

NAUFRP Executive Committee Minutes
Honolulu, HI
November 1, 2011

Participants: Tim White, President (University of Florida), Hal Salwasser, Past-President (Oregon State University), Peg Gale, Treasurer (Michigan Tech University), Steve Bullard, President-Elect (Stephen F. Austin State University), Kurt Pregitzer, Western NAUFRP Representative (University of Idaho), Jim Johnson, International Chair (Oregon State University), Joyce Berry, At-Large (Colorado State University), Janaki Alavalapati, Policy Chair (Virginia Tech), Rob Swihart, At-Large (Purdue University), Keith Belli, Research Chair (University of Tennessee), Jim Allen, Education Chair (Northern Arizona University), Kamran Abdollahi, Diversity Chair (Southern University), Red Baker, Southern Regional Chair (University of Kentucky), Jim Zaczek, North Central Chair (Southern Illinois University), Bob Wagner, Extension Chair (University of Maine), Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP Washington Counsel, Terri Bates, NAUFRP

Guests: Ken Fulgham (Humboldt State University), Neils deHoop (Louisiana State University), Sue Blodgett (Iowa State University), Mary Duryea (University of Florida), Keith Blatner (Washington State University), Bruce Bare (University of Washington), Eric Norland (NIFA), Frank Boteler (NIFA), Rich Guldin (USFS), Bill Rockwell (SAF), Roger Dziengeski (SAF), Michael Goergen (SAF), Steve Tesch (Oregon State), Tom Manness (Oregon State), Catalino Blanche (NIFA)

President's Report (Tim White): Tim reviewed NAUFRP recent accomplishments. These include getting USDA policy changed to allow carryover of McStennis dollars; working with NIFA program leaders to increase the number of forestry faculty on panels and more forestry proposals. The USDA Forestry Research and Advisory Committee (FRAC) has been revitalized. Joyce Berry and Keith Gilless (University of California, Berkley) are NAUFRP members recently appointed to three-year terms. NAUFRP has been very active in the Coalition on Forestry in the Farm Bill through Janaki, Randy and Terri. Jim Allen has taken over from Pat Layton as Education Chair and is providing the lead on the Undergraduate Forestry Education Strategic Plan. Hal is actively representing NAUFRP and forestry in developing a Board of Natural Resources Roadmap. Tim represents NAUFRP on the APLU's Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC). NAUFRP has signed onto over 10 joint policy letters in the last year. These are posted on the NAUFRP webpage. There are ongoing discussions, especially with the Forest Service, on the different types of grants and agreements. And fundamentally, NAUFRP remains very active in the federal appropriations process for base programs. Tim acknowledged Peg Gale's service to NAUFRP as Treasurer and other capacities. She is going to retire mid-next year and Barry Goldfarb (North Carolina State University) will take over for her as Treasurer at the end of this calendar year.

A motion to accept the minutes from the March, 2011 Executive Committee meeting was made by Steve Bullard and seconded by Keith Belli. One needed change was noted: George Brown should be Robert (Bob) Brown from NC State. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Peg Gale): There were three handouts. Peg reviewed fiscal year 2010 and 2011 through Sept. 30th noting the institutions that have not paid dues. She also noted the 1890's have previously been invited to join NAUFRP. Rob Swihart made a motion to accept the proposed 2012 budget; Kamran seconded. **Action Items:** (1) review dues payment structure, especially evaluating the base amount each school now pays (\$750), and ask Barry to bring a recommendation back to the next Executive Committee meeting and ultimately back to the General Assembly meeting next year. Note that thirteen 1890 institutions receive \$1.5 million in McStennis funds (if each paid \$750 that would be \$10,000.) (2) Tim and Barry, working with regional chairs, will reach out to the inactive schools to try and engage them. It was suggested that Tim write a letter that the regional chairs can follow-up on. Question: are the schools not paying because they feel NAUFRP does not address their interests or issues? Outreach Committee (Barry and Tim) to review tools and talking points. Alumni may be able to talk with these school leads. The motion to approve the proposed budget for 2012 was agreed to unanimously.

