

NAUFRP General Assembly
Albuquerque, New Mexico
November 15, 2017

Fred Cabbage, President, Society of American Foresters (SAF), welcomed the NAUFRP General Assembly to Albuquerque and the convention

Keith Belli (University of Tennessee) NAUFRP President, led introductions for all present (attached).

2016 General Assembly Meeting Minutes, Madison, Wisconsin: Terry Sharik (Michigan Tech University) noted a change was needed on page 3 (there are 67 NAUFRP institutions; the minutes indicated 64). A motion was made by Paul Winistorfer (Virginia Tech) to adopt the minutes with the noted change; it was seconded by Andy Ezell (Mississippi State University). The motion was adopted unanimously.

Treasurer Report, Katy Kavanagh (Texas A&M University): The NAUFRP treasury report (handout distributed) is positive for its operational budget. Income was higher than anticipated in 2016 due to grant and dues income; the final close out was \$124,556. It appears that the 2017 expenditures and income are in line with the approved budget. She anticipated about \$135,000 in dues will be collected. The Executive Committee discussed what amount should be kept as a reserve balance and determined it should be 35-50 percent of annual operations; they are comfortable that it is about there now. Katy noted the costs associated with dues paid by credit card. The budget proposed for 2018 was approved by the Executive Committee yesterday. A motion was made by Dale Green (University of Georgia) to accept the Treasurer's Report and proposed 2018 budget; second by Allen Rutherford (Louisiana State University). The motion was approved unanimously.

NAUFRP Overview, David Newman, President-Elect (SUNY), presented an Overview of NAUFRP and recent accomplishments (PowerPoint). He noted we have a new webpage and want to keep it current; he solicited material and photos. The Executive Committee has talked about holding a legislative breakfast on the Hill as part of its March meeting. The work of the committees and regional groups was described in detail throughout the PowerPoint. A key legislative issue that is about to begin playing out is the reauthorization of the Farm Bill. NAUFRP is an active participant in the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition. As part of the new McIntire Stennis Strategic Plan, NAUFRP realized a communications strategy was necessary and Mary Watzin was appointed to head up an Ad Hoc Communications Committee. The PowerPoint can be found on the NAUFRP webpage (www.naurp.org).

NAUFRP New Efforts: Keith Belli asked the body for ideas and issues that NAUFRP can consider for new efforts in 2018. This might include input on 'communications strategy'. Communications was a key goal in the recent McIntire-Stennis (McStennis) Strategic Plan. It became apparent during the strategic plan development process that few people/groups recognized or understood what the McStennis program is. The North American Forest Partnership (NAFP) has helped identify a path forward for addressing this. It will include a communications brand framework, strategy and implementation plan (part of the breakout sessions this afternoon). Another possible area to focus on in 2018 are the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Forest and Forest Products Research and Development in the 21st Century (October 2017). In the area of diversity and inclusion, a Diversity/Logic Model is still viable -- we can continue to do things that promote diversity of thought and attitudes in our programs. NAUFRP has a responsibility to lead on this and not to wait for SAF. Keith would like to collect stories of diversity projects that work with the idea of developing a clearing house on the website. Several people named projects at their institutions that could be used (Janaki Alavalapati (Auburn University), Allen Rutherford, Keith Gilles (University of California, Berkeley)). George Hopper (Mississippi State University) believes there is a teachable moment on campus right now to take advantage of. Terry Sharik said we are

making gains in education and perhaps it is time for both a new 'Keathley Report' and to revisit NAUFRP's Undergraduate Education Strategic Plan. Keith would like to continue to build and sustain strategic relationships thru NAUFRP extension activities (i.e., develop an ongoing list of partner meetings like the National Council of Forestry Association Executives (NCFAE) and National Association of State Foresters (NASF) events to have NAUFRP representation at). Another issue to work on might be the STEM designation for forestry CIP codes by the Department of Homeland Security; this affects student visas. We are already working with APLU to advance a Forest Health Initiative (FHI) led by John Hayes (Colorado State University). A white paper has been developed and the next step is to identify a writing team. The FHI will have to go thru an APLU approval process where it has already gained certain recognition. John will circulate an outline of the white paper through the listserv with a request for potential writers. The USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is currently sponsoring Listening Sessions to ascertain what issues the agency should focus on. NAUFRP has had some representation at these. Comments can still be submitted online. Keith has previously sent a request to the listserv encouraging NAUFRP members to submit comments and he will do so again following this meeting. If you are in agreement on the FHI please respond – if NAUFRP representatives and/or their faculty do so, there could be a couple of hundred comments that provide support for NIFA to look at forest health as a national issue. Otherwise please submit your own ideas on what NIFA's forestry focus should be. The deadline is December 1st. The Blue Ribbon report recommendations said the US Forest Service and other federal agencies should set national forest priorities. Keith believes we should be at the table. A NAUFRP group will meet with the US Forest Service Research and Development (FS R&D) leadership team tomorrow and plans to discuss this with them. We are also working on the issue of ensuring NAUFRP institutions spend down McStennis dollars; unspent carryover dollars are returned to the federal government (not USDA). NAUFRP sponsors and organizes annual federal agency visits; this effort has paid many dividends. We have met with NIFA, FS, and the Department of Energy (DOE) program leaders. We've made it a point to do this at least once (March Executive Committee) if not twice a year. All NAUFRP representatives are invited to attend the March Executive Committee meeting in Washington, DC. Keith believes we need to be very visible otherwise we are 'out of sight and out of mind'. Our committees used to have regional representatives but we have fallen away from that. Keith asked folks to consider returning to this again. It might be a good opportunity to involve faculty in NAUFRP activities/issues at the regional level.

