

NAUFRP GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
Kentucky International Convention Center
Louisville, KY
October 30, 2019

Welcome and Introductions: David Newman, NAUFRP President (Attendee List attached)

NAUFRP Business Meeting

2018 General Assembly Meeting Minutes from Portland, Oregon: The draft 2018 minutes were previously distributed through the NAUFRP listserv, posted on the webpage and hardcopies made available at this meeting. A motion was made by Chris Nowak (SUNY) and seconded by Allen Rutherford (Louisiana State University) to approve the draft October 3, 2018 General Assembly Minutes. The motion was approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report, Katy Kavanagh: A Treasurer's report was distributed which included a final reconciliation of 2018 Income and Expenses, 2019 Income and Expenses projected through the end of the calendar year and a 2020 budget that was approved by the Executive Committee at their meeting yesterday. Katy noted that the Executive Committee is considering building a new component into the NAUFRP webpage that will provide a list of individuals by expertise for federal agencies to draw upon when appointing grant review panels. She also noted that NAUFRP is growing a reserve and the Executive Committee discussed soliciting ideas for special funding projects. The 2019 budget was pretty much on target; the 2020 budget stays consistent with it. Ted Howard (University of New Hampshire) pointed out that the interest rate on the NAUFRP savings account provides a low return. There has been previous discussion about instruments and/or alternative investments that would provide a higher yield. Katy will work with David on this in the new year; it makes sense. There was a call to adopt the 2020 budget by Andrew Storer (Michigan Tech University), seconded by Ted Howard. The budget was adopted.

NAUFRP By-Laws, Katy Kavanagh: Katy has led a small group (Linda Nagel (Colorado State Univ.), Keith Gilles (Univ. of California, Berkeley), David Newman (SUNY)) over the last year that has reviewed and recommended changes to the NAUFRP By-Laws. They were last amended in 2012. She reviewed the more significant changes: some are minor or simply editorial. As required, these proposed changes were sent to the listserv on October 9, 2019 – 20 days in advance of this meeting. A two-thirds quorum is required to adopt these changes. Katy Kavanagh moved to accept the recommended changes to the NAUFRP By-Laws; Don Hodges (University of Tennessee) seconded. In favor of adoption: 29 votes which constitutes a quorum. The motion was adopted.

Overview of NAUFRP Activities, Janaki Alavalapati, NAUFRP President-Elect (Auburn University): Janaki reviewed (PowerPoint) NAUFRP's organizational structure and recent accomplishments focusing on the

one-pagers member institutions have been asked to develop highlighting McIntire-Stennis projects and successes. There was discussion about how they would be used. Keith Gilles said they plan to send theirs to the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) representatives to distribute in their meetings on the Hill. Randy urged NAUFRP representatives to use the one-pagers to educate governmental affairs people on campus. Dale Greene (University of Georgia) does this and further urged NAUFRP representatives to educate those people representing their institutions in DC. David Newman noted that Mary Watzin spent considerable time developing the template for McIntire-Stennis institution projects/programs. We need to 'sell' our programs and McStennis. Use your communications people to get out a message of what great things are done with your McStennis programs. Dale said the one-pagers are a perfect exercise for PhD students; make it a part of annual evaluation for faculty that have McStennis projects. Janaki reviewed additional NAUFRP accomplishments: update of the Science Fundamentals of Forest Biomass Carbon Accounting letter (September 2019) circulated among European scientists for signature; 2) 'Forest Sector Research Capacity' *Journal of Forestry* article, May 2019 and the APLU-NAUFRP Forest Health Initiative under development. He was asked on the last if the USFS has been engaged; Janaki assured they were very much so. New Efforts: David Newman addressed ongoing and new activities for NAUFRP. He emphasized the McStennis one-pagers and the intent to place them on the NAUFRP webpage. The template can be circulated again. A new chair for the Communications Committee is needed. One option discussed was for Red Baker to become Chair and Bob Wagner to take over the Research Chair from Red. David would like regular notices to the membership thru the listserv of what we are doing. The Executive Committee plans to meet in DC on March 2-3; it is an open meeting. He referenced the Forest Research National Summit held in Shepherdstown, West Virginia meeting in 2006; he is the only current Executive Committee member who attended that. It's been almost 15 years but it was very meaningful gathering. Both David and Janaki encouraged member involvement in NAUFRP. This accomplishments report will be on the webpage.

