (in Plan). However, NAUFRP has identified two priorities: (1) new science of integration and (2) ecosystem services. Randy advised we need to ensure we are sending a consistent message: formula dollars are important. If there are significant new dollars, we can talk about a competitive element and we can talk about AFRI. But nothing should diminish the importance of formula dollars. George Hopper will be the chair of the BNR next year; Hal will be chair of the Forestry Section.

International, Barry Goldfarb: Barry provided a handout about a new NASULGC program called 'Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative'. The Initiative has received a \$100,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop the grant-making framework, especially for an agricultural component. US AID has committed \$1 million for 20 planning grants: \$50,000 each. The RFA should be announced this month. More information can be found <http://www.nasulgc.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=911&srcid=1063>

Southern Region, Steve Bullard: Southern NAUFRP sponsored a session on Recruiting Development Needs last March in Knoxville. There were participants from 11 schools and other partners including Michael Goergan, SAF. Southern NAUFRP held their annual meeting in Chicago in conjunction with the Forest Landowners Association annual meeting last April. The region continues its annual Comparative Data Survey; 12-13 schools responded to the most recent survey. The survey framework was shared with the other NAUFRP regions.

North Central, Peg Gale: Held a joint regional meeting with Northeast NAUFRP June 16-17 in St Louis, MO. There was discussion of combining with the Northeast and North Central NAUFRP regional group but no action. Note the University of Missouri journalism course: “How to Market Forestry as a Profession”.

Renewable Energy, Al Ek: Al represented NAUFRP at a USDA/REE Energy Summit September 29-30 in, Washington, DC. He had participated in an earlier Planning Committee. This was very heavily represented by agriculture, mainly by agencies. Al and a few others formed a subgroup. He referred to his notes in a handout which was distributed. The forest products industry isn't really a leader on this issue; the existing industry has split between landowners and producers and is consequently very conflicted. This needs to be a subject discussed at the Dean's Tour as well as forestry's role in Climate. Energy and climate change are going to be a major of the incoming Administration. Al met with Rachael Taylor, clerk for Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. The subcommittee provided \$2.5 million to FS on Climate Change in FY08. They want to know what kind of climate research is going on in what schools. She also asked if forestry schools have a baseline for valuing reforestation for a cap and trade program. People are working on this but it is conflicted. An additional issue is they don't want to give credit for what state laws already require. Randy said this might be good for a new task force to feed info to NAUFRP's Research and Policy Chairs as well as the BAC and FRAC representatives. Clearly this is going to be a big future issue. There is going to be growing criticism of corn-based fuels which will shift focus to celulostic fuels. We need to be ready for the latter. Discussion: this seems to be a major role for the Policy Chair. NAUFRP may consider developing an inventory and white paper. A question was raised as to how this would differ from the SAF report? George Hopper suggested a Task Force to see where this all goes by the next meeting. This is consistent with the Strategic Plan.

NAUFRP Archives, Al Ek: Al reported on his communications with the Forest History Society (FHS) as the potential archiver for NAUFRP. A number of schools are already archiving with FHS. There would be a one-time cost of a bank box. A set up process would be involved. He assumes we would send 5-6 boxes. The first two boxes will have no charge. FHS wants NAUFRP to become an institutional member. It would cost \$1,580 the first year. Annual membership would be \$140/year and \$180 for each additional bank box. Al made a motion that NAUFRP become an institutional member of FHS and the fund initial set up of \$1,580 the first year and annual membership dues thereafter; Mike Kelly seconded. Discussion: This is not a Strategic Initiative. The motion passed unanimously.

Accreditation Review, Al Ek: Al led a group (Bruce Bare, David Newman, Dan Keathley and Tim White) charged to review and make recommendations on SAF accreditation of forest technology programs. They have submitted a written report which will be conveyed to Michael Goergan and SAF Council. David Newman has a unique situation at his institution where SUNY has one and two year Ranger programs. The director of the latter pushed this; there is no good answer. They want certification for two-year programs but it is not clear how they will be 'marketed'. Perry noted that there are two-year tech programs and two-year transfer programs. It should be clarified that this accreditation is for two year tech programs, not transfer programs. It was suggested that a different word than 'accreditation' might be used such as 'recognized'. Al will modify report. Mike Kelly moved that after modifications, the report be sent to SAF leadership with our concerns and recommendations; the motion was seconded by Joe McNeel. The motion passed unanimously.

NAUFRP's traditional focus has been thru the lens of the Mc/Stennis- CSREES programs. Hal wants to build a broader alliance by working with the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) and National Association of State Foresters (NASF). Tim made a motion to explore developing a MOU with NASF and NAFO to advance a stronger alliance; second by Al Ek. Discussion: this is a good start but we need to look beyond even these associations. Motion passed unanimously.

Funding proposals for NAUFRP Strategic Investments: Three proposals were submitted according to the Guidelines developed and approved by the Executive Committee: 1) submitted by Terry Sharik (Utah State) \$4,000 requested to fund travel to International Symposium on Forestry Education and \$1,000 to support enrollment compilation in 2009; 2) submitted by Steve Bullard and Keith Belli on behalf of Southern NAUFRP requesting \$5,000 for 'Enhancing the Southern Forestry Programs' Recruiting Network, and 3)

\$5,000 requested by the organizers sponsoring a conference on “Carbon in Northern Forests: Integration of Research and Management” on June 10-11, 2009 in Traverse City, MI. The Guidelines stipulate that there be a minimum \$50,000 in the treasury before proposals may be considered. Tim White reviewed that the Treasury and 2009 budget meet this requirement. Hal Salwasser made a motion to allocate \$10,000 to be divided among the three proposals; David Newman seconded. An Amendment to the motion was offered by Mike Kelly to cap total allocations at \$5,000. This was accepted by Hal and David. Tim White made a motion, seconded by David to allocate \$1,000 to Terry Sharik for his enrollment compilation. This was approved. Mike made a motion, seconded by Perry Brown, to split the remainder of the funds between the two other requests. This was accepted and passed. Al Ek made a motion to accept the proposed 2009 Budget; this was seconded by Perry and passed unanimously.

