

NAUFRP General Assembly Minutes
Honolulu, HI
November 2, 2011

Welcome and Introductions: Tim White (Univ. of Florida), President

BUSINESS

The minutes of the October 27, 2010 General Assembly meeting in Albuquerque, NM were approved after a motion by John Houghton (Univ. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point), seconded by Al Ek (Univ. of Minnesota).

Treasurer's Report: Peg Gale (Michigan Tech), Treasurer reviewed financial reports for 2010 and to-date 2011 and discussed projected income and expenses. (Handouts are available.) On November 1, 2011, the Executive Committee approved a budget for 2012 which was basically the same as the 2011 budget. It was noted that Peg has announced her retirement and that Barry Goldfarb (North Carolina State Univ.) has been appointed to fill her term beginning in January, 2012.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls: Randy reviewed the current budget situation in Congress. The Super Committee appointed to make recommendations to reduce federal spending by over \$1.2 trillion dollars has a November 23rd deadline. If they fail, then automatic sequestration in social and defense programs will kick in. Randy further reviewed the status of specific appropriations for FY2012.

Steve Bullard (Stephen F. Austin Univ.), President-Elect, presented a PowerPoint on 'NAUFRP Overview & Recent Accomplishments'. The presentation covered NAUFRP's recent initiatives and the work of its committees over the last year. This PowerPoint is being updated annually and posted on the NAUFRP webpage www.naufrp.org.

Tim White noted other NAUFRP activities: a successful USDA policy change that will allow carryover of Cooperative Forestry Research McIntire-Stennis (McStennis) dollars; active support for federal appropriations for McStennis and other base research programs; the 50th Anniversary celebration of McStennis (a videographer is at this meeting to capture highlights of McStennis at various universities); ongoing efforts to increase the number of forestry faculty on panels and more forestry proposals in NIFA programs. NAUFRP has been very active in the Coalition on Forestry in the Farm Bill through Janaki Alavalapati (Virginia Tech), Randy and Terri. Jim Allen (Northern Arizona Univ.), Education Chair, has taken the lead in developing a strategy for implementing the Undergraduate Forestry Education Strategic Plan. Hal Salwasser (Oregon State University) is actively representing NAUFRP and forestry in developing a Board of Natural Resources Roadmap. There are continuing discussions, especially with the Forest Service, on the different types of grants and agreements.

PARTNER REPORTS

Jim Reaves, Deputy Chief, US Forest Service, Research and Development (FS R&D): Jim provided handouts on the FS R&D's FY10 budget and 2008 Strategic Plan. An important issue is how to make people understand the value of research. Jim reviewed their organizational structure and strategic program areas from the perspective of 'what is our value?': influences, sciences, jobs, 'where are the most important places to be in a tangible sense?' His Washington office

focus is how they fit these into 'People Partnerships and Communities'. How can FS R&D engage NAUFRP? Their priority research areas: Forest Inventory and Analysis, climate change, watershed mgt and restoration, bioenergy and bio-based fuels, urban natural resource stewardship, nanotechnology. There are specific regional needs as well. Jim also addressed FS R&D Funding History, the co-location of R&D Scientists, personnel changes at the Forest Products Lab and the Pacific Southwest Station. Deana Stouder is going to become the Associate Deputy Chief. Some ways to collaborate: joint Hill sessions, identify externals that influence Hill, outline a strategic plan to attract students to natural resources, joint strategic approach to market research. A key challenge to work together on is increasing the diversity of PhD students at the national level. On the issue of student tuition, the agency is guided by interpretation. Jim committed to an in-depth look at language (bill language) of each mechanism to bring back to the next NAUFRP Executive Committee. He invited Frank Boteler's (NIFA) people to participate. Discussion: Rich Gulden on the issue of student tuition: the FS interpretation of the regulation derives from the department with NIFA and ARS. The USDA General Counsel's opinion is for the purpose of consistent understanding. Sam Foster says it is not an issue for him to pay 10 percent; the issue is that there is not an additional 10 percent available. The flip-side of that is the expectation that university administrations will likely to tell their deans and department heads to do no more business with the FS. Question: why not consider new models? Tim acknowledged this was discussed at yesterday's Executive Committee Meeting.

Frank Boteler, Assistant Director, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment, USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA): Frank noted that NIFA has \$1.3 billion in extramural research and a staff of about 300. He reviewed a multi-page handout that covered the following topics: 1) General NIFA grant information; 2) NIFA Reorganization in place; 3) NIFA funding programs of interest (AFRI, MS, RREA, BRDI) to NAUFRP members; 4) Budget matters (FY12 comparison and FY13 budget requests); 5) staffing news; 6) policy matters; 7) recent significant publications.

Liz Sandler, Director, American Tree Farm System, American Forest Foundation: Liz provided an overview of the American Tree Farm System. There are over 80,000 tree farms representing more than 26 million acres. In 2011 they have focused on landowner engagement. They have partnered with ACF and SAF in "Partners For Better Forests". They are testing a paid tiered-membership option, building grassroots networks, launching a webinar series (this is an opportunity to partner with universities) which has been a success. AFF is testing for ways to reach new landowners. They want to help prepare new foresters and are working with Clemson University to supplement curriculum geared towards working with landowners whose objectives may not include timber management.

Rich Guldin, US Forest Service on 2014 IUFRO World Congress: Rich reviewed the planning process for IUFRO at Salt Lake City. Sam Foster and Steve Bullard are co-chairing a strategic planning committee. A theme has been approved. 2013 will be devoted to planning the science program. In the next 12 months they will be working on logo design, a website, developing pre and post Congress tours, developing a video on the varying forests in the US. Not all NAUFRP members are IUFRO members and he encourages those who are not to join and for NAUFRP members to talk up this opportunity with faculty and students; it's a rare opportunity. Rich wants to use about 200 students.

Undergraduate Education Strategy Interactive Session

Jim Allen, Education Chair, reviewed NAUFRP accomplishments to date: the Keathley Report which led to a National Needs Fellowship; a Diversity Summit; Data Collection (enrollment and salary). NAUFRP's Undergraduate Strategic Plan originated with a \$25,000 NIFA grant to

Clemson University. There is approximately \$8,500 left to be used for action items. The Executive Committee approved the plan in March, with the view that it is dynamic. Goals were prioritized. The breakout sessions for this afternoon will focus on Priority Action Items for implementation.

Terry Sharik reported on the status of the SAF Task Force on Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Accreditation. It has the go ahead from the SAF Council. The next action will be to distribute the report and ask for feedback. It is going to move forward, it is just a question of in what form. This has been influenced by a new consortium (SAF, SRM, AFS, TWS, ...). These other societies are very interested. There is a half day workshop on Friday – open to those who would like to participate..

Break Out Sessions were held with reports back. Jim will summarize and bring a report to the next Executive Committee meeting.

NAUFRP Resolution recognized Peg Gale, Dean, Michigan Tech University, on her retirement for her service to NAUFRP over the years as Treasurer and in other capacities.

Adjourned

(Meetings Attendees listed separately.)

Approved
October 24, 2012
Spokane, WA