



# NAUFRP

National Association of University Forest Resources Programs

*Creating Knowledge—Developing Leaders*

## NAUFRP GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Minutes

Spokane, Washington

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

### Welcome and Introductions

Keith Belli made a *motion*, seconded by Doug Piirto, to approve the General Assembly meeting minutes from November 2, 2011, Honolulu, HI. The motion was approved unanimously.

By-Laws Change: Tim White (NAUFRP President) provided background on the proposal that will be considered and voted on by the General Assembly that the 1890 institutions receiving McIntire-Stennis research funds become members of NAUFRP. The 2008 Farm Bill made them eligible to receive the funds; thirteen of the 18 institutions now do so. Eleven institutions would join as full members (Alabama A&M and Southern University are already members). The Executive Director of the Association of Research Directors (ARD) of 1890 Land Grant Universities would become a standing member of the NAUFRP Executive Committee. In addition, ARD would pay dues as one lump sum directly to NAUFRP on behalf of the 1890's. Both of these provisions require a By-Laws change.

Barry Goldfarb (NAUFRP Secretary-Treasurer) reviewed in detail the two proposed changes to the By-Laws. As required by the existing By-Laws, these were provided to the membership 30 days in advance of this meeting. The first change is to include the Executive Director of the Association of Research Directors (ARD) of 1890 Land Grant Universities on the NAUFRP Executive Committee. Hal Salwasser made a motion to adopt this By-Laws change; a second was made by Rob Swihart. Discussion: the Executive Committee considered this yesterday and recommends that the General Assembly adopt this motion. The motion was unanimously carried by voice vote. The second measure for consideration is to dues paid by all the 1890's. The combined dues for the 1890 institution members will be paid by the ARD beginning in the 2013 calendar year and will be \$9,000 for the years 2013-2015. Hal Salwasser made a motion to adopt this By-Laws change; Steve Tesch seconded the motion. Discussion: in effect, the 1890s would begin with annual dues at \$9,000. This is a net of \$6,500 dues income since Alabama A&M and Southern University are already dues paying members; their dues will now be paid by the ARD. The motion was called for and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report, Barry Goldfarb: Barry reviewed the Treasurer's Report (handout) that included a text report on NAUFRP's financial position that closed out 2011 and covered 2012 to date. Income and expenses were lower than anticipated for 2011; however a slight surplus is projected for 2012. The 2013 budget adopted by the Executive Committee does not yet reflect the 1890s dues income. It does include an additional \$3,000 in expenditures to update the NAUFRP Education webpage to make it a better "Clearing House" for undergraduate forestry/natural resource education as called for in the NAUFRP Strategic Plan for Undergraduate Education. The Executive Committee also voted to become an Association Member of the National Alliance of Forest Owners at a cost of \$250 annually. Discussion: There was a question whether the 'Clearing House' funding qualified as a Strategic Investment. As background, it was noted that several years ago when NAUFRP had a strong surplus in the budget, criteria were developed for the Executive Committee to consider regional requests for specific projects. Although the 'Clearing House' is not a regional request, this project seems to fall into the category of 'Strategic Investments'. It remains for future discussion whether maintenance of this will be considered in future budgets.

NAUFRP Overview and Recent Accomplishments: Steve Bullard (NAUFRP President-elect) reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that was updated from previous years detailing NAUFRP activities and accomplishments over the last year. This will be posted on the webpage. He noted that NAUFRP membership has just been increased by 11 members. It was noted that changes in the Executive Committee when Steve becomes President include Terry Sharik as Education Chair and Jim Allen as President-elect. NAUFRP's Agenda is to work to ensure science is valued.

