

National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP)  
General Assembly Minutes  
Charleston, South Carolina  
October 23, 2013

Welcome by Joann Cox, President, Society of American Foresters. She reported on the SAF Search Committee for a new Executive Vice President and CEO to replace Michael Goergen, noting Steve Bullard serves on the committee.

Welcome by Steve Bullard, NAUFRP President. Introductions of Assembly participants.

A motion was made by Tim White to approve the October 23, 2012 General Assembly Minutes (Spokane, WA); second by Ken Fulgham. Discussion: let Terri know if there are any edits needed. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Steve welcomed the 1890 institutions who are now members of NAUFRP noting Carolyn Brooks, Executive Director of the Association of Research Directors (ARD, is now a standing member of the Executive Committee.

Treasurer's Report, Barry Goldfarb: Barry reviewed a 3-page financial report that was handed out. Dues income in 2013 will be over budget because the approved budget did not include dues from the 1890s. The General Assembly approved 1890 membership after the 2013 budget was adopted by the Executive Committee and it was not to reflect this. Expenses projected for 2013 will be slightly lower. A \$13,000 surplus is currently being projected although it includes \$3,000 for the NAUFRP Education Clearinghouse which will be carried forward into next year. Slightly lower dues income is anticipated in 2014 due to the federal government sequestration impact on McIntire-Stennis allocations. Two special projects were approved yesterday by the Executive Committee: 1) \$5,000 for IUFRO registration scholarships for students from NAUFRP institutions and 2) \$5,000 for an international student survey to be conducted by Terry Sharik at IUFRO. A motion was made by Kamran Abdollahi to approve the Treasurer's Report; second by Keith Belli. The motion was unanimously approved.

NAUFRP Overview and Recent Accomplishments PowerPoint presentation was reviewed by Jim Allen, NAUFRP President-elect, detailing NAUFRP activities and accomplishments. It will be posted on the webpage. Jim noted NAUFRP members are welcome to attend and participate in Executive Committee meetings. Steve addressed future directions for NAUFRP. A key agenda focus is to work to ensure science is valued.

Randy Nuckolls recognized NAUFRP member involvement with the organization, in particular Perry Brown's work on the McIntire-Stennis Strategic Plan, Al Ek on appropriations, George Hopper on the Board of Natural Resources, Terry Sharik on enrollment trends, Tim White on 1890 institution membership and NAFO, Joyce Berry and Keith Gilles on the USDA Forest Research Advisory Council, Steve Bullard for the McIntire-Stennis 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This collective effort is to be commended.

Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA joined the Assembly by video internet connection. He discussed in detail the impacts of the FY 2013 budget Continuing Resolution, the sequestration and rescission and prospects for FY 2014, especially regarding NIFA capacity and competitive grant programs. Sonny is focused on three guiding principles: 1) increase capacity funds (NIFA has lost a lot of capacity in the formula funds – he wants to build back up to 2012 levels.); 2) boost competitive grants significantly (NIFA has asked for 30% increase in AFRI.); and 3) protect minority serving institutions.

USDA continues to operate under the 2008 Farm Bill. The House and Senate Agriculture committee are conferencing. A full fledged bill will provide certainty. AFRI has two concerns in the challenge and foundation grant program areas. One-

third of AFRI money is mortgaged to the big grants. A decision has been made to scale these back to \$5-\$15 million. They also plan to increase the percentage going to foundational grants. The NRC is reviewing AFRI; the report is due out early next year. There are five challenge areas: food security, climate change, sustainable bioenergy, food safety, childhood obesity and nutrition. When Sonny joined NIFA, he was surprised that water was not a challenge area. Based on feedback from NIFA Listening Sessions, a decision has been made to add an RFA for water. USDA is involved in developing climate change hubs. There is an internal call to USDA agencies; they are encouraged to reach out to partners. The Secretary will soon announce 6-7 hubs. NIFA is not providing any monies. The hubs are organizing, and can compete for funding. There is an imperative need to invest in capacity and capital infrastructure. NIFA has the authority and wants to work with institutions to inventory the state of physical infrastructure across the country. He has a meeting set up with a group at the APLU conference in November. They will put together an approach to address this in the FY16 budget. Sonny reviewed McStennis and RREA appropriations. For the latter, we need to consider a survey of how and where dollars are invested. NIFA can help provide snapshots of best practices – ‘best bangs’ to demonstrate this is a worthy investment. Forest Product Competitive Grants were awarded in September. Of 31 applications, 5 were selected (WV, ME, OSU, WA State) at about \$300,000 each. Sonny was asked how faculty can engage in the formulation of RFAs. One key way is through the Listening sessions. Sonny was asked about the process for the inventory of research infrastructure and assurance that forestry and natural resources would be involved. He said he has already asked Tim White and Steve Bullard for a representative. Sonny was told his support of extension was welcome and he was encouraged to actively look at how extension dollars can be used. Funding is decreasing at a time it is most needed. Maybe a challenge area should be considered. Sonny said the challenge areas must have aspects research and extension.