Hal reported on the National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs. They are trying to figure out how to become a working association. Dan Edge from OSU is the head right now. They will let us know when they are ready to talk about future association and/or partnerships.

Randy Nuckolls, Washington Counsel: The current Continuing Resolution is in effect through March 6, 2009. It carries everything except Defense spending. Both the House and Senate bills would fund McStennis at \$26 million. The first and second quarter funds will be released soon; adjustments, as needed, will be made in the 3rd quarter. A Lame Duck session of Congress begins on November 17th. Randy discussed what to expect with today’s Congressional elections. The presidential election is historic in terms of the candidates, level of voting and fund raising. President Bush appointed a transition chair last October so it should go relatively smoothly. Obama has surrounded himself by Clinton people. He has not said much about forestry. Randy emphasized the need to build support and champions for forestry and natural resource research and extension in the new Congress and Administration.

Ann Bartuska, USFS Research & Development Deputy Chief: Ann discussed the uncertainty of the budget and R&D’s portfolio of emphasis areas: climate change, fire and fuels, invasive species, FIA, biomass/bioenergy, urban stewardship, global competitiveness. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees would like to support carbon research under FS R&D at \$30 million over next five years. Ann would like to do more competitively. FS R&D is working with CSREES on the pine genome project. They have also partnered with the National Science Foundation to demonstrate how you bring natural resources into urban environments. R&D is working to improve science delivery by reviewing tech transfer within FS; the report will soon be out. R&D recently held an ‘Outlook Workshop’ on “Meeting Information Needs of a Changing Forest Sector”. Still not certain what the research needs of REITs and TIMOs are. The Outlook Process identified five categories of work; most are action oriented. These are ecosystem services and markets, social institutions and barriers, forest management, keeping forests in forests and communities. Congress likes the National Fire Plan and Science Decision Support Tools. Ann wants to improve where we are. In natural resources, \$10 million buys a lot vs. in other areas. R&D was optimistic in March about the next 3-5 years. The handout graphic (a house with pillars and platforms) depicts opportunities for new alliances and sectors to integrate across programs. The House leadership agreed to support this. The total package equals \$494 million for full funding including the Forest Products Lab.

Coleen Hefferan, CSREES Administrator: Coleen’s main topic was the Farm Bill and its implications for the department and special programs. The President’s FY09 budget was very austere; Congress’ budget would be a substantial increase – about \$200 million higher than the President’s but also with about \$125 million in earmarks. Earmarks can be good and bad. If McCain is elected, the assumption is there will be no earmarks. The FY 2010 budget will have 4-5 new ideas: climate change (are there adequate investments in education to prepare future professionals and science?), Biofuels (again question of education, have we changed curriculum and identified emerging questions?). The 2010 budget comes out 2 weeks before the inauguration. 2011 will be the year – not just because of the new Administration but because the agency will have a new budget approach for constituencies that is more issue oriented. The Farm Bill Research Title tried to reestablish and evaluate the role of science within USDA. There will be a new Chief Scientist and a new office of RIO. The latter staff will write a road map which will be a cross between tactical and strategic. With stakeholder input

they will develop a Science Plan for the Department which will include a more objective budget. On October 1, 2009, CSREES will become the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). It will include all of what CSREES currently administers including mandatory programs, specialty crops, expansion of organic farming and Sections 9008 and 9006 (biofuels and feed stocks). There is \$100 million of mandatory money that Congress appears ready to grow by expanding a pool of programs. This may make room to think about defining and expanding other programs. NIFA will give more emphasis to competitiveness although the law is not specific about organizing the new agency. An internal committee was named 2 weeks ago. There are no references to forestry or natural resources. Colien talked about the bioenergy program: it goes from \$20 million to \$40 million in 2012. The biofuels sector has not focused on the research so much as on development: she thinks that is a mistake. The program has been running on what you can convert not what you should convert. Barry referenced the BAC document's four issue areas: forestry and natural resources are not there. Colien said 2010 will be a practice year; there is not going to be a budget. The Farm Bill preoccupied them from writing a thoughtful budget. A lot of discussion will be needed for the 2011 budget cycle. The new director will be a political appointment. Debbie Shelf has been named in charge of competitive programs. She is supportive of fundamental science but cut her teeth on integrated (teaching and extension). The focus of AFRI will still be fundamental research; it will remain a major area for potential expanded funding.

Wrap-up: Discussion about what was heard today from Ann and Colien and what wasn't. Will use meeting at Deans Tour to set directions for February Executive Committee meeting. Frustration with what was heard; think we learned who we need to be talking to. Question for the FS: where is the wood? Where are the people in Ann's diagram. If that's what they are really leaving out then that is an opportunity for us to serve private landowner needs. The message from Colien was we educate the professional and the researchers. Sounds like FS R&D is setting out to rebuild its infrastructure. Need to verify about CSREES program managers. Colien talked about education, additional dollars in AFRI, integration and sustainability. We need to incorporate integration message to program managers. We need a political base with help from NASF and NAFO. We need to translate the McStennis Strategic Plan into the new Administration's interests and priorities (i.e. climate change). Comment that CSREES uses the word 'integration' differently; to them it's the integrations of systems (extension and education). There are other groups to leverage too (FLA).

*Approved February 23, 2009
NAUFRP Executive Committee
Washington, D.C.*