

NAUFRP Executive Committee Minutes

October 29, 2019

Louisville, KY

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 Greene, Policy Chair (University of Georgia); Hans Williams, Southern Regional Chair (Stephen F. Austin State University); Jeff Stringer, Extension Chair (University of Kentucky); 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 Gillless, At-Large Member (University of California-Berkeley); Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP General Counsel; Terri Bates, NAUFRP Executive Liaison

NAUFRP Members: Allen Rutherford (Louisiana State University); Don Grabner (Mississippi State University); Sayeed Mehmoud (Ohio State University); Myron Floyd (North Carolina State University); Don Hodges (University of Tennessee), Zhu Hua Ning (Southern University)

Guests: Buck Vandersteen, CARET Liaison for NAUFRP (Executive Director, Louisiana Forestry Association), Eric Norland, National Science Liaison for Environment and Natural Resources, USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA); Daniel Cassidy, National Program Leader for Forest Research, NIFA; SAF Representatives John McNulty (President), Tammy Cushing (President-Elect), Dick Brinker, Dave Lewis, Terry Baker (CEO)

David Newman opened the meeting and called for introductions and acceptance of the agenda.

Welcome from Jeff Stringer who introduced Greg Roshkowski, Vice President and Director of Wood Planning for Brown-Forman which is based in Louisville, KY. Greg provided a presentation on his company.

March 5-6, 2019 Executive Committee minutes: The draft minutes from the March meeting held in Washington, D.C. were previously distributed for review. There were no comments or changes. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report, Katy Kavanagh: Katy reviewed the 2019 budget income and expenses noting that a 2018 bill from the Oregon Convention Center did not come in until January 2019 so that will be coupled with this year's General Assembly expenses. A proposed budget for 2020 was presented. David suggested if we continue to carry over significant funds consideration might be given to funding special projects. Keith noted the intent to rebuild the data base on the webpage and additional funding may be needed for that. Janaki suggested budget amendments be considered at the March 2020 meeting. Keith Belli moved to adopt the proposed budget for 2020, a second was by Adrian. The budget was approved.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls: Congress has until the third week in November to adopt a budget. The House had a higher allocation than the Senate for agriculture and provides a \$2 million increase for the McIntire-Stennis Program; it is flat in the Senate bill. Both the House and Senate bill increase funding for NIFA competitive programs. Randy expects a Continuing Resolution will continue current spending levels into next year. The Washington media is fixated on the impeachment process. The House has done some work on drug pricing and defense but there is no climate for accommodation right now. On Thursday the House is expected to move a resolution that will begin the impeachment process. A record number of senior House Republicans are retiring. All focus in 2020 will be on the Presidential election. Randy does not know if there will be a FY 2021 presidential budget. NAUFRP needs to continue educating on programs and working with partners like the Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU). It will be important to scope out what is happening at NIFA and rebuild relationships there. There are changes at APLU Wendy Fink will have a new role; Doug Steel

will be taking over her role. It will be important for NAUFRP to focus on our relationship with APLU next year. Randy will be attending the APLU annual meeting next month in San Diego.

Research Report, Red Baker: (written report) Red reported on meetings with the USFS and NIFA Program Leaders last March in conjunction with the Executive Committee Meeting in Washington, DC. At that time he and Bob Wagner also met with Michael Goergen from the US Endowment for Forests and Communities to discuss a Research Summit to follow-up on the findings 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. A draft proposal was developed over the summer which included a Steering Committee to design and implement a Summit. Steering Committee representatives would include representatives from the National Association of State Foresters, National Alliance of Forest Owners, USFS, NIFA, American Forest Foundation, the American Wood Council, Forest Landowners Association, NACASI, US Endowment and NAUFRP. The location envisioned is a centrally located airport hotel and potential timing May 2020. The outcome would be an action plan. An anticipated budget would be about \$37,000 coming from NIFA, USFS and the Endowment. Discussion: recommend fewer than more participants. Reference to the 2006 Summit in Shepherds Town, WV and BNR Roadmap. Randy should be included on the next Steering Committee call. Consider including NGOs to broaden the focus (i.e., tribes, TNC,). Terri will get Bob a list of the WV participants. Red said he was seeing interest from southern industry in research. He also suggested the idea of a reception/mixer for potential grad students with faculty during the SAF Convention in the future.

