

Draft

NAUFRP Executive Committee Minutes

March 5-6, 2019

Washington, D.C.

Executive Committee Attendees: David Newman, President (SUNY-ESF); Keith Belli, Immediate Past President (Clemson University); Janaki Alavalapati, President-Elect (Auburn University); Katy Kavanagh, Secretary-Treasurer (Oregon State University); John Hayes, BAC Representative (Colorado State University); Robert Burns, Northeast Regional Chair (West Virginia University); Andrew Storer, Education Chair (Michigan Tech University); Red Baker, Research Chair (University of Florida); Dale Green, Policy Chair (University of Georgia); Hans Williams, Southern Regional Chair (Stephen F. Austin State University); Jeff Stringer, Extension Chair (University of Kentucky); Mark Rickenbach, North Central Regional Chair (University of Wisconsin-Madison); Linda Nagel, Western Regional Chair (Colorado State University); Bob Wagner, At-Large Member (Purdue University); Kamran Abdollahi, Diversity Chair (Southern University); Adrian Leighton, Diversity Chair, (Salish Kootenai College); Keith Gillis, At-Large Member (University of California-Berkeley); Stephen Shaler, International Chair (University of Maine); Mary Watzin, At-Large Member and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Communications (North Carolina State University); Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP General Counsel; Terri Bates, NAUFRP Executive Liaison

NAUFRP Members: Dennis Becker (University of Idaho), Phil Tappe (University of Arkansas)

Guests: Buck Vandersteen, CARET Liaison for NAUFRP (Executive Director, Louisiana Forestry Association), Eric Norland, National Program Leader for Forest Resource Management, USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA); Ali Mohamad, Director, Division of Environmental Systems, NIFA; Latasha Lyte, NIFA; Wendy Fink, Association of Public Land Grant Universities; Keith Owens, National Association of University Wildlife and Fisheries Programs (Oklahoma State University)

October 2, 2018 Executive Committee minutes: The draft minutes from the October meeting had been previously sent out for review and comment. A motion was made by Adrian Leighton to accept the minutes; a second was made by Hans Williams. Discussion: Linda Nagel provided suggested changes and comments late yesterday. These will be incorporated. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report, Katy Kavanagh: Katy discussed the final report on the 2018 budget year that was handed out. Over \$113,000 was carried over into 2019. A budget for 2019 was approved at the fall meeting. Dues for 2019 are currently being collected. David commented that NAUFRP appears to be in good shape financially.

Policy Report, Janaki Alavalapati: Dale Green is taking over as the new Policy Committee Chair. Janaki has served in this position for at least 8 years and is now the NAUFRP President-Elect. He briefly discussed the final passage of the Farm Bill. It includes the Timber Innovation Act which he believes will change the future of forestry. The Natural Resource Management Act has recently passed both houses of Congress with overwhelming bi-partisan support although it has not been signed by the president yet. It will expand national parks and recreational areas as well as permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Education Report, Andrew Storer: Andrew noted that Terry Sharik, who has served as the long-time Education Chair, has retired. Terry was working on various issues such as seeking NAUFRP membership in IFSA which Andrew will continue. Terry will continue as a research professor at Michigan Tech where he will complete several manuscripts he is working on. Andrew believes an Education Clearing

