

**NAUFRP General Assembly  
Reno, Nevada  
November 5, 2008**

Participants: See Attached List

Guests: See Attached List

President's Report, George Hopper: George Hopper reported on 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. The Executive Committee agreed to fund projects as Strategic Investments that are consistent with NAUFRP's mission. In the FY09 appropriations process, NAUFRP sought \$30 million for McStennis, \$8 million for RREA and \$265 million for NRI. It looks like the actual numbers funded will be \$26 million McStennis, \$4 million RREA and \$200 million for NRI. NAUFRP worked to strengthen alliance with partners, OMB and NRI leaders. McStennis and RREA were reauthorized in the Farm Bill; NRI was revamped as AFRI with a \$700 million authorization. A new NAUFRP initiative will be an undergraduate education summit. The Forest Service and CSREES are providing funding for the Graduate National Needs Fellowships. NAUFRP is working to help rebuild our 'sister' organization for the university fisheries and wildlife programs – the National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs. Special effort has been put into getting NRI/AFRI to fund a forestry and natural resource program.

A motion was made by Tim White to approve the November 5, 2007 General Assembly minutes; Mike Kelly seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report, Tim White: A handout displaying 2008 Actual and Projected Income and Expenses was distributed as well as a 2009 budget that was approved by the Executive Committee. New funding was approved to support meetings with the NRI/AFRI leadership and also membership with the Forest History Society where NAUFRP will begin archiving materials. The Executive Committee approved special grants for three regional activities: \$1,000 to support Terry Sharik's work on undergraduate enrollment trends; \$2,000 to support "Enhancing the Southern Forestry Programs' Recruiting Network and \$2,000 to sponsor a conference on "Carbon in Northern Forests: Integration of Research and Management" on June 10-11, 2009 in Traverse City, MI.

Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator: Dr. Colien Hefferan discussed the new Farm Bill and its implications for USDA, CSREES and special programs. Notable for NAUFRP is the change that makes 1890 institutions eligible for McStennis monies. Seventeen states have 1890's. CSREES will write these Governors to reinforce this does not mean more money to the state and they will recommend that the Governors not remove more than 10 percent a year from existing recipients. Another notable Farm Bill item is the establishment of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program which essentially combines NRI and IFAS. The focus of AFRI will still be fundamental research; it will remain a major area for potential expanded funding. CSREES was also authorized by the Farm Bill to administer several new programs that come with mandatory money. One of importance to forestry deals with the development of new biofuel feedstocks. The latter begins with \$20 million in FY09 and goes to \$40 million by 2012. Colien sees two sets of issues related to biofuel feedstocks: 1) sustainability and 2) economic issues associated with the development of these feedstocks. Other new mandatory spending programs under CSREES include specialty crops, organic farming and beginning farmers and ranchers. The Farm Bill Research Title tries 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 CSRESS currently administers including the new mandatory programs already referenced. Altogether there is \$100 million of mandatory money which may provide an opportunity 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 has been named. There are no formal references to forestry or natural resources. It will take several years for all of this to come together.

Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP Washington Counsel: Randy discussed the transition in Administrations that began at noon today. President-Elect Obama inherits the ‘in-box from hell’. Senator McCain will be a key player in determining Obama’s success, especially where he is willing to step across party lines. It looks like the Senate will have a 56-44 majority. The House has a net majority by 20 seats. When President Clinton began his first term the Senate had 57 Democrats and the House 255; this is almost identical to where Obama is starting. However, this lasted only one term. There is no guarantee for this majority beyond two years, so Obama will be careful and selective on the issues he chooses. The moderate Senators will hold the balance of power. Randy thinks moderate Republicans will be more willing to work across the aisle. The youth vote in this Presidential election was an unprecedented 66 percent for Obama. Hispanics also voted for Obama at 66 percent; they voted for Bush in the last two elections. Eleven percent of the voters voted for the first time. There is no Republican in the House north of PA with the exception of three in NY. Democrats returned in some southern states namely Virginia. *Ted Stevens looked like he won, but McConnell said to resign, if not the Ethics Committee will take over. There will be a special election; Palin does not automatically appoint – she could run herself.* There may be a new climate in the Senate with new Senators from DE and IL. Sen. Byrd, chair of the appropriations committee, is in his 90’s and not in good health. There is inside discussion about seeing him replaced. There may be some clear shifts in Senate chairmanships among senior members (i.e., Dodd, Kennedy, Harkin). The House chairs are not going to change that much. A CR is in effect till March. It’s not clear how Congress will deal with programs of NAUFRP’s immediate interest. Obama has not been as critical of earmarks as McCain, but there will likely be more pressure for transparency in the budget.