Policy Report, Dale Greene: Dale noted that implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill is underway. Current NAUFRP policy issues include the NIFA move out of the DC area to Kansas City. Earlier this year NAFO President Dave Tenny asked NAUFRP to update the Carbon Science Principles letter from 2014 to allow European scientists to add their names. The original letter was sent to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. David had a follow-up contact about the letter recently from Ann Bartuska who is now at Resources for the Future; she would like to collaborate further on this with NAUFRP. David said he has invited her to the March 2020 Executive Committee meeting. Dale discussed the effectiveness of Congressional staff visits they have hosted on campus. He feels these are more valuable than Hill visits in DC. They have been doing this for three years and have partnered with the state forestry association and state forestry agency. They are really aiming to get staff from urban areas and are focusing on the importance of markets and how it all affects/impacts water, wildlife, etc., It costs them \$1,000-\$1,500 a head. The visits are planned for 48 hours and they get their undivided attention. There is the possibility of blending in agriculture issues. They are going to include McStennis projects in the future. Randy said it is important to include the university governmental affairs representatives in this process.

Diversity Report, Adrian Leighton: Dr. Zhu Hua Ning of Southern University was formally introduced as a new member of the NAUFRP Diversity National Committee. She is the new Society of American Foresters Diversity Working Group Chair. The 2018 Farm Bill made 1994 institutions eligible for McStennis funding. SKU and Leech Lake Tribal College in Minnesota will be the first recipients. The Farm Bill also made those with Associate Degrees eligible. Adrian said there are 90 students at 1994 institutions pursuing forestry/natural resource degrees; 40 of those are at SKU. He hopes to get Leech Lake interested in participating in NAUFRP. Adrian proposed the ideal of developing a 'Template' of graduate students that have come thru McStennis that would highlight how the program contributes to diversity. An example might be Dr. Stacy Holmes, who is only the second Native American PhD in natural resources/forestry. Adrian participated in a recent meeting of the 1994 institutions which was also attended by USDA Secretary Perdue and NIFA Director Scott Angle. If NAUFRP moves forward with developing a reviewer data base Adrian encouraged including reviewers of diverse backgrounds. An idea might be to create a Native American Advisory Board or present case studies of Native American work on the NAUFRP website. Another idea is a NAUFRP survey looking at who we are trying to recruit and what resources are needed to do so successfully. John said there are disproportionate impacts on the land-grant institutions where 1994 schools become eligible. An example is the hit the University of Montana took as SKU's allocation increased. He is not sure how we handle this. David said Daniel Cassidy is going to talk about the McStennis dollars not being spent – about half of these institutions are the 1890s. John clarified he

supports McStennis allocations to the 1990s, but doesn't want to see the existing institutions penalized. Adrian believes the University of Montana is benefiting from the partnership.

International Report, Linda Nagel: Linda attended the recent IUFRO meeting in Brazil representing Steve Shaler on behalf of NAUFRP at the International Council meeting. Because of a conflict with a presentation she was giving, she missed some of the meeting. Steve is the official NAUFRP representative on the Council. The new IUFRO President is John Parrotta of the US Forest Service; his term is five years. It was suggested he be invited to the March Executive Committee meeting. One topic to discuss with him is how IUFRO can appeal to a broader audience. The next IUFRO meeting will be in Stockholm in 2024. There was discussion about how Council Reps engagement can be stronger. Tom DeLucca is also a member of the International Committee.

Extension Report, Jeff Stringer: Jeff provided a written report. He has reached out to three regional forestry Extension coordinator groups including the newly established North Central coordinators. Please let him know of any western forestry extension groups and/or contacts. Tammy Cushing, Director, National Woodland Owners Association will represent Keith Argow at tomorrow's presentation of the NAUFRP-NWOA Family Forests Education Award. Jeff has also been working closely with Dale Greene on restructuring the Southern Region Extension Forestry (SREF) cooperative.