Diversity Report (Kamran Abdollahi): Kamran noted that several years ago George Brown worked on a Diversity Assessment which was a key strategy for approaching the 1890s. Kamran met with the ATRs for the 1890 institutions at an October meeting in Atlanta. At the ARD (1890 Research Directors) it was agreed that a council would be formed for

the thirteen 1890 institutions receiving McStennis funding that will determine what their needs are and how to collaborate together. Kamran was elected chair of the council. He approached them about NAUFRP and encouraged them to join. Carolyn Brooks is the ARD Executive Director. **Action Items:** (1) Tim and Kamran will draft a letter to the 1890s and ATRs that receive McStennis funding. Consider asking NAUFRP to co-sign. (2) Kamran to keep Tim informed on an upcoming meeting and provide contact information. Some type of provisional membership was suggested – without dues for 1-2 years. Carolyn Brooks is at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore campus. It will be very important to work through her. Ali Mohammed, NIFA, is working with her/1890's through the NIFA capacity building program (@\$50 million). Randy reviewed the history of the 1890's becoming eligible for McStennis dollars in the 2008 Farm Bill. This is a great opportunity for NAUFRP to mentor. It was suggested that Carolyn Brooks should be invited to the March Executive Committee meeting. It was noted that since most of the 1890's are in the south, Southern NAUFRP can play a role. It would be worthwhile to coordinate with Carolyn to get on their agendas. Kamran will be the formal liaison for NAUFRP with the Council.

Research Report (Keith Belli): NAUFRP representatives continue to meet with NIFA program leaders twice a year; the next meeting will be Nov. 15-16 and include Keith, David Newman and Rob Swihart. They will also meet with the program leaders at the time of the winter Executive Committee meeting and would like to expand this to the National Science Foundation eventually. Efforts to develop a forestry data base of faculty to serve on NIFA panels have been successful. Between 260-280 reviewers are now in the database. Keith is surveying them to ask if they have been asked to serve on a panel and if so have they participated. He will distribute the results at a later date. Eric Norland volunteered that he has used the databank directly and found it very effective. Steve Bullard said the goal is to ensure they are quality panelists and willing to do the work. Frank said it helps when faculty have specific connections with the NPLs. With the continuing budget cuts they are facing, NIFA will migrate to cyber/virtual panels. It's important to ensure that faculty see this as valuable – it's a cultural change. Keith has worked to get language in the Beginning Farmers Program to ensure that it includes tree farmers and has helped get the word out to potential partners like American Tree Farm. Keith has also worked with Bill Hubbard to get the word out to Extension specialists who may be interested in submitting proposals or participating on review panels. It would be good to get women and minorities: it's a great career development opportunity. Keith stressed they want assistant professors too. Steve Bullard said the initial goal in 2008 was to carve out forestry dollars but we've had a good impact through this process and increased NIFA NPL's understanding of how broad forestry is. Tim added that when this was first begun, we learned that the NPLs were getting 3-4 visits a year from other groups (e.g. poultry) and they were surprised we weren't there. NAUFRP began working on issues with the Forest Service in early 2010, starting with trying to understand where the problems are and what were the funding mechanisms and structures. The result is a matrix that has been distributed to NAUFRP. A small group of NAUFRP representatives have met with Jim Reaves and he understands the issue but has limited authority. It appears to lie with the Station Directors and interpretation varies between the regions. A letter has been drafted from NAUFRP to go to the Station Directors with plans to have regional NAUFRP delegations meet with their Station Directors on funding mechanisms and exceptions. A draft has been sent to Jim Reaves for review. The tuition issue needs to be discussed with the Station Directors as well. Keith is concerned that if the problem of tuition is not resolved, we will begin losing grad students. Tim summarized the issue: we've successfully worked with Jim Reaves and at the REE level to understand what can and cannot be done. We have a matrix of exceptions. We've sent Jim Reaves a draft letter that is to go to the Station Directors – hand delivered by NAUFRP regional delegations - -and have asked Jim to discuss this in his remarks to the General Assembly tomorrow. Discussion: Janaki is concerned that if one university includes faculty salary or increases graduate stipend to reflect tuition, the FS might choose another university to avoid that additional cost. This will result in an unhealthy race among universities. Kurt sees that a cultural change is needed – in this budget climate, its common to see cost transfer and the FS is doing a lot of that. Kurt thinks this needs to be solved top down from DC or they are going to be played off. This problem is going to roll till we collectively hammer it out; this conversation is a good start. Fees need to be addressed in these discussion which Tim assured would happen. Keith Blatner said this is a problem with the wildlife units also. Keith Belli asked if it is worthwhile to push a system like the cooperative fish and wildlife research units (CRUs). That model has tuition and mentoring. Agreement that this is a good idea to pursue. Legislation would be required. **Action Item:** An Ad Hoc Committee to work on the possibility of developing a structure modeled after the CRUs was appointed to include Rob Swihart, Keith Belli, Bob Wagner, Janaki Alavalapati and Kurt Pregitzer.

