



NAUFRP

National Association of University Forest Resources Programs

Creating Knowledge—Developing Leaders

NAUFRP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 4-5, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Janaki opened the meeting with a welcome, introductions (see list of attendees at end). The agenda was reviewed and approved. A motion was made by David Newman, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the March 8-9, 2021 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report, Robert Burns: The Treasurer's report was distributed to the Executive Committee in advance. Robert reviewed income, expenses and bank balances. To date, income in 2021 is \$107,249 (2021 budget estimate for the year is \$130,0475) and expenses \$83,973 (2021 budget estimate for the year is \$133,406). PNC bank balances are currently \$170,450. He noted incoming dues have been lagging this year. David asked if there is a concern that NAUFRP, as a non-profit organization, has so much money in the bank. Randy said no but we can discuss in more detail at next March's meeting. Robert and Red are to discuss additional compensation for Terri for work on the newsletter. A motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Katy Kavanagh to approve a new printer/scanner for Terri. The motion passed; she is to consult with Robert on the purchase.

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls, General Counsel: Randy noted that both the House and Senate FY22 appropriations bills would increase funding for the NIFA McIntire-Stennis and AFRI research programs. He reviewed the status of Biden Administration's Infrastructure Bill and the Debt Ceiling issue. There are large amounts of money proposed in the Infrastructure bill related to university research. Negotiations are very fluid at this time and Randy does not believe they will hold at the proposed levels. He noted the \$3 billion USDA agriculture-forestry initiative for climate change announced last week by Secretary Vilsak. Funding would be through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) as opposed to annual appropriations. (*Link to Secretary Vilsak's speech [Secretary Vilsack Gives Remarks Combatting Challenges in Agriculture - YouTube](#) and press release [USDA Announces \\$3 Billion Investment in Agriculture, Animal Health, and Nutrition; Unveils New Climate Partnership Initiative, Requests Public Input | USDA](#)*)

APLU Budget and Advocacy Committee, Linda Nagel: Linda represents the natural resources sector on the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities' (APLU) Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC). The Biden Administration's budget recommendations were higher than BAC's 'unified budget ask' for FY22. BAC adjusted the priority lines and the most recent one-pager; these can be viewed at www.land-grant.org.

Communications, Red Baker: Red noted that the first issue of *NAUFRP News* went out in mid-July. It is posted on the webpage. The next issue is planned for mid-December so

updates/material will be wanted. He invited questions and feedback. Katy suggested the newsletter feature the Mc-Stennis one pagers and links. Red would like to continue receiving and updating the McIntire-Stennis one-pagers that are on the webpage. He and Janaki have discussed holding 'NAUFRP Town Hall' meetings on particular topics and issues.

Diversity, Yeon-Su Kim: (Written Report provided and posted on webpage.) Yeon-Su discussed responses to the survey on NAUFRP Diversity Activities. The survey sought contacts, practices, activities and events at NAUFRP institutions. It also sought information on how initiatives/efforts are funded at institutions. The NAUFRP survey closely follows one conducted last year by the National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP). Yeon-Su wants to create a list of "Best Practices" and would like to work with Red to enhance the diversity section of the NAUFRP webpage. A joint forum with NAUFWP is planned. Yeon-Su noted the collaboration that is happening between Alabama A&M University and the University of Maine and several other northern institutions.

Education, Andrew Storer: (Written Report provided and posted on webpage.) In January 2021 at NAUFRP's request, the Society of American Foresters (SAF) included the Education Chair in the discussion of SAF's accreditation standards review. The new standards were approved by the SAF Board in August 2021. Andrew reviewed some of the key issues (see report). His report included an update on the International Conference on Forest Education which was held virtually on June 22-24. A Regional Assessment Report for North American is co-authored by Terry Sharik (Michigan Tech) and includes outcomes of a survey administered in 2020. Andrew and Janaki co-authored a SAF Convention Friday Focus Blog themed "Forestry instruction during the pandemic: how it happened" on August 11th. The blog series is available on the SAF website.