Washington Report, Randy, Nuckolls, Washington Counsel: Randy seconded David's message on the Shepherdstown Summit and the value of a similar one occurring in the future. He noted that APLU President Peter McPherson sent a letter to the Hill on appropriations last week recommending McStennis funding at \$41 million; it is currently funded at \$36 million. The House passed bill puts McStennis at \$38 million; it is flat in the Senate. AFRI is up \$30 million in the House bill. Randy expects agriculture appropriations will end up in a minibus bill (combination of several appropriations bills). The Senate has less funding to divvy up. Budget caps are eliminated. The real political fight is over funding for the Wall. He doesn't believe an agreement will be reached before Thanksgiving. There may be a Continuing Resolution carrying current funding levels thru February or March 2020. Next year is going to be mired in election politics. USDI F&W CRU's current year funding is \$18.4 million; it is flat in the Senate and up at \$24 million in the House. There are a lot of vacancies at USDA and USDI. Randy urged NAUFRP members to encourage their colleagues to become involved with the National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP) a 'sister' association. They are working

on a Strategic Plan and moving towards more aggressive advocacy. The agriculture community (ag deans) has been promoting legislation sponsored by Senator Durbin (D-IL). The 'America Grows Act' calls for a five percent funding increase over five years for agriculture research. A letter has been circulated asking for organizations to sign on their support. Randy will follow-up and ensure NAUFRP is on it. Today the House Rules Committee will vote on setting a procedure for the Impeachment Process. He advised to keep an eye on the Supreme Court; it will have a big sway over the 2020 election and will likely be forced to make a ruling. There may be long-term implications for separation of powers and issues working their way through the court system (ACA/Obama Care, abortion, ...). Another significant issue is NAFTA. The economy will matter in the election. In summary, Randy urged NAUFRP members to engage locally with Congressional staff and ensure McStennis/your programs are on your university president's priority list. Next year we need to re-engage with NIFA. They have lost two-thirds of their workforce. There have been a lot of communications about spending down McStennis funds. At one point over \$4 million of unspent McStennis dollars were at risk of being returned to the US Treasury; that amount has been reduced to under \$400,000. It is essential to obligate these funds earlier or they are at risk to being lost and make for a poor case in arguing for increased funding levels.

SAF Welcome: John McNulty, President, Tammy Cushing, Vice President and Terry Baker, CEO, Society of American Foresters: John and Terry reported on SAF activity and diversity efforts (Best Practices, new college guide, engaged with PLT, co-hosted with Michigan State University a carbon forum continuing education course, SAF staffing, membership communications). Paul Winistorfer (Virginia Tech) asked SAF to consider organizing/hosting a wood products national meeting with the Forest Products Society. David wanted to discuss NAUFRP feedback on the recent survey related to SAF consideration of offering the Certified Forester (CF) exam to graduating university students. Hans Williams (Stephen F. Austin State University) is on the SAF CF committee. The Executive Committee met and discussed this with Dave Lewis yesterday. From that discussion, there appears to be no definitive action at this point other than a potential pilot program. David asked the group to voice their questions and concerns. George Hopper (Mississippi State University) thinks a lot more discussion is needed especially around what is happening with national certification (national certification exam). He feels very strongly on this. Accreditation deals with curriculum. This is an opportunity for us to evaluate and assess how our curriculum is doing; it will also help with professional creditability. George noted a lot of people have said they missed the survey. Maybe there is a chance to re-survey (resend the survey) and see if there is a difference of opinion. Whatever we do, George thinks NAUFRP should take the lead. Tammy is at Oregon State University and though she doesn't sit on the CF committee she feels there is no intention of requiring the certification exam. Accreditation and Certification are not at all linked. Hans, NAUFRP's representative on CF committee, said the idea was to see if there was interest from the universities. The survey was brief and time frame short because the committee's deadline was December. The intent is to be transparent. A pilot is being discussed the thinking is this will move the marker towards increased professionalism. They are aware of the concerns that the survey was short on timing and may reopen it, however, they