Education Report (Jim Allen): Jim took over as chair of the Education Committee from Pat Layton (Clemson) in March and has been working on implementing the undergraduate education strategy. He represented NAUFRP at an

international education meeting in British Columbia last May and reported on our efforts. Jim participated with a group of NAUFRP representatives (Tim White, Terry Sharik and Keith Blatner) in a meeting of natural resource societies in September regarding education and training for natural resource professionals. Jim has previously forwarded a proposal to the Executive Committee that NAUFRP become a member of the International Partnership for Forestry Education (IPFE). Some individual institutions (Oregon State) are already members. A link to their website was in the body of that email. Jim Johnson said a lot of focus is being given to establishing relationships with Chinese universities. IPFE is headquartered at UBC and has membership from Europe and Africa. It has a good internal network with no costs to members (other than sending representatives to meetings); it's a good way to connect and ties specifically to NAUFRP's Undergraduate Education Strategy. Hal made a motion that NAUFRP join the IPFE which was seconded by Jim Johnson. Discussion: will this report out under education or international committee? Both, Jim Johnson and Jim Allen agree to coordinate. Janaki said he has recently been appointed a fellow of the State Department on energy and this has opportunities for universities to connect. The motion was adopted unanimously.

ATR Liaison (Steve Bullard): Steve took over this position from Perry Brown. ATRs are the technical representatives appointed at each institution that receives McStennis funding. Where the position sits varies among institutions. At the 2006 Shepherdstown meeting, all the FS Station Directors were invited and present. The purpose of that meeting was to talk about future forestry research directions and graduate training. The 2007 McStennis Strategic Plan grew out of this and still holds up. Some of the 'buzz' words have changed and Perry provided a two-page update to adapt. Note, the first mission of the McStennis Strategic Plan is integration. Two years ago NAUFRP began a discussion on how to celebrate the 50th anniversary of McStennis. A historical paper was published in the SAF Journal of Forestry earlier this year. NIFA has provided a \$15,000 grant for a video on the accomplishments of McStennis. There is a videographer here to capture personal experiences. Once the video is done, mini segments will be pulled to highlight accomplishments. The goal is to finish this in March in anticipation of a national meeting/celebration. Eric Norland asked for feedback as to whether there is a need for an ATR meeting. Discussion: it was useful to have the one on DC several years ago – that is where the issue of McStennis carryover funds came forward. It might be a good time to engage with the 1890 ATRs. Randy suggested maybe an ATR meeting in conjunction with the winter Executive Committee meeting. Others: it depends on the goal. Is there a description of who the ATR should be? It's the prerogative of the university president. Eric says they prefer it to be a forestry program leader vs. administrator. Kurt says it might be good for institutions not very engaged in NAUFRP to come and learn. Keith Blatner says the issues do not come down to the who but how McStennis dollars can be used. The Manual addresses this topically. There appeared to be a qualified "Yes" for an ATR meeting.