NAUFRP New Efforts: Tim White discussed the efforts NAUFRP has focused on. These include continued implementation of the Undergraduate Education Strategic Plan and realignment of research priorities. Several members of the Executive Committee met jointly on Monday with the Forest Service R&D Leadership. They agreed to form a joint task force that will work on diversity issues as well as continue to work on questions and issues related to Cooperative Agreements. A table displaying USDA agreements was shared with all NAUFRP members 2 years ago and that will happen again. The Association of Public Land Grant Universities' (APLU) Board of Natural Resources (BNR) is developing a Road Map for future directions of natural resource research. Hal Salwasser is the lead on this for NAUFRP. Tim reviewed who the BNR is and the relationship with APLU. He asked for a show of hands of who had participated in the Delphi process for the Roadmap; 10-12 people indicated they had. The BNR is currently putting together writing teams and there will be a call for nominations for chapter writing through the listserv. NAUFRP would like to have at least one member for each chapter. Themes to be focused on are climate, education, energy, sustainability and water. The timeline calls for a finished product by June 1, 2013. IUFRO will meet in Salt Lake City in 2014. Diversity, with the 1890's joining NAUFRP, will take a new focus. A diversity task force is to be formed with the Forest Service and include NIFA. It will review existing manuals and guidance for programs and strategies that can enhance diversity. Tim noted that the Executive Committee passed a motion yesterday to develop stronger partnerships with a range of organizations. Bob Wagner will lead on this to develop a strategic plan. The first tangible step towards this is the NAFO membership already mentioned. NAUFRP is also discussing with NAFO a survey of their membership using the Delphi process to identify their short and long term research priorities. A Forest and Natural Resource Diversity Conference is planned for next June at VaTech; plans are for the NAUFRP Diversity Task Force to meld into this. Tim acknowledged the long and dedicated involvement in NAUFRP by Perry Brown, Al Ek and George Hopper. Fresh blood and ideas are needed and welcome.

Enrollment Data Survey, Terry Sharik: NAUFRP is working to have the Food, Agriculture and Education Information System (FAEIS) gradually take over the enrollment data survey that Terry has collected for some years. He will continue to collect the data in the upcoming year. Terry noted that FAEIS does not delve into degrees and options. It was also noted that in 2009 Keith Belli and Bruce Bare realigned NAUFRP's regional comparative data to include race and gender.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls (NAUFRP General Counsel): Randy encouraged members to be involved in NAUFRP and campus affairs. Being relevant means everyone needs to be involved – know and be known to the campus government affairs office. The next 10 years is not going to be easy for university research. It is and will continue to be important to get Congressional Members and staff to campus and educate them. The Deficit Reduction Act set in place last year is a 10-year plan for keeping spending levels on a flat trajectory. It is a result of the super committee that targeted \$1.2 trillion in automatic spending cuts by sequestration beginning in January 2013 unless Congress acts to avoid it after the Fall 2012 elections. The spending cuts would be both in defense and non-defense programs. If sequestration takes effect, it is estimated NIFA will have about 8.5% in cuts -- 12 months of cuts likely to be imposed over 9 months. Randy discussed the potential Presidential and Congressional prospects for the November 2012 elections. The current Farm Bill has expired so program authorities have reverted to the 1930's original legislation. An extension of the expired legislation may be passed or a more formal new bill passed. NAUFRP has been a member of a very effective coalition, the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition, which includes over 40 organizations. Forestry and natural resource research has had solid support from the Coalition.

SAF Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Accreditation, Jim Allen and Carol Redelsheimer (SAF): Jim discussed the background on this issue. SAF formed a Task Force on Education Programs and Terrestrial Ecosystem Management (TEM) in 2009. Two members of NAUFRP were on the Task Force (Terry Sharik and Keith Blatner). In 2011, there was a meeting involving a coalition of natural resource societies and also a workshop at the UNER conference held earlier this year led by Terry. The Task Force compiled its report and recommended to the SAF Leadership Council that SAF go forward with TEM accreditation. At this point, the details are being discussed and worked out. Debate about going forward with this accreditation is past. It was noted that feedback was also gathered at last year's