Research Report, Tim White (for Mike Kelly): A written report was distributed. Forestry gets less than 10 percent of the NRI funds and the written report covers steps the NAUFRP Executive Committee believes can improve that percentage. Key is input into the programs beginning with a higher degree of faculty participation in the review panels. A targeted message developed from the McStennis Strategic Plan themes will also be a key step. The Executive Committee will support regular visits with deliberate timing with NRI national program leaders. Some steps can be as simple as getting the word “forests” in RFAs.

McStennis/ATR Liaison, Perry Brown: Perry has additional copies of the McStennis Strategic Plan. As Colien discussed, the Farm Bill made the 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. Discussion continued about a competitive program. Noah knows NAUFRP will resist moving dollars to a competitive program without a significant increase in the base program. Noah was interested to learn 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. Perry will meet with Dan Kugler, Eric Norland and Catalino Blanche on December 8<sup>th</sup> to develop an agenda for the January 29<sup>th</sup> ATR (Administrative Technical Representative) meeting that will be held in the Washington, D.C. area. Eric will send what goes to ATR’s directly to NAUFRP. Agenda topics will likely include multi-state programs and strategies on how to get ATRs to be more involved in forestry. CSREES is still sorting out a directory of current ATRs. Perry has also met with Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee staff ; these meetings have been very positive.

Extension Report, Joe McNeel: There has been hard work to get an increase in RREA dollars but there will be no change for FY09. A focus award was made in 2008 for \$297,000. This money was captured from programs who did not submit a national report. There were eight proposals submitted. The Universities of Massachusetts and Connecticut each received \$63,000 and the University of Georgia and Oregon State each received \$85,000. The ECOP Forestry Task Force – a key link between NAUFRP and NASULGC – will sunset this year. It will

be closed out with a Roundtable meeting of partners in Washington, D.C. to look at 'Working Forests and Rangelands' on Nov. 19-20. The Task Force was initiated to focus on funding for RREA. The Extension Foresters are meeting on Wednesday this week.

The 2008 Family Forests Education Award, jointly sponsored by NAUFRP and the National Woodlands Owners Association was presented to Oregon State University's Extension Service Master Woodland Manager Program. The award was presented by Joe McNeel and Keith Argow (NWOA); Jim Johnson accepted the award on behalf of OSU.

International, Barry Goldfarb: NASULGC is sponsoring a new program called 'Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative' (handout). Areas of focus will include agriculture and natural resources. The Initiative has received a \$100,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop the grant-making framework. US AID has committed \$1 million for 20 planning grants. The RFA should be announced this month. More information can be found <http://www.nasulgc.org/NetCommunity/Page>.

Nomination of Officers: Peg Gale was nominated to be Secretary/Treasurer, second by George Brown. Tim White was nominated to be President-Elect, second by Mike Kelly. Both nominations were so moved and accepted by the General Assembly.

Upcoming 2009 Dates to Note:

- Deans' Tour January 14-16 at Amelia Island, Florida.
- ATR Meeting, January 28<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C.
- NAUFRP Executive Committee, February 23-25 in Washington, D.C.

Education Report, Dan Keathley: There continue to be problems with FAEIS data. Dan encouraged that NAUFRP members be attentive to the surveys and ensure the numbers being reported are an accurate picture of what is happening (i.e., that forestry data is being reported separately from other natural resource areas). The National Needs Graduate Fellowship Program awarded \$537,000 in FY08 to OSU, Univ. of Montana and NC State. CSREES and the FS are committing \$250,000 annually for the next 10 years to this program. Planning is underway 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.

Diversity Chair, George Brown: George reviewed the background for the Workforce Diversity Plan approved by NAUFRP and SAF Council. There will be a Student Diversity Summit during this SAF Convention where short and long term issues will be discussed. The results from it will be used towards the Summit planned for next year. It may be useful to coordinate with the Undergraduate Education Conference.

Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC), Dick Brinker: NAUFRP's budget priorities – McStennis and RREA – have been consistently supported by BAC. CSREES has identified 4 areas to structure its FY2010 budget recommendations around. 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. No one is quite sure how this will be translated to an actual 2010 budget in terms of programs and dollars. BAC will begin discussion on priority areas for FY2011 next week; 8 priority areas have already been identified. These will be further narrowed and finalized in January/February. Using the McStennis Strategic Plan, NAUFRP's issues will need to be translated to fit within the new AFRI which replaces NRI under the new Farm Bill legislation. .

Forest Research Advisory Council, Dick Brinker: The academics on FRAC are Joe McNeel, Pat Layton, Bob Taylor, Keith Gilles and Dick. The USDA charter for FRAC is going through the renewal process. FRAC has 17 members; a number are rotating off this year. There were actually 20 candidates for 6-7 open 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 be taking over the chairmanship from Greg Johnson, Weyerhaeuser.

