March 25, 2008

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NAUFRP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
WASHINGTON D.C.
MARCH 3 - 5, 2008

Earlier this month, the NAUFRP Executive Committee held three very busy and productive meetings in Washington D.C.. Committee members met with Colien Hefferan and Dan Kugler from CSREES to discuss McIntire-Stennis, RREA and NRI funding. The Committee also met with representatives of the Forest Service to discuss enhanced collaborations between NAUFRP institutions and the Forest Service Research program. Representatives of the American Forest & Paper Association, Forest Landowners Association, National Association of State Foresters, and Society of American Foresters visited with the Executive Committee to provide information about mutual programs of interest.

Regional NAUFRP Chairs and Vice-Presidents for the various NAUFRP program areas gave reports including updates on the Farm Bill, NAUFRP Congressional funding requests for FY 09, planning for a summit on undergraduate education, the Forest Research Advisory Council report to the Secretary of Agriculture (see attachment), and the work of NASULGC's Board on Agriculture on formula and competitive funding requests for

the USDA FY 09 budget.

The Executive Committee was joined by Carlton Owen, President and CEO of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities for a roundtable session on "Monetizing Ecosystem Services: Can we Leverage Our Efforts".

Executive Committee members, spent a full day on Capitol Hill visiting with Members of Congress and staff making the case for enhanced funding for our key programs including, McIntire-Stennis, RREA and NRI. NAUFRP member visited more than 40 Congressional offices. Attached above are the NAUFRP one-pagers used for your Hill visits. Also, you may go to the following links to see the NASULGC position papers on these topics. http://www.nasulgc-bac.com/kb.htm; http://www.nasulgc-bac.com/documents/FY2009/KB/McIntire-Stennis.pdf; http://www.nasulgc-bac.com/documents/FY2009/KB/NRI.pdf; NAUFRP received strong words of support from the offices we visited in regard to the FY 09 budget for our key programs. The general consensus was that the proposed budget cuts contained in the Bush budget for McIntire-Stennis and other formula funds were "dead on arrival" in the Congress. Most agreed, however, that it will be an extremely tight budget year on Capitol Hill for USDA research programs because of increased funding demands in the USDA budget for rural housing programs and for nutrition program for low income families (Women, Infants and Children - WIC) due to the weakened economy.

At the conclusion of our "Deans on the Hill" day, NAUFRP co-hosted with NASULGC's ECOP Forestry Task Force a well attended and enjoyable Congressional reception in the Rayburn House Office Building. Approximately 75 Congressional staff and NAUFRP friends from the Forest Service, USDA and other forestry organizations were in attendance.

NAUFRP Research Committee Chair Mike Kelly, enjoys a "reflective" moment while listening to NAUFRP President George Hopper

address attendees at NAUFRP's Capitol Hill reception.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2008 NAUFRP Regional Meetings Southern
Chicago, IL
April 8-11, in conjunction with the Forest Landowners Association annual meeting Contact: Steve Bullard, Regional Chair steve.bullard@uky.edu

2008 NAUFRP Regional Meetings North Central-Midwest
St. Louis, Missouri
June 16-17 Crowne Plaza http://www.cpclayton.com/home/ Contact: Peg Gale, Regional Chair mrgale@mtu.edu

2008 NAUFRP Regional Meetings Western
University of Alaska, Fairbanks
June 18-20 Contact: Doug Piirto, Regional Chair dpiirto@calpoly.edu

AF&PA Dean's Tour
Tentative Date - October, 2008, Florida

NAUFRP Executive Committee and Reception
Reno, Nevada
November 4, 2008

NAUFRP Executive General Assembly
Reno, Nevada
November 5, 2008