Education Report, Andrew Storer: Andrew distributed a written report. Time has been allocated during tomorrow's General Assembly meeting for a breakout session on how high school students learn about forestry. This will include a short written survey about activities at different institutions, who is responsible for these activities and how success is measured. He will report back to the NAUFRP membership. The idea is to pull together what people are doing to engage K-12. At a recent meeting the National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP) discussed the Certified Forester Exam. They are in the process of revising their by-laws and there appears to be consensus that certification of wildlife biologists is not very useful except for the consultant field. Keith asked if Andrew is considering revisiting the Undergraduate Strategic Plan -- it seems a good time to revisit and refresh it. Andrew said yes they can look at that.

John Hayes: John distributed 3 handouts. *The Forestry Source* will have a future article on Forest Health. The Forest Health Initiative (FHI) White Paper articulates what NAUFRP is asking for. A strategy session is planned for this Thursday afternoon; we are trying to determine the common message we want to present with our partners. It will involve Wendy Fink (APLU), Eric Norland (NIFA), Daniel Cassidy (NIFA), Tom Fox, Mike Lester (NASF), Jiri Juler (???), Alex Friend and Randy. Thursday's meeting will focus on 2-3 objectives: a common vision for what we are trying to achieve, the "ask", and to whom. John hopes this can be articulated in the white paper early next year and that it will be endorsed by APLU. To date, we have not been effective in harnessing APLU's power on natural resources.

Terry Baker, SAF: Terry discussed SAF activities and diversity efforts. He noted this is the first year of annual accreditation payments.

Dave Lewis, SAF Past President and leader of the Certified Forester (CF) Team. In 2017 the SAF Governing Board developed five key pillars and in 2018 identified action items around these. One of these was to explore how to incorporate CF into accredited forestry and natural resource programs. The team working on this includes Dick Brinker, Hans Williams, Bill Rockwell and Dave. A NASF Survey with a 61 percent response rate showed State Forester concerns in finding and hiring qualified foresters. The recent NAUFRP survey had a 31 percent response rate. The objective was to gain feedback. Next steps are to gather more input from NAUFRP – more analysis of school and employer needs, and to identify sources of funding for this. Dave believes this may lead to a three-year pilot/test. They expect to present a final report to SAF prior to Thanksgiving with recommendations to the Board in December. Dave thinks they will ask SAF to fund a Pilot. It would be voluntary for the schools and students to see what the level of interest is. Discussion: GA-SC compare ??? to SAF (*check Gen Assem notes*). John is trying to understand the motivation for this since they already have an accredited program. Dale says they don't get any feedback from their students; they only know if they passed or failed the CF test and thus don't know where the deficiencies lie. A one-size national test is not going to help with that. Keith asked how

closely aligned the test would be with core competencies? Dave said the test would equate to core competencies. David agrees a lot with Dale: if we don't get feedback it doesn't provide much value as an assessment tool. Hans thinks we would and it would be of value. Keith Gilles says California has a rigorous licensing exam. Keith Belli asked if SAF knows why there is a decline in certified foresters? Dave believes it is mainly retirements -- the pipeline is not there and it has not been well promoted by SAF. The CFs are artificially high because a lot were grandfathered in. Jeff is concerned about affordability. Dave said there is a practice exam and prep study guide book. David asked Dave what they want from NAUFRP and adds he believes a voluntary approach would be more acceptable.

NAUFRP BY-Laws Revision, Katy Kavanagh: Katy reviewed the proposed changes to the NAUFRP By-Laws which were last amended in 2012. Some of the changes include word smithing (i.e., 'programs' vs 'schools'), determination of who is actually a member (dues paying, one vote per institution), call for officer nominations. These proposed changes have been sent to the listserve as required 30 days in advance. Katy called for the Executive Committee to support adoption of the proposed NAUFRP By-Law changes; Keith Belli seconded. Discussion: Dale expressed appreciation to Katy for her efforts on this. David said much of this was to 'clean-up' the By-Laws; they may need some further work in time. The motion was adopted unanimously. It was clarified that these By-Law changes will be offered to the General Assembly upon the Executive Committee's recommendation.