House is feasible for the NAUFRP website where relevant documents can be placed and added to over time. Linda asked if Terry will continue to provide data to FAEIS? Dale wonders about providing FAEIS with NAUFRP feedback. He does not see the benefits. Keith pointed out they have provided periodic reports in the past; there may be specific reports we want and request from FAEIS. Andrew will talk to David about his role with FAEIS. Mary said the FAEIS data for North Carolina State University is wrong for the last two years; it's a great data base only if it is correct. She cannot figure out who is reporting for NCSU. Wendy said FAEIS is connecting with the colleges of agriculture. Wendy will convey there needs to be two way communications with NAUFRP; she is attending a FAEIS meeting tomorrow. Let her know if there are 2-3 reports NAUFRP would particularly like. Linda said a couple of years ago Terry had a FAEIS list of school contacts; can we get that again? Andrew said he will work on obtaining and updating that list. Andrew will work to see NAUFRP involved with SAF accreditation; he believes the SAF accreditation program needs work. There was discussion about having a workshop on transformative soft skills at a NAUFRP meeting to look at what institutions are doing and how to incorporate that into programs. It would also be good to develop a better understanding of how high school students learn about forestry and natural resource careers. David brought up Lloyd Ireland's proposal from last year to develop a student ethics survey. Lloyd would like NAUFRP's support. He plans to send it out soon. Dale asked what level they are aiming for -- seniors vs. freshmen will yield different readings. David said they are planning to go nationwide and want us to 'advertise' it; they are not seeking money. We would direct people to the survey site; the results will come back to the institutions. Dale believes they should say upfront that they will share this information. John asked Andrew about plans to increase forestry and natural resource awareness/emphasis in K-12 programs. Wendy said the timing might be right. APLU is sitting on cash for special projects like this. There is a meeting in two days about this and it might be a point of collaboration. Keith said we don't want to duplicate Project Learning Tree (PLT). Dale noted PLT has moved to SFI. Mary believes there is a gap in PLT at the high school level.

Extension Report, Jeff Stringer: Jeff has continued NAUFRP representation with the northern forestry extension coordinators. He attended their annual meeting December 5-6, 2018 at Grey Towers in Pennsylvania. NAUFRP has also been asked to participate in the upcoming video conference of the newly established North Central forestry extension coordinators group and Jeff is planning to participate. The majority of the Extension committee's time has been focused on exploring options to re-structure and maintain Southern Region Extension Forestry (SREF) cooperative. This effort was brought about by the de-funding of SREF by the Association of Southern Rural Extension Directors (ASRED) that had provided base funding for SREF since its inception. SNAUFRP leaders and Jeff will meet in the fall with southern forestry extension coordinators and partners including USFS Region 8 to determine the interest in maintaining SREF and developing a restructure to facilitate its continued existence. Jeff provided a written report.

International Report, Steve Shaler: Tom DeLuca is a member of the committee and Robert Burns will also represent the northeast. The South and North Central regions will solicit volunteers and let Steve know who they are. There is an upcoming meeting of the Pacific Rim countries. Andrew Storer will be attending and keep the International Committee abreast of any developments. IUFRO is meeting in Brazil later this year. Steve will be attending as will Linda and Robert. Steve provided a written report.

Research Report, Red Baker: Red provided updates on the following. 1-STEM education designation for forestry majors by the Homeland Security Administration. It appears they update their list periodically and this matter is under review. Perhaps APLU can help with this issue. 2- The USDA Forestry Research and Advisory Committee (FRAC) has not met in some time but Red believes it is going to be

re-chartered. He has been nominated to serve on the committee. Tracy Hancock, US Forest Service, is the designated staff. 3- The Research Committee includes Bob, Linda, Mary, Katy, Scott Merkle (UGA). They have met by conference call and plan to meet with NIFA on Wednesday afternoon 4- Red was supposed to meet with Michael Georgan last night about the National Research Summit but that was postponed. It appears nothing has happened to report on since last October. 5- Forest Innovations Review (FIRz) will have the first meeting in Athens, GA in September. Dale has circulated information about it. 6- Indirect Costs continues to be an issue with the Forest Service. Red plans to highlight this later with Deputy Under Secretary Dan Jiron. Red reported on the recent Southeast Region Forest Health meeting in Gainesville, FL. There were 23 representatives from industry, 33 from universities and 12 from government, non-profits and others. More information on this meeting is outlined in Red's written report.

