



July 25th, 2007

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## NAUFRP Members:

I hope the following update on NAUFRP activities and actions in Congress on programs important to NAUFRP institutions will be useful to you. Thanks to all of you who participated in our recent membership wide conference calls. I hope you are having an enjoyable and productive summer and are making plans to be with us in Portland, Oregon for the 2007 NAUFRP General Assembly October 22-23rd.

George Hopper  
NAUFRP President

## Summary of July Conference Calls with NAUFRP Membership July 9 and 10, 2007

Participants: George Hopper, Alan Ek, Steven Daley Laursen, Bob Warren, Pat Reid, Jim Allen, Tim White, Keith Belli, David Newman, Jo Ellen Force, Jim Shepherd, Keith Blatner, Doug Piirto, Dan Keathley, John Adams, Perry Brown, Pat Layton, Hal Salwasser, John Yarrie, Greg Biging, Joe McNeel, Steve Whisent, Steve Bullard, Bob Edmonds, Jim Sweeney, Mike Kelly, Barry Goldfarb, JB Jett, Wendy Fink (NASULGC), Randy Nuckolls, Terri Bates

### I. FY08 FUNDING, Randy Nuckolls

1. Agriculture Appropriations: This has been an unusual year; typically the agriculture appropriations bill has been marked up by in the House by July but it has not yet. There have been no signals from the House Subcommittee about how the formula funds, NRI, and Special Grants will be treated. Some level of special grants will be restored but unlikely to previous levels. NRI will likely be well funded, at a minimum, at last year's level. Congress is unlikely to accede to the Administration's FY08 recommendation for McStennis. NAUFRP requested a continuing level of \$30 million in FY08 and indicated openness to a competitive element at that level. The \$30 million level will be hard to sustain but hopefully a portion of the increase might stay. Additional information will be sent as the House and Senate mark-ups roll out.
2. The Interior Appropriations bill has been approved in the House and the Senate is expected to mark-up it up next week. The Forest Service R&D program has received increases from both Houses over last year's level and the Administration's FY08 request. FS R&D should receive between \$10 and \$15 million in new money. Both Houses have each provided \$2.5 million for a new Climate Change Initiative. George Hopper and Randy had conversations in March with Ann Bartuska about a university role in this new program.

## **II. FARM BILL UPDATE, Steven Daley Laursen**

1. NAUFRP has been part of a "Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition" that has been successful in getting mutually supported language and provisions into several titles. NAUFRP signed on to several position papers as did NASUGLC. Currently, RREA will be reauthorized without contention. Language reinforcing the importance of McStennis is included. There is broad support from the coalition for these programs. NAUFRP members are encouraged to thank Coalition members they work with at state and local levels for their Farm Bill support on forestry issues (*TNC, NASF, SAF, AF&PA,;*). There appear to be no windfalls of new money (WTO) or reforms that would free up huge dollars for conservation programs. Despite comments from the USDA Secretary, it is not a given that a Farm Bill will pass in 2007; it may not occur until after the 2008 elections.
2. CREATE-21 issues relating to the Forest Service and Agricultural Research Service have been fought by the two agencies greatly modifying the original proposal as it appears in Farm Bill legislative language. The research structure at USDA will not be altered.  
A significant reorganization of USDA research does not seem likely. NAUFRP is working with FS on other proposals to bolster funding and support for various research programs.
3. Forest Service State and Private Forestry has recently announced plans to reorganize; it is unclear what the implications are. They are proposing a competitive element to cooperative programs that will increase from 15 to 65 percent over the next five years beginning in FY08. There is also direction to NFS and S&PF to reduce their overhead by 25% over the next two years. FS briefing materials will be sent to the listserve. NAUFRP will remain engaged in this and will invite S&PF leadership to the annual meeting.
4. There is an Energy Strategic Planning Meeting in Washington DC on Sept. 5-6, 2007. Steven was one of 80 invited to attend to identify top research and education priorities for USDA. Focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency, the meeting will develop a vision and goals, identify priorities and define a process to move forward. Steven has identified topics that relate including water, woody biomass, bio refineries and carbon trading. Input from NAUFRP members is welcome. Al Ek will represent NAUFRP at this meeting.

## **III. MCINTIRE-STENNIS STRATEGIC PLAN: Perry Brown**

Perry just completed a review of the Strategic Plan and sent it back to OSU with edits and comments. When these have been incorporated, Perry will circulate to all members in full layout for a final quick review before going to print.

## **IV. EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT PLANNING: Dan Keathley**

1. NAUFRP agreed in March 2007 that an undergraduate summit on forestry and natural resource education was needed.
2. The original plan was to do this in conjunction with the biennial Natural Resources education meeting which is scheduled for March 2008 at Oregon State University, but they were too far along to fit this in.
3. A funding mechanism, venue and dates for a stand alone meeting are needed.
4. We also need to identify people who are working regionally on enrollment and employment trends as well as undergraduate needs.
5. There was considerable discussion of topics (i.e. enrollment, workforce planning, curriculum:) and needs for this summit.
6. Dan has a list of individuals interested in working on a planning team.
7. Discussion on this will continue at the General Assembly meeting.
8. It was suggested that the Summit be held in conjunction with the 2008 NAUFRP meeting.
9. It was also recommended that Dan Keathley touch base with NASF; enrollment trends and other related issues were discussed at the recent Southern State Foresters Meeting (Fred Allen).

