

NAUFRP General Assembly
Madison, Wisconsin
November 2, 2016

Clark Seely, President, Society of American Foresters (SAF) and Matt Menashes, SAF CEO welcomed the NAUFRP General Assembly to Madison and the convention. Registration for the convention is strong this year-- over 1,600 -- and they anticipate over 500 students to attend. Both are higher than last year. They expressed their appreciation for NAUFRP's support.

2015 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Andy Ezell, seconded by David Newman, to approve the minutes from 2015 General Assembly meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The motion was adopted unanimously with no changes.

Keith Belli, NAUFRP President-Elect, presented (PowerPoint) an Overview of NAUFRP and recent accomplishments. This will be posted on the NAUFRP webpage.

Jim Allen, NAUFRP President, led introductions for all present (attendees list attached).

Steve Anderson, President, Forest History Society (FHS): Steve provided an update on FHS activities. The FHS has helped produce a new video on Carl Schenck called "America's First Forest" based on the book 'Cradle of Forestry'. It has been shown on PBS. The FHS has begun archiving materials for Weyerhaeuser. A new project is underway on 'Repeat Photography'. Please check out the FHS website and consider becoming an institutional member.

Jim Allen reviewed NAUFRP actions in 2015-2016 (handout). These include finalization of the revised McIntire-Stennis (McStennis) Strategic Plan which had funding support from the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA); re-design of the NAUFRP website which will have a lot of new capabilities; moving forward with the Diversity Logic Model with implications for NAUFRP member programs; meeting with Department of Energy (DOE) representatives and plans for a potential workshop at their flagship Boise Lab for bioenergy; continued work on funding and education issues. Future directions include implementing the McStennis Strategic Plan, a Forest Health Initiative led by John Hayes working through the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU). Jim would like to see expanded partnerships with the Prescribed Fire Alliance, DOE, and Farm Bill Forestry Coalition. He solicited other ideas for future directions. Terry Sharik said that North America is the least represented group in the International Forestry Student Association (IFSA). He is not sure why but encouraged NAUFRP institutions to develop student chapters; they will benefit from student exchange.

The nomination committee met last March. The President's office is a six-year commitment. The committee recommended David Newman (SUNY) who is currently Treasurer as President-Elect. A motion to nominate David Newman to be NAUFRP President-Elect was made by Andy Ezell and seconded by Bob Wagner. There was discussion and the vote was unanimous. New officers will be effective January 1.

Treasurer's Report, David Newman: David reviewed the Treasurer's financial report (handout) for 2015: \$150,000 in dues were invoiced to NAUFRP institutions and \$122,000 collected. There was a small deficit of about \$3,000 in 2015. Dues are based on McStennis annual allocations plus a \$750 base fee.

In 2016, income is expected to be about \$130,000; that includes dues from 57 institutions and income from the grant held at the University of Kentucky for McStennis Strategic Planning. David noted that the Executive Committee approved funding at last year's meeting for a Bench Marking Study at Purdue University. One issue that has come up related to accepting credit card payments for dues is monthly fees to protect credit card number users. This amounts to \$25/month or \$300 annually. Only five schools paid by credit card in 2016. The proposed budget for 2017 projects revenue and expenses very similar to 2016 actual numbers. Expenses are in line with previous years including those for the newly designed website; \$2,500 was previously built into the budget for this cost.

Katy Kavanagh, Texas A&M University, was nominated for the office of Secretary-Treasurer. The vote was called for and she was elected unanimously.

New officers also include Steve Shaler (University of Maine) as International Chair, Dale Greene (University of Georgia) as Southern Chair, Bob Wagner (Purdue University) At-Large, Alton Thompson 1890s Representative and Phil Tappe (University of Arkansas) who will rotate to become an At-Large Member.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls: The presidential race is tightening up; it could possibly split between the popular vote and electoral. Trump needs 64 electoral votes that Romney did not have. Trump must win Ohio, Florida, North Carolina, Nevada, Colorado, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. In the Senate, seven races are in play (WI, NC, PA, IN, MO,). Congress returns for a Lame Duck session on November 14th. The Continuing Resolution (CR) for appropriations ends on December 9th. There are a couple of options for funding including an Omnibus bill or mini-buses through FY18. Our primary programs are level at FY16 levels; the Agriculture and Food Research Initiatives (AFRI) has an increase. The 'must-do' for Congress in the Lame Duck session is appropriations. If the Senate goes Democratic expect Senator Bernie Sanders to chair the Health Committee. If Clinton is elected, Senator McConnell may try to move the Garland (Supreme Court) nomination. Key issues for next year are the Farm Bill and wildfire appropriations. At USDA, the capacity programs are under review evaluation.