Dan Jiron, USDA Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources: Dan served as Acting Under Secretary until Jim Hubbard was confirmed late last year. Dan has worked on Capitol Hill and is a long time Forest Service employee. He thinks highly of Secretary Sonny Purdue who understands the role of forestry on rural and private lands. They are striving for shared 'Stewardship' working with the states. The Secretary wants to look at NEPA for efficiencies and effectiveness. Jobs are key to him and a Rural Prosperity Task Force has been established. Dan wants to know what is on NAUFRP's mind. John Hayes noted Jim Hubbard met with a smaller group of NAUFRP representatives in Portland last October and discussed the Secretary's goals for increasing the volume of harvests on national forests. Dan noted that the Secretary helped with legislation resolving fire funding 'fix' in the Forest Service budget. Janaki and Keith brought up the issue of indirect costs. This has been an issue for years and an impediment to developing future graduate programs. It is not a statutory issue and not treated the same by NIFA. Dan suggested convening a group to dialogue with the REE area and Alex Friend to get deeper into the issue. Keith said it is important that people understand the difference between the Hatch and McIntire Stennis programs. Dennis Becker said the Forest Service is having a hard time hiring students (TSA, lack of direct hire authority). Dan said this was discussed this morning and he is aware of two programs to help with this: Pathways and ????. Dan was asked about the status of FRAC; it's been dormant since the election. Dan does not know specifically but said that efforts to recharter any USDA FACA committee are backed up -- the FS has more than any agency at USDA. He will check on this. David would like to follow-up on these issues in a later meeting. We will outline the problem (Research Committee) and get that to Dan by early summer (June). Dan likes this idea: a statement of the problem/issue, authorities. (Amanda Lockwood is Jim Hubbard's scheduler to work with.)

Keith Owens, National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP): Keith said the strength of NAUFRP is its continuity. They don't have that in NAUFWP at this point. Chad Bishop (Univ of MT) is the current chair (Keith is the past chair). Their Chair-Elect is Lisette Waits (Univ of Idaho). NAUFWP has reinstated their regional chairs who include Nancy Matthews (Univ of VT), Joel Snodgrass (VA Tech), Selina Heppell (OR Oregon State), and John Carroll (University of NE). They are very pleased in the \$1 million increase in the Coop Research Units budget; APLU was very helpful. They plan an Executive Committee retreat in May and welcome input. Six areas have been proposed for their focus and discussion. These include federal funding and policy, strengthening of partnerships and student challenges. (See attached NAUFWP report). Mark commented that the NAUFWP regions are different than ours. Janaki is looking for options to attend their meetings. Keith said their spring and fall meetings are tied to other meetings. There was a question about ranking wildlife programs. Keith said this has not been discussed but would be a good topic for their May retreat. David said he/we would be happy to provide input for their May meeting.

Wendy Fink, Association of Public Land-Grant Universities: Wendy discussed the APLU one-pager for FY2020 appropriations. She expects next years' process to be different. APLU is going thru a strategic realignment of how they view the budget and have a draft proposal out for comment until March 22. This is a result of Hill staff complaints about the number of lines in the USDA budget. NIFA is charged with developing something to collapse those lines by September. APLU wants to put a proposal out before they do. Their committee's charge is "do no harm". She shared a draft handout the committee is working with to illustrate what it may look like. They are meeting with stakeholders to explain it. Provide comments to Wendy, Doug Steel or the committee by March 22nd. After that their recommendation will go to their Board of Directors. Wendy has the education portfolio and thinks this may be an opportunity for small programs like RREA to be heard. She asked if we are comfortable with a line like RREA being folded into another appropriations line? Randy has concerns and thinks this needs to be more aligned with Smith Lever. John asked about the allocation of dollars. Wendy said there would need to be report language every year. Some have proposed a slower approach on this for the next Farm Bill. Mary is concerned whether you really would see increases for programs through report language. Wendy said doing nothing is not an option. John commented that our programs have largely ridden on agriculture's coattails and believes that continues to be beneficial. He is not sure you want to separate agriculture and natural resources. Keith said there is a lesson from the Agriculture Experiment Station directors zeroing out the Southern Regional Forestry Extension program. Wendy offered to set up a webinar specific to our group. Wendy said there is a community-wide letter for a Blue Ribbon Study on NIFA-ERS relocation.

Diversity Chair Report, Kamran Abdollahi: Kamran shared a written report. Members of the committee include Adrian Leighton (incoming chair), Jim Allen, Linda Nagel and Keith Belli. New to the committee is Zhu Hua Ning from Southern University; she is also chair-elect of the SAF Diversity Working Group. Kamran proposes that the committee establish a clearing house on diversity practices on the NAUFRP webpage. Adrian believes the regional reps are valuable and can contribute best practices and meetings for a clearing house. He thinks it would be good to link the clearing house to the FAEIS data. Linda asked what is needed for a clearing house. John expressed frustration that the Logic Model was not action oriented which he wants NAUFRP to be. Department Chairs can be involved with this. The Leadership Team can look at what we want and don't want. Andrew suggested taking it back to K-12. Robert Burns cited USGS as a good example of recruiting high school students college interns and suggested this is something the Forest Service could do. Adrian believes it would be good to work with NAUFRP on these efforts.

Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC), John Hayes: APLU has been having a lot of discussion about combining lobbying efforts for different programs. Last year's strategy for APLU was to start building a case for \$200 million for capacity programs. Total increases in the past year are roughly \$100 million, with McIntire-Stennis receiving a \$2.5 million increase in the FY19 budget. For the FY20 budget, APLU has decided, in recognition of the successful increase in FY19, to request an additional \$100 million in funding for capacity programs, to be distributed proportionately across programs relative to overall funding, resulting in roughly an 8% increase in each of the 6 priority lines.

Board of Natural Resources (BNR), John Hayes: The Forest Health Initiative is NAUFRP's primary focus within the BNR. Trudging progress has been made. There is a White Paper and seven sections. Four sections have submitted drafts and two more are expected by the end of the month. There is no word from Urban Forestry. Discussions have begun for a 'public launch' for early 2020. That might link to presidential politics/elections. John hopes for the pieces to be in place by the end of the school year. NAUFRP should be involved. Formally, this is an APLU effort but the core is NAUFRP. David suggested we might host a reception for the roll out.

ATR Update, Eric Norland, NIFA: The ATR meeting planned for March 7<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC was canceled due to the government shut down. They are not sure of the next step; this is not a normal year. They have discussed hosting regional webex meetings. Eric noted two-thirds of the ATRs are not forestry deans or directors. Latosha is the primary person interacting with the ATRs and now has a good handle on who the ATRs are. Randy said the Executive Committee thinks this meeting is important and urged NIFA to try and get something scheduled. Eric said NIFA staff are committed to visiting McStennis institutions. Last year they were in California. They want to focus on states with multiple institutions. These visits are not an inspection; just a means to learn and help advocate. Janaki said he had the experience of a site visit at VaTech and at Auburn. In both cases there was no feedback from NIFA. Eric noted the recent Farm Bill has made 1994 institutions eligible to receive McStennis funds if they offer associate or four-year degrees. NIFA is in the process of developing what is needed for these programs and would like NAUFRP feedback. Eric says NIFA is losing 2-3 staff a week due to the agency's planned relocation; between 60-80 percent of the staff say there will not move.

Southern NAUFRP, Hans Williams: The Comparative Data Survey is out and they have received responses from all the institutions who responded last year. They will have their regional meeting in conjunction with the Forest Resources Association annual meeting at Amelia Island, FL on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. FRA has asked for a presentation addressing characteristics of students attending universities. This will be a panel.

Northeastern NAUFRP, Robert Burns: Trends in their region include: university reorganization, increases and decreases in students and lower budgets, upcoming building renovations.

Western NAUFRP, Linda Nagel: There are 20 NAUFRP institutions in their region; 12-13 are active. Fifteen were at SAF last year. They are planning a summer meeting for June 17-19 hosted by the University of Idaho.

North Central, Mark Rickenbach: The move of the USFS Northern Research Station headquarters unit to the Forest Products Lab in Madison is in progress. The North Central's research priorities were submitted at the annual meeting last fall by Bob Wagner. Matt Russell (UMN) has organized a web conference of forestry extension faculty and educators in the region for later this spring. Mark submitted public comments on behalf of NAUFRP for approval of a baseline, standardized social science questionnaire items that will facilitate easier survey research by the Forest Service. Mark missed the NAUFRP meetings in Portland when he attended the LEAD21, a yearlong intensive leadership development program for land-grant and similar public universities. It is not cheap, but it was very good and he would recommend attending or supporting others to attend. In general, six to seven institutions regularly engage with regional calls and meetings.

Mary brought up an issue relevant to NCSU and questioned whether it was happening at other institutions. They have Forest Service employees co-located on their campus and there appears to be a new agency ethics policy which says these employees cannot serve on graduate committees because it would/might be a conflict of interest. Bob Wagner said external people serving on graduate committees have become very restrictive and this is a concern. Linda had invited a Forest Service employee to serve on a faculty search but the station denied this because that person might review agency projects. The FS seems to have different ethics policy than other agencies. Clarification would be helpful. Bob surfaced a FS memo on this and circulated it to the Executive Committee. This is a topic to discuss with Alex Friend.

