

NAFSR ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND WORKSHOP

February 6 and 7, 2018

Final Notes

February 6

Attendees

Jim Caswell (Chair), Larry Payne (Vice Chair), Sam Foster (Executive Director), Ranotta McNair (R-6), Mike Rogers (R-5 South), Marlin Johnson (R-3), Mac Gramley (R-8), Jack Troyer (R-4), Rich Guldin (Research), Pete Griffin (R-10), Rich Stem (R-1), Tom Thompson (R-2), Hank Kashdan (National), Bill Timko (National), Dale Robertson (Former Chief), Johnny Hodges (Secretary), Bill Disbrow (Webmaster), Phil Aune (Awards Committee Chair), Al West (Fire Committee Chair) and Ed Shepard (President of Public Lands Foundation)

Introductions and Opening Remarks - Jim Caswell

Jim Caswell welcomed Ed Shepard, currently President of the Public Lands Foundation and a long-time BLM employee, including State Director for Oregon & Washington. PLF is probably the retiree organization closest to NAFSR in membership and interests. Jim has asked Ed to serve as our meeting evaluator. Jim emphasized how both groups could be doing a lot more together.

Secretary/Treasurer Report - Johnny Hodges

Johnny Hodges passed out the NAFSR Financial Summary 2015-2018 and the Membership Summary. In 2016 the treasury took a big jump as we began offering Lifetime Memberships for the first time.

Our balance on January 1, 2017 was \$31,886. During 2017, our income was \$14,399 and expenses were \$11,151, for a net increase of \$2,888. The starting balance for January 1, 2018 was \$34,774.

Our current membership is 641. We gained 44 new members in 2017, and 35 who resigned, didn't renew their annual dues, or were deceased. We have 150 "Golden" members who are over 80 years. They don't pay dues, but some do make donations. Of the 641 current members, we have 90 Lifetime Members (14 percent).

Website Update - Bill Disbrow

Bill Disbrow presented 2017 website statistics. In 2017 we had 308,446 total hits, 51,359 webpage views by 26,118 visitors (71 per day). Visits to the site are increasing each month with 3,000 visits in December 2017. Our BOD Notes are the most popular of the downloads.

After discussing the website and other communications issues, we discussed Twitter. The NGO community in the D.C. area is really getting more focused on using Twitter to message. The

more that NAFSR can do in this arena, the better. What we NAFSR Board members need is a short, simple introduction to how to set up and use Twitter. With that, we Board members can get more engaged using Twitter. This is much more effective than using emails. Emailing members of Congress can get you added to their mailing lists for all sorts of communications from members' offices and re-election campaigns. We will put together a short introduction on how to use Twitter and share with our members.

Accomplishments Summary 11/1/17 to 2/1/18 – Sam Foster

1. Johnny Hodges is ensuring that information and documents are posted on the NAFSR website so that they are easily accessible by members.
2. 11/1/17 – Sam Foster presented last quarter's accomplishments to the Board of Directors.
3. 12/7/17 – Received letter from USDA Secretary Perdue in response to our 10/31/17 letter to him on proposed closures of Job Corps Centers. He thanked us for our comments and indicated that one of his staff will follow-up with us on it.
4. 1/5/18 – NAFSR submitted a letter to Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT), Chairman of House Committee on Natural Resources, with our position opposing HR 1349. This bill proposes to amend the Wilderness Act of 1964 to allow "non-motorized bicycles" as well as other forms of motorized and non-motorized mechanical transport in Wilderness areas. Thanks to the lead by Tommy Thompson to help create this letter.
5. 1/8/18 – NAFSR sent a letter to USDA Secretary Perdue regarding his stance on OneUSDA and NAFSR's perspective on the issue giving strong support to the independence of the FS.
6. 1/14/18 – Ellen Hodges developed the 2017 4th Quarter and 2017 Year End Financial Summaries and Johnny distributed them to the Board.
7. 1/16/18 – We joined in with SAF, TNC, and many other partners on the Fire Funding Fix Tweet Storm on Congress. We used faxes and other techniques to send our message to Congress that we as an organization feel that the Fire Funding Fix is enormously important to the U.S. and to the future of the USFS. Special thanks go to Bill Timko for his assistance on helping to craft the language that we used.
8. 1/16/18 – Sam Foster joined in the call in for the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition. See his notes posted on our website as to current activities on developing and promoting the next version of the Farm Bill.
9. 1/25/18 – Johnny Hodges updated and then distributed a new version of the membership directory to our 640 members.
10. Johnny Hodges worked hard to collect dues and donations from members. The collection process (checks and credit cards) works well, but still takes a lot of time and follow-up.

Larry Payne - What's missing here is the relationship-related things that come to Sam, Larry, and Jim that also take time and attention. These items are not listed above, but they are important for us.

Corbin had recommended to Sam Foster when he took on the Executive Director role that in six months he do a personal evaluation of his performance. It has turned out to be a 24/7 job. Sam has decided that this is a much bigger job than he realized. In December he decided to tender his resignation. Sam's resignation will be effective at the end of this meeting.