Extension Report (Bob Wagner): Bob has taken over from Joe McNeel who has recently stepped down after many years as chair of the Extension committee. Joe's efforts have been much appreciated. Bob provided a written report from Joe (Terri has this electronically). The RREA Strategic Plan, under the leadership of Bill Hubbard and Sarah Ashton, has been completed and will be distributed by NIFA. Eric Norland has been on detail to the FS Office of Climate Change to work on how the impacts of climate change might be incorporated into S&PF programs. He has also been working with the National Academies of Science to develop a workshop on 'Engaging and Enabling Private Forest Landowners to Adopt Forest Adaptation Management Practices'. ANREP has approved a proposal to establish an initiative to focus on natural resource management decision-making related to climate change. A national workshop and national extension in-service on forests and climate change held in Flagstaff, AZ last May. RREA National Focus funds supported these two workshops. There were no nominations this year for the Family Forest Education Award. Steve Bullard emphasized that many of the NIFA grants now have extension components to be aware of.

Policy Report (Janaki Alavalapati): Janaki has been focused on the 2012 Farm Bill through two venues: APLU and the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition (FFBC). McIntire-Stennis does not need to be reauthorized (it has permanent authority). APLU wants to extend eligibility to federal states for McStennis. It was noted that American Samoa currently receives McStennis dollars but on more than one occasion they have not submitted a proposal. However, it is difficult for NIFA to pull those dollars back once they have gone out. Janaki tried to get forestry included in the Specialty Crops program authorized in the 2008 programs but the special interests groups have pushed back. He has been more successful in getting more visibility and voice in the Beginning Farmer Program for forestry. The FFBC includes over 40 organizations. NAUFRP's effort to promote re-establishing a cost-share program like the Forestry Incentive Program was not successful. The immediate future for farm programs is for consolidation – not new programs. Janaki said that NAUFRP's presence at APLU's table has been effective. It is allowing us to share our thoughts and

ensure support for forests and natural resource programs in the Farm Bill. NAUFRP's presence at the FFBC table has been very valuable and resulted in very favorable language in the Coalition's platform for research, extension and education.

Budget and Advocacy Committee (Tim White): Tim represents NAUFRP on APLU's Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC). Within the APLU organization, BAC comes under the Board of Agriculture and we pay \$5,000 in annual dues to be at the table. Tim has participated in four meetings. The mood has been very sober, with a 'hunker down', "don't ask for more or anything new". BAC has provided good support for McStennis. Its support for RREA has been up and down. For the McStennis 50th Anniversary, \$50 million is not going to fly with them. (Note that the Morrill Act is celebrating its 150th)

Forestry Research Advisory Committee (Joyce Berry): The FRAC committee had new appointments in 2011 and held a 2-day meeting in September. The resulting report (which was previously distributed through the NAUFRP listserv) included six recommendations of which the first, originally, was the most controversial. Initially it indicated the McStennis program was out of date and needed to be replaced. A compromise resulted which recommends an assessment of the effectiveness of McStennis and how it can be strengthened with focus on population distribution, environmental challenges for forest species and targeted environmental markets and services. The additional recommendations talk about the need for social science, the continued investment in experimental forests, increased collaboration with non-federal partners and expanded use of USFS synthesis reports. Joyce had conveyed the McStennis Strategic Plan and its updating – both are very broad. Discussion: The McStennis authorizing language allows broadening the work at the university level. Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of McStennis, FRAC could emphasize the value of its accomplishments. The Secretary and USDA should also be talking about this. Maybe FRAC should look at the effectiveness of the overall national investment in forestry research? Concerns that we are not communicating well with the funders on the importance of the program. Suggestion that it should have an international scope (Scandinavia, China are making huge investments in forestry research and importing many of the ideas and experience from the US and having effective impacts on markets). Product development overseas is hurting us. The capacity generated by McStennis is invaluable. Joyce conveyed this to FRAC and the importance of state matching dollars. Randy noted the Senate Agriculture Appropriations report language related to AFRI/NRI; FRAC could use this language. FRAC is a major opportunity to talk to USDA policy makers. It was noted that a major change in the nominating process is coming. FRAC will next meet in March 2012.

