



**FINAL NOTES
NAFSR BOD ZOOM MEETING
August 11, 2022**

Attendees

Board Members – Steve Ellis (Chair), Jamie Connell (Acting Vice Chair), Jim Caswell (Past Chair), Sharon Friedman (R-2), Greg Griffith (R-3), Becki Heath (R-6), Malcolm Gramley (R-8), Don Howlett (R-9), Sandra Key Holsten (R-10), Rich Guldin (Research), Doug Crandall (Congressional Liaison), Gene Blakenbaker (National), Hank Kashdan (National), Ranotta McNair (National), Nora Rasure (National), Susan Skalski (National), Bill Timko (National), Jack Troyer (National), Jeanne Wade Evans (National), Ed Shepard (PLF Liaison), Kevin Martin (AWCP Liaison), Dale Bosworth (Chief Emeritus).

Committee Chairs – Sharon Friedman for Jose Linares (Restoration), Phil Aune (Awards), Nora Rasure (Recreation).

Staff - Bill Disbrow (Webmaster) and Johnny Hodges (Secretary).

Opening Remarks by Chair - Steve Ellis

Steve gave a “Thank You” to Jane Darnell for her time serving as Vice Chair of the Board. She did a wonderful job.

Steve introduced Jamie Connell who has agreed to serve as the Acting Vice Chair for the next 6 months.

Jamie’s comments -

- I know quite a few Board members.
- I have worked for both the FS and BLM during my career
- I spent quite some time working on “Service First”.

- Among other assignments, I have worked as a petroleum engineer and district ranger on the White River N.F.
- I have 35 years of line management experience.
- Worked as BLM State Director in both Colorado and Oregon.

Steve said we would put together a Search Committee to find a permanent Vice Chair.

Committee & Lead Reports

Restoration - Sharon Friedman

- Jose Linares is the new chair but was unable to attend today's meeting.
- The committee has been working on Old Growth policy.
- A draft paper was sent to the Board last week for review.
- The initial request was for comment on mature/old growth definitions. The agency has since told us that feedback on mature/old growth management would also be helpful.
- The committee will meet next week to continue work. We need help with silviculture expertise from on the ground personnel. We also need expertise from the upper Midwest. This is a national framework so need help from all ecosystems. Input from other professional societies would help build a bigger coalition.
- Is this about carbon? Maybe the climate committee could address in some way.
- There is a proposal that we are responding to. We are writing it along with PLF and SAF. The original deadline was 8/15 but has been extended 15 days.
- We have not received any written comments from the Board.
- Jack – Sharon and Rich G. have in depth knowledge on this issue.
- Jim C. – The draft that was sent out was right on. Don't change too much.
- Ed – The PLF Board has already approved the current version. Probably ok unless there are significant changes.
- The SAF paper is more holistic. We are moving along in the same area.
- We will have the final draft out on 8/19 for final review by Board. Please respond "yes or no" to Johnny by 8/23.
- Jim C. – The revised charter for the Restoration Committee (handout) includes objectives stating that "the team will make recommendations to the board to support the agency". That is not our mission, and the statement needs to be corrected.
- Steve – We are ok with adding reforestation issues to the Restoration Committee. Bill Timko will join the committee.

Recreation - Nora Rasure

- I will cover 3 topics – Reunion, E-bikes, and position paper.
- At the Reunion on Thursday at 9:00 a.m., a recreation panel with three speakers will focus on how people work together - Federal, State and Local.

- E-bikes – The FS released clarification policy on 3/22. Bikes are considered motorized vehicles and cannot use non-motorized trails. There are different classes of E-bikes.
- The policy allows decisions at the local level where E-bikes could be used on non-motorized trails. It would require NEPA process.
- A couple of forests in R-6 have started talking about it. It is similar to BLM policy. A national team is putting together criteria.
- Position Paper – We are waiting on a national recreation strategy paper which may come out this Fall.

Fire Committee – Jeanne Wade Evans

Committee Chair Mike Dudley is on a fire assignment.

Members of the Fire Committee had a call with Jaelith Hall-Rivera (S&PF Deputy Chief) and Jerry Perez (National Fire Director) on August 3rd. Steve Ellis was also on the call.

