



# NAUFRP

*National Association of University Forest Resources Programs*

*Creating Knowledge—Developing Leaders*

## MINUTES NAUFRP GENERAL ASSEMBLY November 3, 2021

NAUFRP President Janaki Alavalapati opened the General Assembly with a welcome. Participants were asked to introduce themselves. (Participant List attached). Janaki noted changes to the Executive Committee: Yeon Su Kim, Diversity Chair; Dennis Becker, Policy Chair; Don Hodges, International Chair; Nancy Mathews, Northeast Chair; Dale Greene and Karen Mock are Members at Large.

Gene Kodama, President, Society of American Foresters (SAF) noted the good partnership between SAF and NAUFRP, particularly with interactions in Washington, D.C. and on accreditation matters. A key role for SAF is bringing in a younger generation and working with them. Terry Baker, SAF CEO, thanked NAUFRP for its representation on the accreditation review process. The new accreditation handbook should be out by the end of the year. He noted SAF's support on policy issues for FIA and McIntire-Stennis funding. SAF is changing; they are hiring new staff and adopting new programs and growing existing ones. They would like to work with NAUFRP to better connect with students and potential students. A lot of focus is being given to diversity, equity and inclusion (dei) programs. SAF has recently launched a new platform called Trade Winds. Initially it is connecting SAF Working Groups but they hope in time to engage faculty advisors as a group.

The minutes from the October 28, 2020 General Assembly were submitted for approval. These were posted on the NAUFRP webpage for review. Jeff Stringer made a motion to approve, seconded by David Newman. The minutes were approved.

Robert Burns, NAUFRP Treasurer reviewed financial reports for 2020 and year to date 2021. Total income in 2020 was \$131,705 and total expenses \$110,345. Carry over into 2021 was \$138,404. As of October 31, 2021, income was \$122,594 and expenses \$86,692. Projected Total Income for 2021 is expected to be approximately \$128,297 and expenses \$102,552. The Executive Committee approved a proposed budget for 2022 based on the 2021 budget. The General Assembly also approved it.

NAUFRP President-Elect Katy Kavanagh reviewed a PowerPoint (posted on webpage) of NAUFRP work over the past year. NAUFRP's mission is to promote research, education and extension relating to forestry and natural resources. This is done through the committees and regions often working with partner organizations. She detailed this by committee and region. Some examples are: Education Chair Andrew Storer's representation on the SAF Accreditation Standards Committee; Policy Chair Dennis Becker's work with the Forest Climate Working Group; Communications Chair Red Baker's development of a NAUFRP Newsletter and ongoing work on one-page McIntire-Stennis descriptions posted on the NAUFRP webpage ([www.naufrp.org/mcintire-stennis-projects/](http://www.naufrp.org/mcintire-stennis-projects/)); Extension Chair Jeff Stringer's work on the annual Family Forests Education Award co-sponsored with the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA); Yeon-Su Kim has initiated a preliminary diversity survey and is working closely with the National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP); Research Chair Bob Wagner's work on the Forest and Forest Products R&D Capacity Summit. The Southern

Region has highlighted issues with CIP codes and is reaching out to SAF for help on this. (Jay Sullivan, Virginia Tech, has summarized the issue.)

Washington Report, Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP General Counsel: Randy noted it has been a busy although not particularly productive year. He reviewed the status of FY22 appropriations. A Continuing Resolution (CR) is now in effect at through December and there is a good chance it will be extended. The new Biden Administration has proposed huge spending increases in some areas. Randy urged that close attention be paid to new monies proposed in the Build Back Better (BBB) Initiative for climate change programs. That includes \$25 billion proposed for forest-related climate change activities. (Some of this breaks out as follows: \$18.8 billion for wildfire resilience of which \$3 billion would be for nonfederal lands; \$300 million for reforestation; \$1.52 billion for the Forest Legacy and Conservation programs; \$1 billion for landowner incentives, \$775 million for wood innovation grants; \$2.5 billion for urban forestry initiatives and grants; \$250 million for FIA including research by universities on forest carbon research). So far, the forestry elements have not been controversial in Congress. Further, the Administration proposes an additional \$210 million for AFRI, \$80 million to Smith Lever, \$60 million to the Specialty Crops program. And \$1 billion would go to research facilities at the 1890, 1894, Hispanic and Hawaiian institutions. The Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU) has just sent a letter to Congress stressing that the needs of traditional 1862 institutions are great and should be eligible for some of this funding. All these dollars would be in the FY22 appropriations over 10 years. Title I is Forestry and Agriculture. Randy urged NAUFRP representatives to speak regularly with their campus government affairs people.