International Report (Jim Johnson): The 2014 IUFRO meeting will be in Salt Lake City, UT. NAUFRP will be looked to for assistance. We'll hear more from Rich Guldin later today. There is an International Forestry Student Association (IFSA) that is very active in Europe but has only two chapters in North America (Oregon State and the Univ. of British Columbia). They will host a two-week field tour in conjunction with IUFRO. There will be more on this too but it will be a good way to broaden international networking. As previously reported, Barry Goldfarb met with the newly formed association of European forestry deans last year. It is hoped they will be able to get a representative to an upcoming NAUFRP meeting. Jim asked what kind of role or relationship does NAUFRP want to have with them? Video conferencing with the European deans was suggested and thought a good idea. Randy's office has the capability if we want to try something in March. Question about the Canadian Deans? They are on the NAUFRP listserv. **Action Item:** Contact UBC for the current Canadian organization/structure.

Western Region (Kurt Pregitzer): Western NAUFRP met last June in Spokane. They had a good turnout. The meeting minutes were distributed (Terri has an electronic copy). Water is a collective issue.

Southern Region (Red Baker): Southern NAUFRP met in June in conjunction with the Forest Landowners Association. Many topics discussed. The Southern Forest Research Partnership has been dissolved. The Recruiting Effort had submitted a challenge grant proposal but it was not funded; they are waiting to receive comments and expect to re-submit. If funded it will help in the NAUFRP undergraduate effort. Eric Norland suggested that when the proposal is re-submitted it would be good to indicate it is a re-submission and specifically address the comments. A Southern Leadership Tour is planned for late May/early June, 2012.

North Central Region (Jim Zaczek): The North Central and Northeastern NAUFRP regions held a joint meeting last May. Much of the focus was on Bob Wagner's research capacity work. Bob reported that this came out of last year's

joint meeting with Michael Rains (FS Northern Research Station). It was apparent that there are dramatic changes in capacity coming. Under Bob's direction, Emma Schultz has conducted a web survey on capacity which has been turned into a database and submitted to the Northern Region. She accumulated data going back 10 years and is presenting this at the SAF Convention this week Crisis of Research Capacity. USFS has had a slight increase in Research Capacity and several universities as well (Iowa State, Michigan Tech, Purdue); losses have been sustained by Yale, Univ. of Mass., Univ. of Maine. Losses in disciplines have occurred as well; increases in disciplines are in GIS, Health and Silviculture. All this is a precursor for a possible national study, Journal of Forestry article but would require more resources. Frank said his agency might have potential funds for this and it would be good to talk jointly with Jim Reaves. (Note this was not specifically made an action item but Terri has noted it in the list for follow-up purposes.) It was suggested that this is not just happening in research capacity but also in teaching.

Next NAUFRP Executive Committee Meeting: Check March 5-7, 2012 in Washington, DC. **Action:** Terri will send a query out to the Executive Committee on these potential dates.

Board of Natural Resources (BNR) Roadmap (Hal Salwasser): Fisheries, wildlife and water resources are involved. Board of Natural Resources chaired by Colorado State. Dan Edge serves on as does John Hayes. They meet monthly by conference call. They have a planning grant and have contracted with Cornell for a Delphi process; not sure yet who will be involved with that. The Board will meet in San Francisco in a week to present. The Delphi process is to be completed by December with a draft Road Map maybe by March. It's on a fast track to get a foot in the door for next budget cycle. Hal will send Tim what comes out of the San Francisco meeting. Wendy Fink is going a great job.