Sonny Ramaswamy, Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA (by Skype): Sonny reminded NAUFRP that the FY17 RFAs are out. The CR is in effect until December. Areas of relevance for NAUFRP are water and ecosystem services. If you are not signed up for NIFA email alerts, do so; their target is 3,000. The 2018 budget is similar to that of 2017: AFRI has an increase. NIFA is pushing aggressively for increases in the capacity programs and they want a compelling argument and analysis for doing so. The report will be done in a few weeks and will go to Secretary Vilsak. RREA and McStennis are included in the review. The report will be widely shared including with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the White House Office of Science Technology Policy (OSTP). Sonny heard from his staff who participated on yesterday's conference call with the Executive Committee that there were NAUFRP concerns that its members were not engaged in the survey process. The TEconomy staff has full access to NIFA data and feel they are in good shape. Sonny should receive a preliminary draft report shortly; they are pressed on time to get it out. He will have a copy of the report sent to the NAUFRP leadership the night before it is released. Sonny noted a data science convention held in Chicago last October; there were over 300 participants. It was meant to be an ideas engine, seeking input on what 'big data' means to us and our enterprise. Sonny has talked for years about how decreptive some research facilities are. A Sightlines Report (<http://www.sightlines.com/insight/state-of-facilities-2016/>) was produced last year and they hope to incorporate a budget request to reinvigorate NIFA's infrastructure. Conversations have begun on the next Farm Bill. Sonny encouraged NAUFRP to track several titles with potential impact to its members especially Research and Energy. He

asked NAUFRP to connect with him; he wants to be on the same page with everyone. NIFA is also working with APLU and Cornerstone. He has been introduced to the Farm Bill Forestry Coalition and knows they have taken an interest in the Specialty Crops and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers programs. Sonny discussed the social science societies -- NIFA has honestly done a poor job supporting them. They have had an outside analysis of NIFA funding to social science report done that shows they are now making some progress. There have been conversations around the country about how to ensure the public is accepting of this knowledge. NIFA seeks input on areas they should be involved in. OSTP has an internal committee putting together a framework document for the next Administration outlining a path forward for federal agencies, particularly the Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy. Sonny advised NAUFRP to reach out to the subcommittee addressing natural resources and soil health issues; he advised engagement on multiple levels. The long-time Agriculture OMB Examiner, Noah Engleberg, is retiring and will be replaced by Nora Stein. Sonny encouraged NAUFRP to connect with her. Sonny asked who knows about the Centers of Excellence? A few indicated yes. Sonny says they are a great opportunity to create collaborations for AFRI dollars -- they might provide a bit of an edge in receiving AFRI funding. Jim Allen noted for Sonny that Janaki Alavalapati is NAUFRP's key representative on the Farm Bill. Questions/Discussion: Terry Sharik voiced concern about the way the capacity program surveys were distributed and that natural resources were not well represented. Sonny emphasized that TEconomy has access to all the data. They may be willing to do an addendum but he is satisfied they will cover everything. Sonny was asked to talk more about 'big data' -- it's been showing up these five years -- is this a NIFA focus? Sonny asked who has heard about this? Only several had. Sonny acknowledged they did not get the word out on this very well. NIFA is a very data driven agency. The focus of the Chicago meeting recognized that everyone has data needs, but different kinds. So, what are the tools needed? There will be an alert about available dollars to convene conversations about what else NIFA should be doing. Randy asked if there is an RFA or could NAUFRP submit a proposal? Sonny said yes and yes -- yes, NAUFRP can submit a RFA for a workshop and bring together the NAUFRP community on an issue. Jim Allen thanked Sonny for his advice, encouragement and his offer on the table for NAUFRP to provide input. Sonny asked about the status of the McStennis Strategic Plan and said it sounds like progress and good ideas. Randy asked Sonny about the Foundation for Food and Agriculture. Sonny advised contacting the Executive Director, Sally Rockey, who put together a compelling white paper on areas needed; no funding is available and you have to go the private sector -- it is a 1:1 match. Forestry and natural resources are missing. Jim Allen noted that a Forest Health Initiative led by John Hayes is winding its way through APLU. Sonny said he has seen John and is interested in it.

Food and Agriculture Education Information System (FAEIS): Terry Sharik reviewed the history of the NAUFRP enrollment survey and background on linking it to FAEIS in 2012. At that time 64 institutions were in the undergraduate database. There has been a transition in the FAEIS leadership since then and the number of institutions submitting data has decreased greatly. Terry met with Pete Ziegler, Project Leader and Andrew Meeks, Data Analyst last summer and they are here today at our invitation. Pete provided an introduction on FAEIS focusing on its objectives. It has been funded by NIFA since 1983 and is currently housed at Va Tech. Over time its mission has evolved and they now conduct both student and faculty surveys. Andrew reviewed how they collected data in the past, but they have had to rethink the process and seek input, realizing they need to better understand the structures at the institutional level. The on-line instrument is the primary means for collecting institutional data. They assume each institution has its own aggregated data and eventually they would like to extract that. Terry is going to generate a list of contacts at each institution and send so Deans and Directors know who is receiving and responding to the survey. Pete plans a short webinar on how to navigate the system and will get a note out about it. FAEIS also produces bi-monthly newsletters on regional topics. NAUFRP data for

undergraduates is good up to 2012. Between 2013-15, information came from 42 schools. Of these ??? 18 are flagged, 12 provided no contributions and 14 institutions provided information for only 1 or 2 years. Terry would like to work to backfill this information.