Extension, Jeff Stringer: Six nominations were accepted for the Family Forests Education Award co-sponsored by NAUFRP and the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA). The award will be presented at the NAUFRP General Assembly meeting on November 3rd. Jeff and Dale Green represented NAUFRP informally at the Southern Region Extension Forestry executive committee meeting in September and Jeff will participate in the North Central Forestry Extension meeting mid-November.

Janaki noted that Policy Chair Dennis Becker had a conflict but has been working on NAUFRP's behalf with the Forest Carbon Working Group (FCWG), Food and Agriculture Climate (FACA) group and the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO).

International, Don Hodges: Don's committee (Robert Burns and Tom DeLuca) are to meet tomorrow. A representative is needed on the IUFRO International Committee. Don is already on an IUFRO Board which prevents him from assuming this position. Don is trying to get in touch with Alex Friend (U.S. Forest Service, R&D Deputy) to discuss this. In the meantime he recommends NAUFRP identify an alternative representative and he further recommends that be Robert Burns. Robert is willing and will be in Vienna (IUFRO headquarters) next year February – July as a Fulbright Scholar.

Doug Steele, Vice President, Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, Association of Public Land-Grant Universities: Doug provided updates on the fall APLU annual meeting and

advocacy issues. APLU is beginning to discuss FY23 appropriations and organize around the next Farm Bill. The Board of Agriculture Assembly (BAA) is working on a draft that collapses the budget. Doug is to provide a copy of the draft to Randy. There is a RFP on the street for the BAA's advocacy (Cornerstone has had this contract). CARET is planning its annual meeting in late February 2022 as an in-person meeting.

Eric Norland, National Science Liaison, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA): Eric introduced Dr. Peter Thompson, Director, Division of Environmental Systems. Dr. Thompson is the permanent replacement for Ali Mohamed who retired last year. Eric provided updates on NIFA hiring and teleworking. The Division of Climate Change is being reconstituted and led by Megan O'Rourke (she met with NAUFRP at the March 2021 Executive Committee meeting). Climate change is driving what NIFA is doing across all levels. Eric discussed the USDA Climate Resilience Plan and the upcoming United Nations meeting on Climate in Glasgow, Scotland in late October. AFRI is where climate change fits best within NIFA. These will be an Extension climate change team. A new initiative from the Secretary's office is Climate Smart Agriculture and Forests. Comments are being received on it. (See links from above)

Daniel Cassidy, National Program Leader for Forest Research and the Bioeconomy, NIFA: Daniel introduced Dr. Diomy Zamora, the new National Program Leader for Forest Resource Management, who will also be responsible for the RREA and Small business innovation programs. The latter will have a focus on climate change (wildfire protection, suppression and rehabilitation). Daniel noted that the plans of work for McStennis and RREA are expiring.

Dave Tenny, President and CEO, National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO): NAFO is focused on climate change. They are working with NCASI to educate policy makers. See www.forestcarbodataviz.org. This has been very effective. They are also working with the Food and Agricultural Climate Alliance (FACA) on Growing Climate Solutions and trying to help define USDA's role. NAFO believes the USDA role is to provide high quality data (i.e., FIA- which has its pros and limitations: FIA needs to be more robust on climate). USDA is a trusted voice in commodity markets and has a role to develop guidance, be a catalyst and remove barriers to carbon markets. Dave also discussed their initiatives on Wildlife Conservation, Conservation Without Conflict, and Environmental Impact Reports. They are also looking at diversity and inclusion issues and want to become a clearing house for NAFO members, establish a diversity internship and partnering with MANNRs and others.

Research, Bob Wagner (Written Report provided and posted on webpage) Work has been completed on 'Quantifying changes in Ph.D. expertise in forest resources from NAUFRP university programs over the past four decades (1978-2017)'. A manuscript has been accepted for publication in the journal *Forest Science*. An abstract is included in the written report.