Ali Mohamad, NIFA: Pertaining to relocating NIFA and ERS, there have been 136 proposals from 35 states. Things are moving ahead according to the timeline. NIFA's lease expires in January 2020. A

small NIFA group will maintain a presence in DC. Funding for FY2019 is \$1.7 billion; an increase of \$15 million in AFRI. Staffing is on the decline. Before his unexpected death, Catalino Blanche had been the only one to handle the McStennis program. They have now implemented a team approach with Daniel Cassidy, Eric and Latosha. Daniel has reduced program review times from one month to 20 days. Dale complimented Daniel on this quick turn around and asked Ali to convey thanks to Daniel. NIFA plans four regional on-line ATR meetings. The NIFA website is being updated. Ali was asked about the potential impact of the agency move on McStennis dollar distribution. Ali said this was still being discussed. Randy noted the \$2 million increase in McStennis and asked when the schools will be told how much they will be getting. Ali said they should know something by the end of March; funding is based on the existing formula. He reaffirmed that the oldest McStennis dollars an institution has must be spent first before new dollars can flow. You cannot co-mingle funds from different years in a single account.

By-Laws Update, Katy Kavanagh: Katy has undertaken the task of updating the NAUFRP by-laws. A working draft was distributed electronically to the Executive Committee last week for review. Some of the proposed changes include typos and clarification but also deal with voting and nominations. John Hayes said there is no real process for consideration of turnover in officers and suggests a more rigorous mechanism/process be put in place for appointments. There is nothing that says these are two-year appointments. Keith Gilles will provide comments and specific language proposals. Katy said this will need to go out in advance of the annual meeting. John asked about the process for voting on changes. David proposed going through Article by Article. A two-third quorum vote is required. A committee (Linda, Keith Gilles, Kamran) will work with Katy to get something to the Executive Committee by early summer. Buck suggested NAUFRP “may” want to recognize liaison ships such as his and membership in other organizations.

Terry Baker, CEO, John Barnwell, Society of American Foresters: Terry provided an update on SAF’s Strategic Plan. They plan listening session next year on accreditation to discuss what is working and not. John McNulty is SAF President; Tammy Cushing is President-Elect. They are looking at how SAF can work with other groups. Adrian is concerned about rules changing for accreditation. They are in the midst of developing their program and are supposed to have their SAF review in 2020 or 2021. Terry assured him there will be no dramatic changes and urged Adrian to stay in touch with Carol Redelsheimer. The SAF building headquarters is up for sale. The Board has decided they will stay in the area; they are looking to lease in Bethesda, northern Virginia or DC. On the question of whether NAUFRP should be involved in accreditation Mary offered that she is of two minds: 1) it would be a conflict of interest 2) it would contribute forward-thinking about the future of the profession. Keith Belli thinks NAUFRP should be involved in the big picture and avoid the weeds. He does not see how SAF can move forward without involving NAUFRP. Andrew agrees. David asked John Barnwell what he is working on. John noted Terry testified last week on appropriations. He is working on Farm Bill implementation and wildfire issues. Since the Clean Power Plan is not being implemented, some States are taking on climate change on their own and not involving forests in any way. SAF is putting together materials to help them. Buck noted WOTUS is coming back in play. John said SAF will submit comments; NAFO is really taking the lead role on this. Red stated NAUFRP would like McStennis funding to be a SAF priority. John said he is inviting Randy to the SAF Emerging Issue Committee to figure that out. Randy said Red and Dale should be invited. Janaki asked if SAF is doing anything on the Timber Innovation Act. John said they are big cheerleaders. SAF is putting up \$40,000/year to build leadership capacity through state societies and workshops.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls: Randy discussed the recent government shutdown and resulting budget agreement. Almost all science/research portfolios got increases. The House is undergoing a major reorganization as Democrats take over the leadership. Budget hearings have begun but looming ahead is the Budget Control Act which caps defense and non-defense discretionary spending. If those caps are exceeded, sequestration cuts are triggered. A deal is needed to avoid this. The debt ceiling is another issue. The appropriations process is working from existing (FY19) levels; the Trump Administration's proposed budget is expected later in March. The President has instructed all the cabinet secretaries to cut five percent from their budgets.