Randy Nuckolls, Washington Counsel: Randy is very encouraged to hear Sonny’s support for capacity funds. There will be continued budget constraints for some time to come. NAUFRP’s accomplishments include administrative changes that now allow institutions to carry over McStennis dollars. Last March’s Executive Committee March meeting included joint partner visits to the Hill. Randy discussed the overall budget situation and scenarios that might play out. The disruption, costs and problems from the government shutdown were more obvious to the public than previous shutdowns. He said to expect a 7.8 percent decrease in NIFA and a further sequester of about 4 percent. Mid-term elections are next on the horizon. Polls say Republicans fared poorly out of the shut down and it energized the Tea Party at local levels. They are targeting moderate Republicans such as Senators Cochran, Graham and Alexander. On the other hand, groups have formed to put moderate candidates up to compete against Tea Party candidates. History says a two term president loses party seats. There are 30-40 House districts in play. A sophisticated re-districting process determines who votes. We won’t know before December, if not March, what the McStennis funding level will be. Plans range from 3 to 10 percent reduction. Randy encouraged NAUFRP members get to know their campus government affairs people -- educate them -- they can become good advocates. Randy was asked about the university wildlife and fisheries programs. He said they have been active and using the NAUFRP model. They go to other agencies but don’t have a Cornerstone carrying their message. They have met with the NAUFRP Executive Committee; they are reaching out to their partners at more levels. Many more of them are faculty versus administrators. Pat Layton says they are increasing funding coming from sources such as USDI and DOD. Perhaps NAUFRP should be thinking about this more. Rob Swihart encouraged NAUFRP to expand its horizons beyond the Forest Service and NIFA. NAUFRP leadership wants to talk to SFI about reinstating the Deans Tour. Steve thanked Randy on behalf of the NAUFRP membership for his 25 years of service.

Rich Guldin, U.S. Forest Service and Jennifer Hayes, IUFRO World Congress Project Manager, reported on plans for the IUFRO World Congress which will meet October 5-11, 2014 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Congress title is ‘Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research’. There are seven themes. Registration begins November 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be a tree planting ceremony on Sunday and an opening ceremony on Monday. Field tours will be hosted on

Wednesday and a joint plenary session with SAF hosted on Thursday. A closing ceremony will be held on Saturday. NAUFRP is involved in many aspects of the IUFRO Congress planning and organization. Steve Bullard (Stephen F. Austin State University), Jim Johnson (Oregon State University), Tim White (University of Florida), Kurt Pregitzer (University of Idaho) and Terry Sharik (Michigan Tech University) are involved through planning and program committees. Session coordinators are being drawn from the NAUFRP membership. Purdue University is hosting a pre-Congress tour. The deadline for abstract proposals is closed but they are still accepting from government employees due to the government shutdown. Proposals submitted total 3,778; about 10 percent are from NAUFRP institutions. Opportunities for involvement include: student volunteers, alumni receptions, field tours, presenters and formation of IFSA Chapters. Students can also be used as translators. The host country presents a high level scientific award and there will be a call for nominations going out with a due date of December 31. Jim Johnson summarized the \$5,000 special grant NAUFRP has agreed to sponsor for students from NAUFRP institutions as seed money – support for graduate students. Students who volunteer a minimum of 16 hours will get a refund. They need 125 student volunteers (50 international; 75 from the US). The SAF Convention will be Thursday through Saturday. There will be an IUFRO Welcome Reception Monday evening. A good time for NAUFRP's reception will be Tuesday evening, especially if plans are to invite international guests/counterparts.

"Best Practices for Enhancing Communications in Natural Resource Curricula" breakout sessions. Terry Sharik reviewed three handouts for the breakout sessions. Terry sent emails in early October asking for input about what assessments have been made to measure gains and magnitudes. Keith Belli, Barry Goldfarb and Dave Newman are the moderators. Terry will synthesize and provide feedback. The results will be posted on the NAUFRP website.

Keith Argow, National Woodland Owners Association: Keith appealed for support for extension forestry programs. Face to face people are needed; RREA is needed. Extension is important to landowners and society because it promotes good forest management. Focus needs to be given to the special skills of extension forestry. NWOA wants to work with NAUFRP at the national and state level. There will be a new column in the NWOA magazine on extension forestry called "What's It To You" with focus on the accomplishments of extension forestry. There are four quarterly issues a year. Keith is soliciting articles. He believes there is a need to push for Smith Lever dollars devoted more to forestry.

The 2013 Family Forest Education Award was presented in two categories this year. A Comprehensive Award was presented to Cornell University's Cooperative Extension ForestConnect Program. An Individual Program Award was presented to the University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (formerly known as the Bugwood Center).

A Resolution recognizing Dr. Joyce Berry, Dean of the Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University was read and presented on her retirement.

Meeting adjourned.

Regional meetings were held.

*Approved  
October 8, 2014  
Salt Lake City, Utah*