As Research Chair, Bob was the lead on the U.S. Forest and Forest Products R&D Capacity Summit. The Summit came out of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Forest and Forest Products Research and Development which looked at the decline for forest research capacity in the U.S. Funding was through a one-year NIFA conference grant. An overview of the results was presented by Emily Huff, project coordinator and social scientist at Michigan State University. The Summit was intended to be an in-person conference but because of the pandemic it became a series of virtual meetings with stakeholders. A draft report featuring the results from these

meetings is included in Bob's written report. The most common priorities across all stakeholder groups were carbon and climate; fire, water, and markets for forest products; forest health; and wood energy and mass timber. They are now focused on 'Next Steps'. Advice and feedback about next steps with this effort is sought from the NAUFRP Executive Committee to take back to the Steering Committee. The team wants to continue with this work.

Regional Reports

- North Central, Rich Kobe: The North Central region is discussing a visit/meeting with the U.S. Forest Service Northern Station. They are holding quarterly meetings to share information on various issues. Suggestions are welcome for interfacing with other regions or agencies.

- Southern, Hans Williams: The Southern Region met June 16th in conjunction with the annual Forest Landowners Association (FLA) Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. Seven schools attended. Melinda Gable from FLA provided an introduction. Carol Redelsheimer and Terry Baker provided an update on SAF accreditation standard changes and Randy gave a DC update. Hans will be sending out the Southern schools comparative data survey soon. The issue of **CIP Codes** was discussed. Forest Science/Forest Resource Management should be part of STEM; other areas like urban forestry and natural resource management are designated as STEM. Jay Sullivan from Virginia Tech has developed a summary of the issue. This will be discussed further with Terry Baker later in the meeting. SAF should be involved; if not resolved, it could lead to the loss of students in NAUFRP programs. The determinations seem pretty arbitrary. Janaki has a contact at Auburn who is helping to identify if the issue is with the Dept of Education or Homeland Security (DHS). Jay found a place on the DHS website to comment on this matter (he submitted comments almost two years ago). He will share the link with the group and his summary. It would be of value if there were a collective effort to weigh in on this.

- Western, Charles Goebel: NAUFRP met August 11th for a zoom meeting. They discussed how the universities dealt with COVID and lessons learned. Other things that came up included: forestry program enrollments in their region were generally up; research proposals from faculty were up; there is a lot more emphasis and interest in extension programs. Also discussed were Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts at institutions and how NAUFRP can get involved. Katy is developing field safety protocols. They also discussed the apparent increasing difficulties and complexities of working with Forest Service Research. Charles asked if anyone is picking up Terry Sharik's work on enrollment data trends? Andrew said Terry is still doing this work. It is his intention to stay involved with it. Andrew was going to follow-up with Terry on the status.

- Northeast, Nancy Mathews: The Northeast Region has not met. She would like to follow-up with Rich Kobe and others on the topic of coarse sharing. She would also like the region to work on Diversity and Recruitment issues as partnerships and cited the example of Alabama A&M working with Dartmouth, the Universities of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont on a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded research effort on ecosystem resilience. Can we develop a network that shares what is happening at our

schools? Comments on both of these thoughts are welcome. Enrollment is growing in the forestry program at the University of Vermont; sixty percent are women.

Myron Floyd seconded Nancy's request for comments around DEI efforts especially around Eric's suggestion for multi-state and institutions collaboration. He believes there are lessons to be drawn from the Northeast example, especially around undergraduates.

Janaki welcomes suggestions on how to reach out to the 1890 schools and Alton Thompson. He would like to identify an 1890 representative to be engaged.

Linda Nagel: There will be three-day virtual workshop October 18, 19 and 22 "Advocates For Change in the Forest Sector Creating a Tool Box for Success". It is geared towards industry leaders and how they can incorporate DEI principles into their work. The audience is intended to be forest industry leaders. There is representation from academia, ngos, government and industry. Terry Baker is on the Steering Committee. Linda is on a panel and will share any takeaways with the NAUFRP Diversity Committee. Robert Burns is also on the same panel and Rich Kobe will be in the audience (Michigan State is a sponsor).