Washington Report (Randy Nuckolls): Last summer's debt limit crisis resulted in a 10-year cap on discretionary spending and a Deficit Reduction 'Super' Committee that will determine specific cuts and tax increases. The Standing Committees are to give recommendations to the Super Committee by November 23rd. The Agriculture Committee has gone beyond the immediate mandate and is working on the Farm Bill. They have reportedly finished the Forestry Title though nothing has been made public yet (it is not controversial). The Super Committee will vote a package up or down, with no amendments by Christmas: they need to cut spending by \$1.5 trillion. In the past, unfinished appropriations bills have been rolled into an Omnibus bill. This year it looks like there will be a Minibus bill that will take into account the Agriculture, Transportation and State/Justice appropriations bills. It will likely pass. The House has McStennis at \$30 million in FY12 and the Senate at \$32.9 million. It will be good news if they can finalize these bills and get them off the table before the larger issues are resolved. BAC recently considered a proposal of one-line funding for NIFA (collapsing all the budget line-items) with any increases over that being distributed 55:45 capacity/formula vs. competitive programs. A concern was that it would all go to agriculture. Congress did not receive this well; even Cornerstone was split on the proposal. It was a trial balloon that floated and died. RREA has a little bump up. Randy has had very positive meeting with new staffers on Agriculture Appropriations and has a very good platform to go back to them on.

McStennis 50th Anniversary (Steve Bullard): The biggest action item to discuss on this topic is whether to hold a national conference next year and tie it to a related ATR meeting. Randy noted that APLU and USDA are planning a similar celebration for the 150th anniversary for 1862 land-grant institutions with a variety of high profile events (Smithsonian Folk Festival, Hill event). Next year's SAF convention is in Spokane; what are the possibilities there? Discussion: Suggestion of having a program at the annual meeting of related societies and organizations to educate them. Three ideas: DC events, SAF, Symposium. Have the conference in 2013 with a kick off prior. Get Congressional recognition – a Congressional Resolution of the 50th with floor statements and a reception. Maine and Mississippi are key Congressional states. The Working Group is: Keith Belli, Janaki, Randy, Catalino, Bob Wagner and George Hopper. If it is decided to do something in 2013, there would be more time to get a meeting going.

Undergraduate Education Interactive Session for the General Assembly (Jim Allen): Jim reviewed that NIFA made a \$25,000 grant to Clemson on behalf of NAUFRP for the Undergraduate Education Strategic Plan. It is scheduled to be closed out next February and there is approximately \$8,500 left. One of the deliverables named in the grant proposal was 1000 color copies of the plan. The primary deliverable was the Plan itself. Jim asks if we really want to spend the remaining funds on color copies or are to advance the implementation of certain actions within the Plan; the latter is Jim's recommendation. One budget item might be Terry Sharik coordinating his enrollment survey with FAEIS. The purpose of tomorrow's interactive breakout session is for awareness and prioritizing the goals, actions and steps. The

objective is to establish a clear sense of action steps that will be NAUFRP's priorities. Thanks to NIFA: these grants have been valuable catalysts for NAUFRP.

Society of American Foresters (Michael Goergen, Bill Rockwell (President-Elect) and Roger Dziengeleski (President)): Bill Rockwell acknowledged that Roger is currently the SAF President but the next opportunity Bill has to meet with NAUFRP will be at this meeting next year with only 2 months left in his term. On the matter of 'Terrestrial Ecosystem Accreditation', Terry Sharik has been a representative on the Task Force (Greg Brown chairs it). There are several discussions taking place; nothing is off the table. Michael Goergen provided background on the Terrestrial Ecosystem Task Force: several universities had said SAF accreditation was constraining and that employers were demanding something different. The SAF role here is to serve the people who manage forests and hence the accreditation process to assure employers. Several natural resources societies (SAF, wildlife, and fisheries) met jointly in Denver and determined there is a need for standard setting. (Note that wildlife and fisheries don't have an accreditation process.) Discussion: Is 'terrestrial ecology' as a term too sweeping? Michael said they are not wedded to it. Keith Blatner is on the Task Force and said the concept is to build something. Jim Allen was at the Denver meeting and wondered about ownership. Carol Redelsheimer appears ready to move forward but others from the Coalition were less eager. Ken Fulgham is on the Society of Range Management accreditation committee and this is an issue for them. There is concern about the impact this would have on department structures – that upper administration will take this as an opportunity to consolidate departments. Kurt Pregitzer said that as a new dean he has learned the importance of names. We are not talking to ourselves only; others are impacted. Randy suggested NAUFRP establish a liaison with SAF Council. Time line. Michael says SAF has a process and they need to ensure it is transparent. **Action Item:** Follow-up with Michael Goergen on communicating with NAUFRP on this issue.