Bob Wagner, Research Chair and Emily Huff, Michigan State University *U.S. Forest and Forest Products R&D Capacity: Results from 2020-2021 Summit with Stakeholders* 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 of forest research capacity in the U.S. Funding was through a one-year NIFA conference grant. The goal was to bring together forestry sector leaders (academia, ngos, landowners, state and federal agencies, industry) to try and figure out how to collectively coordinate and advocate for forestry and forest products research in the U.S. An overview of the results was presented by Dr. Emily Huff, project coordinator and social scientist at Michigan State University. Points for discussion: does this group generally agree with the perceptions presented here, should an in-person cross-functional summit happen and what would an actual prioritization process look like? 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 which was distributed to the NAUFRP list prior to this meeting. 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. There was concern expressed about regional priorities being lost among national priorities. They are now focused on 'Next Steps'. Bob sees this as a beginning of a process. 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.

Daniel Cassidy, National Program Leader for Forest Research and the Bioeconomy, USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA): NIFA is planning a virtual meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> for Administrative Technical Representatives (ATRs) and RREA administrators. They will possibly have a spring or summer meeting next year to 'show off' the McStennis and RREA programs. First quarter funds are now being released for McStennis and RREA. The Small Business Innovation Program RFA's close today and Daniel will be looking for panelists. Climate Change is a prominent topic within NIFA. Daniel is on various writing teams and looking to identify where forestry can be a part of RFAs that include rural economic development, youth and communities, silvopasture and water quality. The one-pager McStennis project descriptions developed by

NAUFRP institutions have been very valuable. Randy asked about the allocation/drawdown of McStennis monies. Daniel said it is very much improved; only \$56,000 was not drawn and it is being re-allocated to another institution.

Linda Nagel is the NAUFRP representatives to the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities' (APLU) Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) and Board of Natural Resources (BNR). BAC now has a different process for soliciting developing budget 'asks' for the unified appropriations request. The Biden Administration budget requests for NIFA programs were much higher than APLU's requests for FY 22 so APLU is revamping its request process for FY23 and 24. They are looking for justifications for these increases. Linda held a conference call with Executive Committee officers to discuss this earlier this week. Decisions will be made in January and ready for the next round of appropriations.

#### Diversity Discussion Session, Yeon-Su Kim, Diversity Chair

Time today allows only for a beginning conversation on diversity, equity and inclusion (dei) efforts that will hopefully set a tone for NAUFRP going forward. *The Diversity Committee has four goals. First to learn.* She discussed the brief survey circulated to NAUFRP representatives. The objective was to identify a contact at each institution. Twenty-four institutions responded. The link to the survey (it takes five minutes) is in the chatbox and there is still the opportunity to respond. From the survey she has seen that some institutions revised their graduate admissions process, or are including dei in faculty evaluations. She is compiling these responses into a diversity strategy and other resources on Google Drive which can be found within the survey. The survey is ongoing at [NAUFRP Diversity Survey \(google.com\)](https://www.naufwp.org/diversity). Yeon-Su noted NAUFRP has completed a more comprehensive survey and asked if NAUFRP wants to conduct something similar? Because of time limitation she would like to use the chat box to gather information on Best Practices. Categories might be academic structure (committees, diversity coordinator, budgets), campus culture (how often campus leaders speak on dei, current affairs, police actions) and recruitment and retention (training, ...). Josh Benes, University of Vermont, summarized the NAUFRP survey results. Information can be found at <https://www.naufwp.org/diversity.html>. Nancy Mathews added that NAUFRP would like to do this survey every five years to measure change. She believes it would be powerful for both associations to use the same survey instrument and be on the same cycle. Linda Nagel noted that there are distinct differences between fisheries/wildlife and forestry; she believes the data regarding students will be very different. It is important to understand what the focus should be on. How does NAUFRP want to lead? We have aspirations but not yet a vision. How can we leverage on dei? What are our goals and how can we advance them. It is important that we partner with SAF as NAUFRP did with The Wildlife Society. Terry Sharik encouraged tracking student perceptions. Nancy said she/they were catalyzed by the George Floyd incident. It prompted their Diversity Statement (values and goals). They have not decided on a full/final role. They are providing resources on their website. Janaki suggested the committee work to propose a path forward and encouraged using/reaching out to include regional chairs. Yeon Su said NAUFRP has provided a good model and the committee will work to draft a vision document to circulate for feedback. Work on the NAUFRP survey will continue. She asked if NAUFRP has a budget for this? And her committee will work to track student perceptions and collect Best Practices. For that they will need an open forum with representatives from institutions to share. Will add to Google Drive.