Terry Baker, Executive Officer, Society of American Foresters: SAF has completed its headquarters move to K Street in Washington, D.C. They launched a collaborative platform last month called Trade Wind. It's similar to LinkedIn and Face Book and is a place for SAF communities of interest to engage. It is intended to provide tools, share information, be efficient and easy to use. They are beginning with SAF Working Groups and the national committee. Next year they want to build it out to faculty advisers, students and more. This year's convention in November will be virtual. The 2022 convention will be in Baltimore and 2023 in Sacramento. They hope 2024 will be in Colorado and 2025 will be in Connecticut. This year they are promoting a convention 'classroom rate': register up to 25 students for \$2,000. The review process for accreditation standards has gone well. The new handbook will be published before the end of the year. SAF has taken a new tack on national position statements; they want to be proactive versus reactive. Recent statements include prescribed fire, water quality, forest management and recreation management. Currently they are hiring four new staff with more to come. Terry is happy to meet and engage with students at NAUFRP institutions. Janaki noted the issue of forestry not being designated as a STEM in the CIP codes and would like to work with SAF to address this. SAF might have sources that can help at the Departments of Education and Homeland Security. Janaki has shared Jay Sullivan's summary with Terry. Terry was not aware of this issue and committed to help. Paul Winistorfer has previously advocated for a joint meeting of SAF, the Forest Products Society and the International Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST). The wood-side of the house suffers with the three organizations. There are too many pieces not on the same page. SAF, as the largest of the three organizations, is in a better position to make some progress. He asked Terry to reach out to the other two organizations. Randy noted the wildlife and fisheries groups have done so successfully. Janaki expressed appreciation to Terry for including NAUFRP representation on the accreditation standards review committee.

Reviewer Data Base, Myron Floyd: A questionnaire was developed and refined with input from Daniel Cassidy, Eric Norland and the Executive Committee. From the responses some areas of expertise were expanded. Myron and Terri have had a meeting with Hannah Abbots (she

upgraded the NAUFRP webpage several years ago) and she presented a proposal which was accepted. Hannah hopes to have a model ready for discussion in December.

The General Assembly will meet virtually on November 3rd from 1:00-4:00 Eastern time. With the President-Elect's presentation on NAUFRP accomplishments, the agenda will cover the Treasurer's and Randy's Washington reports. Janaki is seeking to invite Robert Bonnie and would allow 30 minutes if he accepts. Time will also be allowed for discussion on the Reviewer Data Base, Awards and Resolutions and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts.

The NAUFRP Executive Committee plans its next meeting to be in-person March 14-15, 2022 in Washington, D.C. at Randy Nuckolls' office.

Adjourned.

*Minutes Approved
March 14, 2022*

Meeting Participants

Executive Committee: Janaki Alavalapati (President, Auburn University), David Newman (Immediate Past President, SUNY), Katy Kavanagh (President-Elect, Oregon State University), Robert Burns (Secretary/Treasurer), Andrew Storer (Education Chair, Michigan Tech University), Dennis Becker (Policy Chair, University of Idaho), Don Hodges (International Chair, University of Tennessee), Karen Mock (At Large, Utah State University), Dale Greene (At-Large, University of Georgia), Bob Wagner (Research Chair, Purdue University) Red Baker (Communications Chair, University of Florida), Hans Williams (Southern Chair, Stephen F. Austin State University), Myron Floyd (At-Large, North Carolina State University) , Nancy Mathews (Northeast Chair, University of Vermont), Charles Goebel (Western Chair, University of Idaho), Rich Kobe (North Central Chair, Michigan State University), Linda Nagel (APLU-BAC Liaison, Colorado State University), Yeon-Su Kim (Diversity Chair, Northern Arizona University), Randy Nuckolls (General Counsel), Terri Bates (Executive Liaison)

NAUFRP Representatives: Mike Kilgore (Univ. of Minn), Dan Brown (Univ of Washington), Zhu Ning (Southern Univ), Jay Sullivan (VaTech), Paul Winistorfer (VaTech), Kozma Naka (AL A&M), John Carroll (Univ. of NE)