Update on SAF Diversity Logic Model, John Barnwell, SAF Government Affairs and External Relations Director; Jim Allen gave background on how the Logic Model evolved and NAUFRP's involvement in it. A first stage report has just been produced and is available to review. John encouraged everyone to look at the report. SAF feels the contractors did not deliver a Logic Model but that they did deliver baseline data information to build off of. The most important result is that it has generated NAUFRP and SAF interest. The contractors/SAF/NAUFRP will be briefing the FS Chief and R&D Deputy Chief. John hopes to capture momentum that the three partners can build upon together. Carol Redelsheimer said the observations were helpful. The biggest one for her is that although we say we want to make it work, we've been saying it a long time. It seems we have resources to make progress. A second observation is that while we have started initiatives that are good they are not enough. We need to ensure the conversations continue. John says it is a long process with incremental gains. There need to be some actions. Keith agreed; we've talked a lot – now some soul searching is needed about what we've actually done. The contractors are telling us we're talking a lot with no new actions. We need to identify actions. Jim said we've expended the initial funding but perhaps we can revisit this in March. Carol said the contractors emphasized, it is not only about projects and initiatives but changing cultures and managing that change. It's a process and its management. Terry said we've had an array of initiatives and thinks there is an opportunity to gather data on successes. This is complex; that's why it is not easy to understand. Nor do we understand the cultural side well. Forestry/natural resources are at the bottom with minorities in the workforce. John Hayes says it is ironic that the report says we are spending too much time talking about the issue without proposing any actions to take. We've talked about this for three years; it's frustrating not to have made material progress or have a framework. Is there a sense of direction that SAF will take? John Barnwell acknowledges the frustration. The contractor believes they delivered a Logic Model and there are aspects to that. We are doing some things (i.e. Saturday session at SAF). Carol agreed there are some action steps that can be taken. SAF is developing a professional oral history in partnership with the University of Wisconsin- Madison. There are opportunities through an interactive website, 'Evolving Forestry' and maybe funding through the North American Forest Partnership. Keith said we have not done well in monitoring and evaluating what is working in other disciplines. Jim reinforced this is important to NAUFRP. He had asked the contractors if they encountered any resistance to this type of change (diversity) in their Baton Rouge sessions and they said yes. They were concerned there is a perception that there is no 'buy-in'. Carol added that after the Baton Rouge workshop they came to learn that (some) of the participants did not understand why they were there. John said SAF will continue to huddle with NAUFRP. Kurt asked if the Forest Service will continue to support this? John said having the FS Deputy Chief request a briefing is a good step in that direction.

McIntire Stennis Strategic Planning Break Out Session, Red Baker: NIFA asked NAUFRP to develop a process for McStennis Strategic Planning and committed funds. A Steering Committee of 30 members convened in Baton Rouge last year. They designed a process and developed a questionnaire that lead to purposeful dialogue and interviews with 300 people. What they learned was very few people know very much about McStennis. This factor framed the Strategic Plan. It may not resemble the previous one. We have the Strategic Plan and a brochure on the NAUFRP webpage. Red would like all NAUFRP members to print these and share these widely. This afternoon's breakout sessions are structured around the three primary goals and are intended to

identify next steps. The small groups are asked to review the strategies under each goal and identify ideas, next steps and barriers. This will be summarized. Jim Allen encouraged all to help get the message out on McStennis.

2017 NAUFRP-National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) Family Forests Education Award, Andy Ezell, NAUFRP Extension Chair: Seven nominations were received this year for the award – a record! Several years ago the reviewers realized there are really two types of programs to consider and began evaluating nominations under the categories of either an Individual Program or Comprehensive Program. This year’s Individual program award was presented to the Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods Program, headed by Dr. Dave Mercker (accepted by Keith Belli). The comprehensive program award was presented to Pennsylvania State University and accepted by Jim Finley.

Resolutions were read in honor of Jim Allen’s service as President and recognizing the retirement of Tim White (University of Florida), long-active in NAUFRP serving as Treasurer and President.

Meeting Adjourned.

*Minutes Approved
November, 15, 2017
Albuquerque, NM*