IUFRO in 2014 (Rich Guldin): It has been determined that the SAF 2014 convention will be held in conjunction with the IUFRO meeting in Salt Lake City. The approved theme is "Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People, the Role of Research". This is the departure point for organizing sessions. The co-chairs of the Strategic Planning Committee are Sam Foster (USFS) and Steve Bullard, representing NAUFRP. A Program Manager who will be a Forest Service employee, will be named shortly. They are reaching out to the forestry school deans for a co-chair with SAF. There will be a website up by May 2012. Approximately 2,200 people are expected and they want to plan 8-10 pre and post tours. Help will be especially needed with the latter (e.g. Red Wine and Red Woods). Rich is producing a quarterly report for IUFRO and will send to Terri for distribution within NAUFRP. The IUFRO Scientific Committee will build the scientific agenda. A call for proposed sessions should be out in January 2013 and they expect 150-200 proposals of which they anticipate 125-150 will be accepted. This will be followed by a call for papers in July 2013 and a notice of acceptance by November. SAF will still have their own technical sessions.

NIFA Report (Frank Boteler): Frank provided a written report in advance of the meeting that was circulated through the listserv. (Terri has the electronic version.) He covered the highlights orally. He encouraged grant applicants to submit early because of relocation of the agency's server. With the NIFA reorganization completed, most everything forestry related comes under Frank's institute. The 2008 Farm Bill called for the National Institute; most everything else was created by the USDA Under Secretary and therefore could change. The BRDI is mandatory funding through the Farm Bill but this is being reviewed by the Super Committee in Congress. Ali Mohamed has the lead on the 1890's within NIFA; the 1890's have more clout than their size indicates and they use it. They are close to naming a new Director to succeed Roger Beachy; this is a political appointment. Tim asked for Frank's help in setting up a meeting with the new director once they are in place.

Note: The National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs submitted a written partners report. (Terri has an electronic copy.) John Hayes from the University of Florida will become president on January 1st. Their spring meeting will be March 12-17 in Atlanta in conjunction with the North America Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

*Approved March 5, 2012
Washington, D.C.*

ACTION ITEMS:

Action: Treasury (1) review dues payment structure, especially evaluating the base amount each school now pays (\$750), and ask Barry to bring a recommendation back to the next Executive Committee meeting and ultimately back to the General Assembly meeting next year. Note that the thirteen 1890 institutions receive \$1.5 million (if each paid \$750 that would be \$10,000.) (2) Tim and Barry, working with regional chairs, will reach out to the inactive schools to try and engage them. It was suggested that Tim write a letter that the regional chairs can follow-up on. Outreach Committee to review tools and talking points. Alumni may be able to talk with these school leads.

Action: Diversity (1) Tim and Kamran will draft a letter to the 1890s and ATR's that receive McStennis funding, maybe cosign with NAUFWP. (2) Kamran to keep Tim informed on an upcoming meeting and provide contact information. Consider inviting Carolyn Brooks to the March Executive Committee meeting and coordinating to get NAUFRP on the 1890's ATR/ADR meeting agendas.

Action: Research An Ad Hoc Committee to work on the possibility of developing a structure modeled after the wildlife units was appointed to include Rob Swihart, Keith Belli, Bob Wagner, Janaki and Kurt Pregnitzer.

Action: International Contact UBC for the current Canadian organization/structure.

Action: Follow-up with NIFA/FS on possible funding for a national survey on research capacity (extension of work being done by NAUFRP's Northeastern and North Central regions).

Action: Terri to query the Executive Committee on these potential dates: March 5-7, 2012 for a next meeting in Washington, DC.

Action: Follow-up with Michael Goergen on communicating with NAUFRP on the status of Terrestrial Ecosystem Accreditation.

Action: Meet with new NIFA Director once they are in place.