Communications, Mary Watzin: Mary discussed the McStennis one-pagers, a number of which were passed around as examples. This has been a giant experiment and work in progress. Mary talked about building a McStennis website. It would be an investment that she roughly estimates would cost \$20,000. It could showcase the importance of forestry and natural resources. Eric says that NIFA has forestry program pages; you can upload and interface with these. When asked, he said they do not have analytics for it and they are careful about links to external organizations. Data Gateway – can search for projects/programs by Congressional Districts. Dale said the US Fish and Wildlife Service Cooperative CEUs have an outstanding annual report that includes a U.S. map and links to projects. Modeled after it, we could do themes like 'Invasives' or "Forest Health". The North American Forest Partnership (NAFP) website is also phenomenal; it spotlights industries. Will Novy-Hildesley has asked what they can do for the universities. Eric Young referred to [mrfinpacts.org](http://mrfinpacts.org). Mary said the audience for the NIFA pages is not the same audience our one-pagers are targeting. Dale has his assistant read the UGA one-pagers to make sure they are easily understood. Red said it took several iterations for his faculty to get the writing right. Eric said the instructions to the ATRs are to write final reports like this. They were going to address this at the ATR meeting. Randy asked Ali and Eric about the feasibility of a small grant to NAUFRP. Mary has asked also but told there is no money for projects like this. Mary would like to get this done before the fall meeting. Keith urged that we don't ignore projects of the past that have significant outcomes that solved problems. Jeff says their webpage features past high-impacts results. Mary suggests the PI's name and contact information can be listed on the one-pager.

Tom Martin, President and CEO, American Forest Foundation (AFF): Tom noted that Dale is on the AFF Board of Trustees. He usually talks about policy and budget issues but today wants to show some of AFF's new tech tools they are working on to attract private forest landowners. These include WoodsCamp ([www.woodscamp.com](http://www.woodscamp.com)) being piloted in Oregon, Alabama and Wisconsin, Landscape Management Plan and Forests in Focus (information found on the AFF website [www.forestfoundation.org](http://www.forestfoundation.org)).

Scott Angle, Director, USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture: Scott is a former Dean of the Agriculture College at University of Georgia. He has been involved with APLU and the BAA leadership. The major issue confronting him is the plan to move NIFA out of the DC area. They had 136 proposals from 35 states. He expects they will narrow the proposals to 30-35 over the next weeks and visit 3-5 of the finalists. They are losing staff now and expect more to come. This is very stressful for their employees. It's harder to get NIFA's work done with fewer employees but they are committed to getting the dollars out the door. This is a political process. Scott works for the Secretary and it is not his role to debate the move but to ensure a smooth and compassionate process. He was asked when the move would actually happen. Scott says it depends on the proposal: soon if a building is ready to go, later if they need to build a facility. Their current lease at the Waterfront can be extended. Scott was asked about the speed of re-hiring? He said they will likely hire contractors who are former staff. PhDs are journeymen and used to moving where the work is and they will have some wanting to relocate depending on the

decision where. Twenty NIFA employees will stay in DC: 12 administrators and eight discipline experts (i.e. Program Leaders and liaisons with other agencies and ngos). Scott will divide his time between the new location and DC. The President's Budget is expected to be released within 10 days. Steve complimented Eric, Latosha, Daniel and Ali for their work. Scott says this Administration's 2020 budget will not be draconian: things like climate change are now called adaptation; the dollars and type of work have not changed. NIFA's goal for competitive funding is \$700 million. Mary talked about young faculty success rate in competing for dollars and their discouragement. Scott said there used to be a young investigator grant program that he'd like to explore again. David asked if it would be of value to re-establish the NAUFRP database of candidates for review panels? Eric said our database was used extensively. Keith Belli emphasized the need to commit to recognizing the value of faculty panel participants. Scott spoke about funding priorities. The Secretary is focused on rural health and vitality. Scott has met with Alex Friend to talk about what they can do together. Dale said we may be due for a massive review of how the FS does research. A lot of FS research is done on campus but their buildings need rehab and have acute vacancy rates -- the FS needs to find new ways to do forest research through their infrastructure. Scott has had the same discussion with ARS. Mary noted that Sonny Ramaswamy looked at the state of labs; NSCU has old out of date facilities. Scott said a report came out last year supporting new funds for this.