Undergraduate Enrollment Survey, Terry Sharik: Terry reviewed and reported on the status of the survey. Next fall is going to be critical; more info to come in 2009. Terry reminded the body that the reason for the survey was because there was no long term data on enrollments.

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. There are two types of programs lending to potential confusion. One is a two-year technical degree aimed at placing students in jobs upon graduation. The other is an associate degree which is aimed at moving students into a four-year program. There appears to be a lot of confusion between the two which is increased when accreditation is offered by both. There is opportunity for better coordination between the four- and two-year programs. The committee is suggesting a clear statement from SAF.

Ann Bartuska, USFS Research & Development Deputy Chief: Ann discussed the 2008 R&D areas of emphasis: climate change, fire and fuels, invasive species, FIA, ecological services, biomass to energy, urban natural resources and global competitiveness. The FS had a \$20 million request for climate change research of which they received a targeted earmark of \$2.5 million from Congress. Going thru a competitive process, they had 133 pre-proposals for \$22 million. Of those, 31 were selected to submit full proposals; there were 9 finally selected. Two dealt with carbon management tools, 4 addressed adaptation tools and 2 training and education. Ann hopes this can be increased in FY09 and a competitive process continued. Other R&D activities have focused on: increased cooperation with the National Science Foundation, urban LTRs, improving science delivery, experimental forests and an Outlook workshop. The latter, "Meeting Information Needs of a Changing Forest Sector", is part of an ongoing process and it identified five categories of work: ecosystem services and markets, social institutions and barriers, forest management, keeping forests in forests and communities. Ann wants to improve the future budget scenario in the next 3-5 years. In natural resources, \$10 million buys a lot compared to other areas. She shared a handout graphic depicting foundation/core programs (FIA, Experimental forests, core discipline work) and potential growth opportunities (global climate change, bioenergy/biomass, urban natural resources,.....) for new alliances and sectors to integrate across programs. The total package equals \$494 million for full funding including the Forest Products Lab. (The current year budget will come in near \$285 million.)

Wrap-up: Hal thinks it clear that forests in climate change and energy are where NAUFRP needs to work. He will ask the Policy Chair to work with task force regional chairs to develop a white paper to determine what universities already have to share with Congress and the Executive Branch as they develop programs and policies. The Research Chair will form a task group to look at the emerging AFRI program and figure out what is needed to align McStennis with AFRI and to engage with national program leaders to better position forestry opportunities in the new program. NAUFRP will continue its advocacy of McStennis, RREA and forestry in competitive programs. As the new NAUFRP Education Chair, Pat Layton will lead on the Undergraduate symposium to describe cumulative needs. Clearly, working thru traditional channels is not getting the resources we need. Hal wants to work to develop a MOU with NAFO, NWOA, NASF to help them understand we are partners and seek their advocacy. Hal and Tim White will lead on this last. Colien Hefferan commented that it is the universities that do the cutting edge research but they also provide the education that produces the scientist. Science needs to address the needs of localities and regions. Hal wants to plan a brief business meeting in conjunction with the Deans Tour in January during the Deans' Tour at Amelia Island, FL.

Resolutions were read in honor of the following NAUFRP members who retired in 2008: John Adams, Scott Beasley, John Phelps and Chuck Strauss. A resolution recognizing the work and leadership of George Hopper as president of NAUFRP 2007-2008 was read and applauded by the General Assembly.

*Approved: September 30, 2009  
Orlando, Florida*

NAUFRP: George Hopper, Hal Salwasser, Tim White, Perry Brown, Jo Ellen Force, Kurt Pretzinger, Bob Brown, Dick Brinker, Don Floyd, Keith Belli, Steve Bullard, Pat Layton, Doug Piirto, John Stewart, Jim Howard, Steve Tesch, Terry Sharik, Peg Gale, Steve Whisant, Joe O'Leary, Allen Rutherford, Jim Allen, Dan Keathley, Joe McNeel, David Newman, Jim Johnson, Larry Forcier, Bruce Bare, Randy Nuckolls, Tom Adams, Jim Zaczek, Ron ?, Barry Goldfarb, Mark Gibson, Mary Durea, Al Ek, Kamran Abdollahi, George Brown, John Houghton, Greg Biging, Steve Seilin, Rick Hall, Keith Owens, Mike Messina, James ?? (LaTech), Phil Topic (Univ. of AR), Jerry ? (SFA), Jim Shepherd, Bob Wagner, Mike Kelly

Guests: Dave Cleaves (USFS), Ann Bartuska (USFS), Dan Kugler (CSREES), Colien Hefferan (CSREES), Keith Argow (NWOA),