Terry Sharik introduced Pete Ziegler, Project Leader of the USDA Food and Agriculture Education Information System (FAEIS), and reviewed the history of the NAUFRP enrollment data he began collecting in the 1990's when enrollments were dropping dramatically. NAUFRP took it upon itself to initiate the survey which Terry has led. The data highlighted the low numbers of female and minority students in NAUFRP programs and this began driving the diversity discussion. We have begun to integrate our data with FAEIS but only about half of NAUFRP institutions are responding. Terry is working with Pete to reach the right people at the university level and to simplify the process. Terry/Pete was asked if the minority codes are consistent across institutions. The response was there are variations and they are trying to massage these. A five-year trend report is in progress. Other questions were who is using the data? Is it worth it? Do we use it in recruiting? Responses: APLU and USDA certainly use the data. Some use it for multi- year planning. George said when enrollments are okay or increasing no one is looking for the information; it is sought only when there is trouble.

2017 NAUFRP-National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) Family Forests Education Award: Andy Ezell, NAUFRP Extension Chair, presented the 2017 Award to Oregon State University for their outstanding comprehensive educational program to improve management of family-owned forests. Jim Johnson accepted the award on behalf of Oregon State.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP General Counsel: It is a very interesting time in Washington now. All focus is on passing a tax bill; eliminating Obamacare plays into it. Extra revenue is needed to stay within the spending caps. The House and Senate tax bills would go to 2024/25; they are kicking the can down the road because \$1.5 trillion is going to be added to the national debt. The House is supposed to vote today; the Senate hopes to pass their bill before the Thanksgiving break. The two bills would then be conferenced in December.

The higher education community is concerned with several provisions in the tax bill. Randy does not know why higher education was singled out but the community is actively pushing back. Appropriations are in a holding pattern. The Continuing Resolution goes through December 8th but will likely be extended. This means McStennis and similar programs are funded at current levels and funds are being depleted subject to the sequestration process. Another fight on the debt limit is looming. Deals will be needed between the White House and Congress to raise budget control caps. NIFA is going to push out quarterly McStennis payments. January is the target for AFRI proposals. Randy advised NAUFRP members to be mindful of how they are spending McStennis dollars. He urged Ali Mohamad (NIFA) and Catalino Blanche (NIFA) to alert NAUFRP earlier about unspent program funds. Randy encourages NAUFRP members to educate their campus public affairs representatives on their programs that receive federal funding. Keith added that when the agriculture deans/CARET advocate in Washington, forestry is often only mentioned as an afterthought.

Sonny Ramaswamy, Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA (by Skype): Sonny discussed the 2018 budget. There will likely be a full year CR. He has been meeting with Senate and House staff to ensure NIFA funding needs are met. He hopes for better in FY19 -- they have not finished their budget and are waiting for OMB pass backs. He also hopes to have a regular process next year with a boost for competitive and capacity funding. NIFA is working with various groups on the 2018 Farm Bill. APLU has chosen not to sign on to the Supporters of Agriculture Research (SOARs) letter. Sonny is not sure why. He wants to seek authorization for the SOARS recommendations. House Agriculture Chairman Conway wants to begin the legislative process in early 2018 but Sonny is not sure it will get done before 2019 due to mid-term elections. George Hopper asked Sonny's advice, based on his experience and vantage point, on how to increase funding for programs NAUFRP representatives direct. Sonny said engagement is key -- you need a good way of demonstrating impacts and connecting with the public. Demonstrate to the public you are being responsible. He said the forestry enterprise is not faring badly. Adrian Leighton (Salish Kootenai College) pointed out to Sonny that the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition includes a recommendation that tribal colleges become eligible for McStennis with more funding made available to minority serving institutions. Mary Watzin noted the Blue Ribbon Commission Report calls for a national forestry research agenda and urged Sonny to recognize that universities want to be part of that effort. Sonny says yes he knows and assures NAUFRP is the lead on this. He will alert his staff to communicate with NAUFRP.

McIntire-Stennis Branding Strategy: Mary Watzin and Will Novy-Hildesley (via Skype), North American Forest Partnership, provided a background on steps taken to date on developing a communications strategy to profile and 'brand' the McIntire Stennis Program. Breakout sessions followed and the full group reconvened to report out. Will's last word to the group was you are not going to get there by defending the last 25-50 years. The name McStennis is not helping - it doesn't connote/connect to anything. You want to work to come up with a name that people will automatically know what it refers to. If they don't get it, we don't get it.

Future of Forestry Education, Pat Stephens, Stephen F. Austin State University: The last comprehensive survey on forestry education was done in 1963. Pat has a McStennis grant and will be undertaking this work again. It will either be done by interviews or focus groups. She would like NAUFRP's vision for the future of forestry education -- what needs to be addressed in future curriculum.

Meeting Adjourned.

*Minutes Approved
October 3, 2018
Portland, Oregon*