are not sure who responded to the first one. If they do send it out again, it would be a short time frame. It is not intended to be statistical. David affirmed NAUFRP's interest in re-sending the survey. Andrew Storer (Michigan Tech University) is not sure what is being proposed; what would be different? He is also concerned about the timing of the survey; it was a tight timeframe before and he would want broader input from his faculty. It is an important issue that affects students, faculty and would-be employers. Matt McBroom (SFA) asked whether there have been any queries or discussion of how this would relate to State registration exams. John McNulty said he has not had that conversation with Dave Lewis, chair of the CF committee. Hans acknowledged George Hopper and Andrew Storer have made a good point: do employers see value in having certification. He agrees with Keith Belli that government agencies do not have an interest in this kind of credentialing. John McNulty noted he is as an employer and sees value in CF but the way it is currently structure they are not getting students. He feels a CF would make a difference after 4-5 years of work experience. Keith Gilles (University of California, Berkeley) noted a parallel study of certified arborists. Hans said they have not really looked closely, but have talked generally about the International Society of Arborists (ISA) exam/certification. ISA does not have market value. Keith Gilles said we can learn from the ISA nation-wide experience. Other comments about ISA: they have buy in and the key to ISA is state requirements.

Scott Angle, Director, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (by phone/Zoom): Director Angle discussed the agency's relocation to Kansas City. He will split his time evenly between there and DC. Six agency liaisons have been named, including Eric Norland; they will remain in DC. They are beginning to rebuild by first looking at their business and organization structure. He will be at the upcoming APLU Annual Meeting and begin soliciting how the agency can be responsive to the land-grant community. He invited NAUFRP's input. They will be taking input through the end of January. His view is this is a unique opportunity in government to make changes. They will be hiring about 200 people and want NAUFRP members' faculty and students to apply. He will try and communicate as much as possible. This is a critical time for communications. They plan to have 350 employees in three years placed in Kansas City; 52 have made the move. Angle expects the agency to be in reasonable shape by Spring 2020 but it will be at least one year before they are fully staffed.

Eric Norland, NIFA, National Science Liaison: NIFA staff were first informed on August 8, 2018 about the agency's relocation; they read it in a press release. First question for all was 'where is my job'. It was very difficult to compete against colleagues. Six liaison positions were established and Eric is responsible for 'Natural and Environmental Science'. Initially they were going to give up all program responsibilities but Eric has RREA in DC for now. With staffing changes, he thinks a NAUFRP Reviewer data base would be valuable. They will be hiring 70-80 program leaders who won't have background. This would make the data base very important. Eric said they are rebuilding and reconstituting NIFA; he hopes they can figure out what they need. This is an opportunity for NAUFRP to tell NIFA what it needs and wants. NIFA has not dealt with wood or fish/wildlife xxx yet. Eric again called on NAUFRP to provide ideas about feedback up front on Structure as to what it should look like, as well as NPLs

and topics of research within the next three months – end of January. Eric will tract more closely and communicate with us. David Newman referenced the on-going question for NAUFRP – where does natural resources fit within NIFA? Could there be a stronger emphasis on natural resources? Eric said when Roger Beachy was there, AFRI was about grand challenges. Today it is about sustainable agricultural systems; you need to find yourselves in there. Randy says an important topic is continuing capacity funds. Initially the America Grows Act did not include them. It would increase ag research funding from \$200 to \$400 million and not all would be competitive dollars. George Hopper reiterated that we have had this discussion about natural resource and forestry research in NIFA forever. He would like to see an analysis of the AFRI dollar percentage going to natural resources. Eric advises to choose words carefully regarding sustainable agriculture. George wants a committee and process to move and be at the table. In addition he thinks we need to say what practices we want changed. This is a big opportunity to take advantage of and incorporate 'Best Practices'.

Daniel Cassidy, NIFA Program Leader, Forestry Research and Education: Daniel is responsible for the McIntire-Stennis (McStennis) Cooperative Forestry Program. He noted it has been a rough couple of years for the agency. He has sent out a packet stating what he needs for McStennis. He is allowed 30 days to review proposal but his actual turnaround is 15 days. The McStennis funding draw down experience has been a very useful effort. At one point there was over \$4 million in undrawn funds subject to return to the US Treasury; now it is down to \$400,000. They will keep up with this on a quarterly basis in the future. Two tribal colleges are newly eligible for McStennis funds (Salish Kootenai College and Leech Lake Tribal College) They need a letter from their Governors for a first year allocation. Daniel reviewed that McStennis funds are state funds that the Governor determines what allocations are when there is more than one eligible institution. They have discussed reviewing the allocations with the Governors every five years. Daniel wants to send the one-pagers to the Governors to demonstrate what is being accomplished at the institutions through McStennis. Daniel announced LaTosha Lyte is leaving NIFA at the end of the month for the US Forest Service. Randy asked Daniel if the communications that go to the Governors outline McStennis criteria and matching requirements; Daniel says yes that is explained. He is available to come and visit schools.