David returned to the question of funding for a NAUFRP communications strategy. Eric was asked if there was NIFA funding for this. He said they used to have a fund for projects like this but no more. David wants to do a post-meeting letter to Scott. Keith Gilles said in the absence of FRAC, an annual letter personally delivered would be good. Eric said there is no such thing as a McStennis annual report. Mary thinks an initial \$20,000 would be needed to develop a McStennis web-portal. She will report back on what this really means. She will also set a deadline for one-pages and share info on the templates then decide how to go. A Business Plan for this is envisioned. David set a July 1 deadline for a Business Plan to come back to the Executive Committee for consideration. He feels we want to support this. Mary will 1) set a date to send her one-pages and 2) consider all drafts to work with by May 31. Submit these to her with cc's to Randy and Terri.

Louisville, KY Fall Meeting Jeff is looking into options, including tours of the area, for an Executive Committee meeting. He will get ideas back to the Executive Committee.

Randy urged everyone to talk to their institution's government affairs people and request they put in a member request letter supporting McStennis, RREA, AFRI, JFSP and CRUs. Members will be developing their requests to the appropriations committee during March.

Other/To Do:

Mary needs to get her committee back together to share the discussions had here.

David requested that draft changes to the By-Laws be vetted by Katy, Keith Gilles, Kamran and Linda.

David will draft the letter discussed to Scott Angle.

May 31 deadline for one-pages to Mary with cc's to Randy and Terri

David asked Red to compile issues per the FS for Dan Jiron.

David will try and set up a meeting with Dan, Alex and Vicky early summer

Further Discussion with Jeff Stringer about Fall meetings.



Meeting Adjourned

**NAUFWP report**

Chad Bishop, Chair, University of Montana

Lisette Waits, Chair elect, University of Idaho

Eric Hellgren, Secretary/Treasurer, University of Florida

Keith Owens, Past Chair, Oklahoma State University

**Regional Chairs**

Nancy Mathews, Dean, Rubenstein School for the Environment, University of Vermont

Joel Snodgrass, Department Head, Virginia Tech

Selina Heppell, Department Head, Oregon State University

John Carroll, Director School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska

Meeting is currently being held at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Denver, CO

Agenda Items.

1. Coordination with TWS, AFS, AFWA, USGS CRU
  - a. Successfully advocated with many others against a cut to the Cooperative Research Units
  - b. Realized a \$1,000,000 mark-up
2. Strategic Planning for NAUFWP
  - a. 6 potential focal areas were presented by membership at our fall meeting and by the Executive Committee
  - b. Discussion about the focus of the group and what subset of the 6 we should emphasize
  - c. Executive Committee retreat planned in May

**Framing the development of a NAUFWP Strategic Plan**

1. Federal funding and policy tied to fish and wildlife science and conservation

2. Enhancing diversity, equity and inclusivity in university fish and wildlife programs
  - a. Diversity of faculty and students within our programs
  - b. Identify and understand bias within our curricula and make thoughtful changes
  - c. Advance inclusive pedagogy and scholarly practices
3. Strengthening Partnerships with NAUFRP, AFS, TWS, AFWA, USGS, and other partners
4. Curricular programming, expanding online programs, and/or better meeting educational and training needs of current professionals.
5. Preparing students for tomorrow's challenges – how are we doing?
  - a. Are fundamental changes needed (e.g., climate and environmental literacy, leadership)?
  - b. Identifying key programmatic learning outcomes to meet needs of increasingly diverse employers
    - i. Linking graduates with jobs, especially in growing private sector
    - ii. Preparing Gen Y and Gen Z students for a workforce largely led by Baby Boomers and Gen X
  - c. Adapting pedagogy to meet Gen Y and Gen Z *where they're at*
6. Compiling education and research metrics for our university fish and wildlife programs collectively to share with legislators, administrators, partners, and the broader science community
  - a. This could also include service-oriented metrics (examples below)
    - i. Student professional society activities
    - ii. Hunter/angler/outdoor recreation mentorship programs