## **V. PORTLAND NAUFRP MEETING: George Hopper**

1. The Executive Committee will meet all day on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
2. The Partners' Reception will be the evening of October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
3. The General Assembly will meet all day Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Gail Kimbell, Forest Service Chief and Ann Bartuska, R&D Deputy Chief will attend; Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator, has been invited.
4. Western NAUFRP has suggested the following topics be considered for the Executive Committee and/or General Assembly: Farm Bill, Appropriations Status, McStennis Strategic Plan Implementation, NAUFRP Vision Statement and How it affects other partners, Accreditation, Work Force Planning, Strategies for Student Recruitment, Education Summit, and Enrollment Trends.

## **VI. OTHER**

1. NAUFRP's FY08 funding priorities to BAC will continue to be McStennis, RREA and NRI.
2. George Hopper has forwarded electronically a DOE letter (Federal Woody Biomass Group) concerning various DOE related opportunities; Pat Layton agreed follow-up on this for NAUFRP as this develops.

## **UPDATE SINCE CONFERENCE CALL**

The House Agriculture Committee finished its work last week on the 2007 Farm Bill and may bring the bill to the full House later this week with the hope of finishing the bill in the House before the August recess. The bill reported by the Committee makes some cost savings on commodity programs but reducing the ceiling on the income level for those eligible to receive support payments. The bill also expands several conservation programs. The summary of the Committee bill can be found at <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html>.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have now completed action on the FY 08 Ag Appropriations bills. Most of the news for NAUFRP programs was good. Below is a chart previously developed and sent to NASULGC members by its outside firm Cornerstone summarizing the FY 08 bills. NAUFRP is especially appreciative of the good funding levels in the Senate bill including \$30 million for McIntire-Stennis. The NAUFRP Executive Committee will continue to work with key members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and their staff on a final conference agreement that is as close to the higher Senate numbers for FY 08 as possible.

### **Excerpt from Cornerstone Report**

#### **Progress Securing the BAC's Priorities**

As you can see from the following table, the Senate provided larger increases than the House for many of the land-grant system's capacity (formula) programs and the National Research Initiative (NRI). On the other hand, the 1890s Research (Evans-Allen) and Extension programs, EFNEP, and the Insular Areas Resident Instruction Grants did better in the House mark than in the Senate.

<b>Line Item</b>	<b>F.Y. 2006</b>	<b>F.Y. 2007</b>	<b>House F.Y. 2008</b>	<b>Senate F.Y. 2008</b>
Evans-Allen Program	37.215	40.680	42.000	40.680
1890s Extension	33.529	35.205	37.000	35.205
1994 Institutions Research	1.029	1.544	1.544	1.544
1994 Institutions Extension	3.240	3.321	3.321	3.321
Institution Challenge Grants	5.423	5.423	5.423	5.423
Graduate Fellowship Grants	3.701	3.701	3.701	3.701
Expanded Food & Nutrition (EFNEP)	62.008	63.538	68.500	63.538
eXtension	1.485	1.485	1.485	1.485
Renewable Resources Extension Act	4.019	4.019	4.052	4.019

Resident Instruction - Insular Areas	0.495	0.495	1.000	0
Hatch Act	176.969	322.597	195.817	214.924.
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	22.008	30.008	23.318	30.008
Smith Lever 3(b) and 3(c)	272.973	285.565	281.429	285.762
National Research Initiative	181.170	190.229	190.229	244.000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$805.264 M</b>	<b>\$987.810 M</b>	<b>\$858.879 M</b>	<b>\$933.610 M</b>

Increase from F.Y. 2006 to F.Y. 2008 >>

**+\$53.615 M    +\$128.346 M**

Decrease from F.Y. 2007 to F.Y. 2008 >>

**-\$128.931 M    -\$54.200 M**

**Important Notes to Table:**

1. As noted in a previous report, the extraordinary increases in Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, and Smith-Lever in F.Y. 2007 were a result of congressional action to "park" \$183 million of CSREES earmarks within these and a few other formula funds. Thus, when comparing the F.Y. 2008 levels it is more appropriate to use the F.Y. 2006 baseline.

2. The Senate number for the NRI is \$244 million. Approximately \$42.7 million of that increase would come from the transfer of the Sec. 406 Integrated Activities programs into the NRI for administration. That leaves a net increase from the NRI of ≈\$11 million above F.Y. 2007.

3. The House report states that for the NRI: "The Committee directs the Secretary to provide the requested increase [\$19.170 million] for bioenergy and biobased fuels research from within funds provided."

**LINKS:**

Spreadsheet with all CSREES Accounts:

[http://www.nasulgc-bac.com/documents/FY2008/Senate\\_Mark.xls](http://www.nasulgc-bac.com/documents/FY2008/Senate_Mark.xls)

House Committee report language (preliminary), including earmarks:

[http://www.nasulgc-bac.com/documents/FY2008/House\\_Report.pdf](http://www.nasulgc-bac.com/documents/FY2008/House_Report.pdf)