Steve Anderson, President, Forest History Society: Steve gave an update on the Forest History Society (FHS). They have completed the move to their new facility adjacent to the Duke University campus.

Workshop/Breakout: Best Practices in K-12 Outreach and Recruitment into Forestry Programs,
Andrew Storer, NAUFRP Education Chair: Andrew explained the purpose of the breakout session is to develop an overview of activities by forestry programs engaged with K-12 communities and how they are evaluated to use for brainstorming new approaches. The results will be summarized and circulated.

Alex Friend, Deputy Chief, USDA Forest Service Research & Development: Alex has been in the job almost a year. He wants to provide an update today and discuss ways to collaborate; he is aware of the questions around indirect costs and tuition and wants to address those. He said there is a real tilt within the agency/USDA towards active forest management and feels this is a good opportunity to get some things done. He wants to build collaborative space. Alex's vision for R&D is enhanced research rigor and its impact on the whole agency through effective delivery. He discussed the agency's guiding principles for research and the priorities set by the Forest Service Chief. For years most of the agency's budget has been going to cover fire suppression costs. The recent Congressional fix is positive but just getting underway. There was a question about the Joint Fire Science Program. Alex says the budget problem there is a leadership issue. Bob Wagner noted the erosion of R&D capacity and the proposal that he, Red, Michael Goergen (US Endowment) have been working on to stem that erosion and rebuild capacity. A key mechanism towards solving this is through the shared stewardship of our research and development resources. Alex shares this idea and wants to 'sit down' and determine what are the win-wins and niches for all of us and then build on our strengths. We need to look for other/new models for working with government, industry, academics. Alex we have been successful in restoring R&D dollars; we have Congress to thank for that.

Carlton Owen, President and CEO, U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities: David Newman recognized that Carlton is to receive the SAF Gifford Pinchot Medal award tomorrow. Carlton provided background on the Endowment noting our whole (forestry) sector has declined. There has been a loss of over 500,000 employees. We are doing a poor job of making people understand what forestry is about; we need to reach across lines. Markets matter and illustrated an example using water. Carlton believes in leverage and asked what can we do to move the needle on a short-term project, for example, mass timber. The Endowment helped to create two public check-offs (softwood lumber and paper) which have led to real change. An audacious project they are currently contributing to is a biomass torrefaction plant being built in John Day, OR scheduled to open in 2020. They sponsored the first Forest Innovation Reviews (FIRz) forum at the University of Georgia in September 2019; the next will be sponsored by Oregon State University in June 2020. FIRz is intended to explore innovative ideas to solve significant challenges to the forestry/natural resource communities. They helped found the Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention (SFLR) program and are handing it off to the American Forest Foundation for further development. The Endowment is an innovator and is not about running long-term programs. The proposed R&D Summit is a recommendation that came out of the Blue Ribbon Commission of Forest and Forest Products: Research and Development in the 21st Century. The goal is to bring leaders of forestry together. The delay in moving this forward is due to the NIFA move; they are going forward with or without NIFA. Paul Winistorfer (Virginia Tech) asked what the Endowment's most successful projects are: Carlton says the check-off, despite hate mail. It has brought \$40 million for research and promotion Paper is going to die. Hardwood needs the support worse than any of the industries. FS R&D is another problem. Residual wood products need markets. We need consortiums to deal with these issues and problems; it was done with forest

health. Carlton believes 4-6 exceptional natural resource universities with feeder schools are needed to create a new model but doesn't know how you do it given state structures. He would rather do it intentionally than by attrition. Bob Wagner asked how do we get industry engaged? Carlton says he hasn't figured that out yet. The Canadian industry puts in seven times more resources than the US. Scandinavia similarly. Maybe new products? Repurposing mills that have closed?

2019 NAUFRP-NWOA Family Forest Education Award Presentation, Tammy Cushing, Director, National Woodland Owners Association and Jeff Stringer, NAUFRP Extension Chair. Presented to the University of Georgia for their comprehensive program.

Resolution: A resolution was read on behalf of Dr. Mike Messina (Penn State University) upon his recent retirement. He served as North Eastern Representative on the Executive Committee for over eight years.

Meeting Adjourned.

***Minutes Approved by the
NAUFRP General Assembly
October 28, 2020***