NIFA Updates:

Eric Norland discussed the NIFA move to Kansas City. Sixty employees have moved there; 46 remain in DC including the Director and national liaisons. A number (20-30) have been asked to extend their tenure temporarily with the agency. Only two of six Program Leaders have remained and two of six Specialists. Most of the financial people have left NIFA; contractors have been hired. All fiscal dollars have been allocated. The agency's top priority is re-hiring and re-constituting itself. Director Scott Angle has said they will be hiring about 180 positions. Eric noted that there was one agency Program leader position announcement sent out to see what the response would be and 600 applications were received. Kansas City is hiring about 5 people a week; concentration is on grants and agreements people. Six National Science Liaisons will remain in DC; they will have broad portfolios. Eric has the environment and natural resources portfolio with no program responsibility. He will continue to work with RREA. Daniel Cassidy will be the only one handling the McStennis program. NIFA will not look the same; there is no expectation that the science staff will be replaced. This is an opportunity to remake the agency. Congress has appropriated funds for 344 positions. Randy asked how a budget will be developed for next year. Who is handling this? Eric said not the Science Liaisons. Eric's impression is 95 percent of the budget is being handled by Director Angle. Eric Young asked about the future relationship of the National Science Liaisons with the USDA Chief Scientist. Eric's impression this will be on a different level.

Daniel Cassidy: Daniel has moved to Kansas City; staffing is very thin at this time. Latasha is moving to the US Forest Service; she is training a new specialist. Daniel is averaging 15 days to approve McStennis proposals (30 days is allowed). He believes the proposals he is seeing are 100 percent better than what they had been. The funds need to be spent down. Do not wait until the third quarter to let him know if you cannot spend it. The 1890 institutions have 2-3 repeat offenders. Daniel was asked if there is a plan for this problem. He says yes, but it has not been thought all the way through yet. McStennis funding is state, not institutional money. Eric said that last year they considered the idea of writing to the Governors to ask about designated institutions and at the same time provide information about who and how the money is being spent (or not). Daniel is proposing a deep data dive with a major focus area on graduate students -- dollars spent on faculty, students, supplies, needs. He needs the best and brightest stories about impacts -- things that have changed practices, lives, ... Daniel is able to go back to 2006 in the data. Red and Daniel are to interface on this. Send impact information to Daniel (Terri to forward McStennis one-pagers she has gathered). Red suggested if Daniel/Eric pursue the plan to contact the Governors then include some of these impacts. Randy noted that since Eric and Daniel have been directly involved with the McStennis program their efforts have provided much needed structure and made it a better program. He thanked them for their efforts. Daniel asked NAUFRP about the status of setting up the data review

base. Eric noted there are going to be a number of new program leaders who will not know where to start. Discussion about planning another ATR meeting and/or training meeting. Was the agenda being developed for the planned March 2019 meeting good? Where? Eric suggested something next Spring. David thinks it better to let things stabilize at NIFA and not to rush a meeting.

Joint Fire Science Program, Eric Toman (Ohio State University): The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) is authorized at \$16 million with one-half of that amount going to the US Forest Service and the other to the Department of Interior. The program was funded at this level for five years but the dollars have declined since. APLU has been advocating for the \$16 million. There will be a bi-partisan Congressional ‘Dear Colleague’ letter in support of full funding in the next fiscal year. It is hoped that NAUFRP will help with this. John said we were surprised at the Administration’s zeroing out in 2018; we have been consistently lobbying for these funds and didn’t see that coming. These dollars go towards specific fire research and not for suppression.

Northeast NAUFRP, Robert Burns: Participation by institutions in the Northeast region varies. Robert hopes to increase that. Trends appear to be curriculum changes needed, skill development for graduates and research collaboration.

Southern NAUFRP, Hans Williams: They held a meeting earlier this year in conjunction with the annual Forest Resources Association (FRA) meeting in Amelia Island, FL. NAUFRP representatives participated in a panel discussion on student skills. They have finished their comparative data report. A spring meeting is planned for 2020.

Western NAUFRP, Linda Nagel: Western NAUFRP met June 17-19 at the University of Idaho. Nine people from six institutions attended. Concerns included forestry program enrollment. What can we do to improve communications. Help with interpreting Congressional legislation and impacts (i.e., the Timber Innovation Act – what are the implication for NAUFRP institutions?).

Jeff commented we need to build in time for regional meetings. Perhaps time could be allowed for breakfast meetings in the future?

Winter Executive Committee meeting is tentatively planned for March 2-3, 2020.

Meeting Adjourned

Approved March 2, 2020

Washington, D.C.