Topics discussed included:

- Fire preparedness levels this year compared to last.
- The focus on tactics and strategy and pre-season work (PODs).
- The significant work on firefighter pay and series completed by the Forest Service and OPM. Firefighters began receiving pay at the end of June. OPM completed new series in a record 6 months.
- The close out of the collaborative Fire Resilience work of TNC and the Aspen Institute will occur at the end of September in Jackson, WY. The focus of the work is on recommendations for safer communities and healthier forests. Steve will be attending for NAFSR.
- The Cohesive Strategy Wildland Fire Strategy Workshop will be hosted in Asheville, NC November 14-18.
- Complex Incident Management and the Future Role of Area Command-Paper provided by Joe Stutler will be sent to the Board.
- The Federal capacity in wildland fire - There was question from some on the committee asking if there is any NAFSR interest in this issue, similar to the work done on the agency workforce capacity project that NASFR completed several years ago.

Climate Committee – Rich Guldin and Steve Ellis

There are three decisions to make –

1. Whether to form a Climate Committee (approved).
2. Who should be members of the Committee (approved, other members may be added).
3. A draft position paper on climate change (approved to proceed).

The Draft Charter for the Climate Committee includes the following direction –

- Prepare precise statements on climate change.

- Outline management actions to take related to climate change.
- Be the conduit for the Board on climate change issues.
- Make recommendations on climate change issues.

Proposed Climate Committee Members who have been invited and have agreed to participate in preparing a position statement, pending approval of the project by the NAFSR Board:

Dr. David A. Cleaves. Dr. Cleaves was formerly the Climate Advisor and Executive in the Office of the Forest Service Chief.

Dr. Linda A. Joyce, Emeritus Quantitative Ecologist, Rocky Mountain Research Station.

Dr. John A. Laurence. Formerly a research scientist and program manager at PNW Research Station, then several leadership positions in R-6.

Dr. Ariel E. Lugo, Emeritus Ecologist, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, Rio Piedras, PR. Formerly, Director (SES) of IITF.

Dr. David L Peterson is Emeritus Senior Research Scientist with the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station and Professor of Forest Biology at the University of Washington, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences.

John Phipps, the Deputy Chief, State & Private Forestry when he retired. Prior to assuming the Deputy Chief position in 2019, John served as Station Director for the Rocky Mountain Research Station 2015-2019. From 2008-2015, John served as Associate Deputy Chief and Senior Advisor for State & Private Forestry.

- The Climate Committee's objective is to prepare a NAFSR position statement on climate change in 3 to 6 months. The invitations extended to the team members and their agreement to serve were only for the initial task of preparing a position paper.
- To meet future NAFSR objectives beyond preparing a position statement, the NAFSR Board may ask the Climate Committee to continue providing advice and recommendations to it. If so, the team membership may change.

Comments from the Board -

- Becky – Beautiful piece of work; want to make sure committees are talking to each other; add to charter.
- Sharon – Climate is involved in all resources.
- Ranotta – Committee is well-rounded but missing on-the-ground input.
- Don – Impacts of climate change need to be brought down to the community level.

- Hank – We can be too wonky with this and lose part of our audience. We need to communicate effectively.
- Sandra – Climate impacts are obvious in Alaska, but there are many climate deniers, especially in the political world.
- Jamie – The charter could include PLF.
- Steve – This a critically important topic. The Climate Committee needs to be engaged with other committees. We need to be practical. We need to be cognizant of climate change deniers. Some Board members have been suggested as committee members. Let Rich know if you are interested and available.

Congressional Update - Doug Crandall

- The House is on a 46-day recess. It is likely to flip to Republican control in the mid-term election.
- Senate – Republicans have 21 seats up for election compared to 14 for Democrats.
- The Infrastructure Bill was good for the FS with a budget increase of \$5 billion over 10 years but is creating a ton of pressure on FS. The FS is really in turmoil.
- Appropriation Bill passed the House a couple of weeks ago. There are good numbers for the FS.
- The Senate is not moving on any Appropriation Bills. The Republicans will not negotiate until after the election.
- The Cottonwood Fix has bipartisan support and passed out of committee.
- There could be an Omnibus Public Lands Bill. There are a lot of forestry bills out there.
- The Farm Bill expires in September 2023 and there is a lot of pressure to get work done now. Increasing polarization.