convention in Hawaii. Jim and Terry surveyed NAUFRP members on their concerns earlier this year and relayed the responses to SAF. There was a meeting here yesterday to which NAUFRP members were invited to participate. A timeline has been developed for going forward. The entire accreditation standard will be sent to NAUFRP for feedback. In addition, other natural resource societies will be consulted. The timeline is ambitious – implementation by next summer. There will be a ‘test run’ at SUNY in the 2014-15 academic year. Discussion: There was a question about fees relative to the other accreditations. If there are two accreditation reviews will they be combined in one site visit? Two fees? Who within SAF will determine the answers to these questions as well as who will compose the review teams? Will they be composite review teams? Responding, Carol said the Education Review Policy Committee will deal with accreditation matters; Council will deal with fees. Tim White clarified that NAUFRP has never endorsed TEM Accreditation, nor was ever asked to do so. NAUFRP, at best, has been moderately involved – mostly after Council passed the resolution to go forward.

Research, Keith Belli, Chair: The Executive Committee has felt it timely to review the McStennis Strategic Plan, which NAUFRP was heavily involved in developing to evaluate key priorities. Keith has developed a matrix which identifies current NAUFRP priorities and those of other organizations. The Breakout sessions this afternoon will review these especially in respect to nomenclature, redundancy, overlap and omissions. This will not be a final product. The intent is gather feedback.

Paul Trianosky, Director, Southern Forest Conservation, American Forest Foundation (AFF): Issues AFF is concerned with are: definition of forest loss (is there a threshold of loss that blocks sustainability); how do we maintain forest lands and operability; what are ways to motivate landowners; intergenerational transfer of forest land; ecosystem services; how to translate the value of family forests and how to use values to motivate behavior; what are the non-economic benefits of certification for family forests; developing growth and yield models for Longleaf Pine; landowner collaboration/coops (are there new ways to explore motivation for larger landscapes lost to management).

Frank Boteler, Assistant Director, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment, NIFA: NIFA is an extramural research agency within the USDA structure which requires them to stick pretty close to Congressional intent. With AFRI, NIFA has some opportunity to set priorities in the RFA solicitation. NIFA also pays special attention to Congressional intent which is often gleaned through Congressional report language. The NIFA Director is a political appointment and can set AFRI priorities within limits. It is usually the case that a new Administration will choose existing programs to emphasize and/or focus their priorities. The current Administration is a bit of an exception; they are using challenge areas that direct and guide. Within NIFA, focus has been on sustainable bioenergy, adaptation and mitigation of climate change, reduction in childhood obesity, improvements in food safety and security. AFRI funding is \$300 million out of \$1.2 billion in NIFA appropriations. Congress has identified broad priorities for AFRI. NAUFRP is able to influence through the McIntire-Stennis Strategic Plan. Congressional intent for formula funds is to let stakeholders set priorities; NIFA’s role is to ensure formula funds are well spent. NIFA Director, Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy wants to change the proportions of challenge vs. foundation program funding stemming from stakeholder feedback.

Breakout Sessions and Report out on “*Research Priorities: Facilitated Working Discussion on Realigning Research Priorities Addressing Public/Private/Family Forests*” The goal is to review the research matrix developed by Keith Belli. Tasks include: 1) review the terminology of NAUFRP priorities to make them more recognizable and/or relevant and 2) identify gaps in them or those that can be dropped.

Bob Wagner presented the 2012 Family Forest Education Award to two recipients: Mississippi State University Extension Service for the ‘Mississippi Southern Pine Beetle Prevision Program’ and to Oregon State University Forestry and Natural Resources Extension for ‘Ties to the Land’.

Steve Bullard read a resolution on behalf of NAUFRP in honor of Tim White service has president the last two years and presented the President’s Plaque. Tim handed over the office of president to Steve.

Meeting Adjourned

*Approved: October 23, 2013, Charleston, South Carolina*