#### Larry Biles, Vice-President, House Society of Delegates, Terry Baker, Society of American Foresters

Larry attended a presentation given by Janaki at the NASF meeting earlier this Fall and was surprised that over half of university graduates are being credentialed in natural resources and conservation and not traditional forestry, fisheries or wildlife. He has shared this with the SAF House Society of Delegates and encouraged them to get in touch with university faculty advisers. Larry does not think there are professional societies for natural resources and conservation and wants to get them to consider SAF. It would be an

opportune time for SAF to get to know students in their states and regions. This should be a collective effort. SAF members at the state level could be a mentoring network, provide leadership experience and encourage representatives of state societies to get better acquainted with advisers at universities. Larry would like feedback if he and/or the House of Delegates should pursue this. Terry and Larry have discussed this – how to get students involved with professional societies. They know this happens at various levels. They have talked about how to fold this idea into other things SAF is considering and an overarching strategy for student engagement. That includes how to better work with faculty advisers proactively and providing support materials and content to be shared with students on the benefits of professional societies. Larry’s idea is to engage HSD, and SAF to provide support for this. Terry said the long game is to engage a broader audience to show case forestry. All this is part of an overarching SAF strategy.

2021 Family Forests Education Award, Jeff Stringer, Extension Chair: Nominations are annually solicited for the Family Forest Education Award cosponsored by NAUFRP and the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA). There are two awards: one for a Comprehensive program and the other for an Individual project. The comprehensive award focus is on a broad educational effort to address a diverse array of family forest issues and the program uses a wide range of educational approaches and programs. The Individual award addresses a specific family forest issue or problem and can include specialized courses, workshops, webinars and more. In 2021 the Individual nominations were asked to address new or modified programs addressing the 2020 pandemic. Jeff shared the metrics used to evaluate the nominations. Two nominations were submitted for the Comprehensive award; both were high quality and competitive. The winner is the University of Maryland Extension ‘Woodland Stewardship Education Program.’ Five nominations were received for the Individual award and the winner is the University of Kentucky Forestry and Natural Resources Extension “From the Woods Today”. (Jeff recused himself as a reviewer.) They developed a weekly live stream education program. All shows are available as podcasts at [www.ukforestry.org](http://www.ukforestry.org).

A resolution was read recognizing the 40-year career of Steven H. Bullard. He served as Dean of the Arthur Temple College of Forest and Agriculture and Provost at Stephen F. Austin State University. He was former NAUFRP President in 2013-2014 and lead the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the McIntire Stennis program.

Randy noted that if the Build Back Better Initiative goes forward we need to work with APLU to put together a process for the land-grant system to have input into the process for monies that are to come to forestry for climate change. Currently APLU has a structure for annual appropriations process that includes forestry but they don’t have one for forestry outside of that. The Board of Natural Resources is not as robust as the Board of Agriculture. NAUFRP will need to step up if all this forestry money comes to fruition.

Janaki’s closing remarks included the strength of this association depends on its members. Please share thoughts with the Executive Committee and/or regional chairs on how to best serve the NAUFRP membership. The idea of NAUFRP Town Halls to focus on contemporary issues is currently being discussed. An example might be to invite Robert Bonnie, deputy chief and senior science advisor to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack to discuss forestry climate change policies. Bonnie is set to become USDA Undersecretary of Farm Production and Conservation.

The NAUFRP Executive Committee will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in March 2022 in Washington, DC. Next year’s General Assembly will be in Baltimore, MD Looking forward to seeing everyone in person

Adjourned

*Adopted*  
*September 20, 2022*  
*Baltimore, MD*