Questions from the Board –

- Jack – What is the outlook for Schedule F? There is a lot of opposition internally and unlikely to go anywhere.
- Bill T. – Reforestation folks looking for help. Maybe ACES program can help.
- Becki – ACES has 100 people wanting to help, but G&A can't get it done.
- Hank – We need to get FS leadership to listen on ACES issues. The FS culture is a barrier.
- Jim – Is there any traction on the Daines/Feinstein Bill? No.
- Sharon – Any thoughts on the "Save Our Sequoia Bill"? It would need to go into the Omnibus Public Lands Bill.

Public Lands Foundation - Ed Shepard

- Working on capacity in BLM. Middle level management is overwhelmed.
- Major barriers are the hiring process and housing costs.
- PLF is back in good graces with BLM and the Department.
- All state directors are now permanently in place, the first time in many years.
- Inexperience in leadership.

- PLF is holding their annual meeting in Grand Junction in September.

CEQ, NEPA, AWCP, ESA, Public Lands – Ranotta McNair, Kevin Marin, Jack Troyer

- Ranotta – No news to report.
- Kevin – Continuing coordination with AWCP on co-signing correspondence.
- Jack – After the New Mexico fires this Spring, there was a push to take lands away from the FS, but it did not gain traction.

Student Congress - Jim Caswell

- In 2018 we decided to visit the 2018 Student Congress which was supported by PLF. There was a question of whether we wanted to be a co-leader of the conference.
- We briefed the Board on the past Congress in February 2019.
- The Andrus Center at Boise State University agreed to host the Congress permanently. It is scheduled Oct. 3-6 this year.
- It is a huge legacy for NAFSR to be a sponsor.
- Jim proposed to donate \$2,500 to this year's Congress.
- We will also ask members to donate individually.
- Details of the Congress are posted on our website with a link to donate. Johnny will also send out the information to all members.
- Steve made a motion to donate \$2,500 to the Congress this year. It was seconded by Susan. The motion passed. This is a one-time donation.
- The Board will discuss later about making financial support permanent.

Old Business

Administration Report - Johnny Hodges

Due to time constraints, Johnny said he would send a written report to the Board. The written report follows.

Finance

I sent the Board a copy of our 2nd Quarter Financial Report earlier this month. Our cash balance at the end of June was about \$36,300 and our long-term investment balance was about \$12,300 for a total of \$48,600.

Membership

Our current membership is 712. This is down 27 members from the beginning of the calendar year.

We purged 21 members for non-payment of dues. This is about average for our annual purge numbers. I sent the Board a list of the members on the purge list back in May.

We have had 13 members pass away so far this year.

I will be publishing an updated Membership Directory in the next week. I update the Directory about every 6 months.

Reunion

I have put together quite a bit of propaganda/bling for the Reunion. We will have –

- Tabletop display of 12x18 inches (I wanted 20x40, but it has been out of stock all summer) with our logo and a few bullets.
- Table runner with our logo (30 inches) that will hang over the front of our table.
- 100 buttons with our logo. We will give these out to the Board and to any NAFSR members at the Reunion as well as any new members we sign up.
- 100 (at least) leftover pins that were made by Western Heritage. These will be free to anyone that wants them.
- 200 business cards with a “Join Us Today” title along with our logo and website address to use for recruiting new members.
- Bill Disbrow made us a QR code that we will display on the table. Anyone can use the reader on their phone, and it will bring up our website.
- We can use some Board volunteers to staff the table on Monday night, Tuesday, and maybe Thursday morning. If you will be at the Reunion and willing to volunteer an hour or so, let me know.

Reunion NAFSR Meeting

There will not be a Board meeting at the Reunion.

NAFSR has a room from 12:30 to 2:45 on Monday. This will be more of an open house where the Board, NAFSR members and anyone else that is interested, can attend. There may be some presentations by Steve or some other Board member, but it is more of a Q&A format/discussion. I will send out a message about this to our members in the next week or so.

If you are at the Reunion at that time, please plan to attend.

Awards - Phil Aune

Due to time constraints, Phil was unable to give his report. He will do so at a future time.

Next Board Meetings

November 10, 2022

February 7-8, 2023 (hopefully in person)

Meeting Adjourned

Notes by Johnny Hodges, August 11, 2022

Final edits by Johnny Hodges, August 17, 2022