Congress and USDA Update - Bill Timko

Bill indicated, as Sam just stated, that his role as a Washington Legislation Liaison is a much bigger role than Hank Kashdan led him to believe.

All the air is taken up over DACA and the Continuing Resolution (CR). There are presently no stand-alone bills.

Our top issue is the Fire Funding fix. There is no separate bill on the table. Fire funding has created several fractured relationships with some members. What seems likely is a rider to the Continuing Resolution. What everyone is seeking is access to emergency funds and to fix the 10-year average. Senator Murkowski continues to be a key person in the discussions about a funding fix.

Fire Funding may end up as a piece of the Farm Bill. It may be hard to pass the Farm Bill in an election year, so this issue may continue to search for a solution.

The language in the Westerman Bill is likely to be included, in some form, in the next Farm Bill. The language has undergone considerable change over the past year and is likely to remain in flux as the Farm Bill emerges. A challenge for NAFSR is figuring out what our membership would support. By endorsing Westerman, getting the language into a House bill that will pass and move to the Senate, where some of the language could be moderated, is a difficult story to explain to our membership.

The Farm Bill is the big piece of legislation on the Hill this year. Markup is likely to start in March at the earliest, but the bill will be so big that it may not be able to pass before the Congressional election in November. There are several different provisions that will need individual consideration.

The Mountain Bike proposal in Wilderness appears to be dead.

The Secretary of Interior is still pushing for a reorganization that would put the USFS in Interior. Secretary Perdue has pushed back hard on this. There is no support to pursue this reorganization among current Congressional Members.

Regarding Job Corps, there might be some additional centers closed, but Job Corps is low on the Secretary's list of interests. Department of Labor seems to be shifting more to contract activities with outside groups, but little interest in placing more money or emphasis on Forest Service centers.

There is still no Deputy Undersecretary for Agriculture. There is a strong rumor that an announcement is forthcoming, and it is someone we all know.

Secretary Perdue is very supportive of the Forest Service and is interested in meeting with Forest Service Retirees. He may be at the 2018 Reunion in Asheville, NC.

In the spring Bill Timko is going to make the rounds with Forest Service staffers to reestablish Congressional contacts. Bill shared some advice he has received on NAFSR being careful about jumping into issues without having all of the facts. We currently have high integrity as an organization and this could be severely damaged by getting involved and taking positions on issues we have not fully vetted.

Based on discussions and a visit to the Washington Office - Rich Stem

Three of six of Chief Tooke's emphasis areas are:

- Engage partners
- Increase acres treated for fire damage and restoration due to mortality of the forests
- "Change" the decision process to be quicker and more efficient.

Regarding the last bullet, they are using an Incident Command Team approach to look at overall NEPA, Endangered Species Act and Categorical Exclusions, and relationships/rules with the Council on Environmental Quality. An example is that they are trying to modify the approach used to provide "consultations" using FS biologists.

They are exploring limiting the ability of line officers to use EA's and EIS's and increase the use of CE's. There are also discussions with CEQ to provide an enlarged set of categories where exclusions can be used. This would be a very different approach than what has evolved in previous administrations. The approach sought would follow more closely the BLM model for doing evaluations of alternatives and scope of decisions. The Chief would like to see the USFS have the same latitude that other Agencies receive. The Department is supportive of this effort.

We also discussed the fact that regardless of the monies that could be increased if fire borrowing was fixed, coupled with changes in priorities and with more regulation flexibility, that would still not help the agency in the short term. The Agency is below critical mass in experience, skills, and vacancies not being filled. For those that have not been on the Forests of late, the capacity issue is very real and not talked about much, but it is critical. Normal hiring will not deal with this in an expedient way and a different approach of increasing capacity is sorely needed or the agency will fail to meet expectations regardless of the potential money increases or regulation efficiencies created.

National Older Worker Career Center – Hank Kashdan

Hank Kashdan has taken on a new role for the National Older Worker Career Center. There is an authority that exists to harness the experience of retirees - the Agriculture, Conservation, Experienced Service (ACES) program. The authority has existed for two years and is likely to continue. The Forest Service can use anyone who is 55 years or older—whether a retiree or not. The National Older Worker Career Center gets a grant from the Forest Service to hire someone with specific skills to do specific jobs. The Forest Service, as an organization, has gotten to a point where they are lacking the work force capacity to get work accomplished on the ground.

So far, there are 38 enrollees in the program. Regions 1 and 8 have 20 of these folks. There is a Master Agreement in place (a participating agreement). Regions and Stations do subsidiary agreements underneath the Master Agreement that can implement this for specific jobs they need done. Regions and Stations supply the salary (plus 23-25% for overhead) commensurate with the position to the NOWCC.

Salaries can range up to \$80 per hour; GS-14 or GS-15, for example. Federal retiree benefits are completely unaffected by this employment. The NOWCC can turn around decisions on hiring within two weeks.

Forest Service Reunion Role/Presence - Jim Caswell

Mac Gramley, our R-8 Reunion Host, emphasized the Reunion is not a business meeting, but a social event and that is the way the whole event is structured. Monday is set up for various organizations to have meetings.

Jim brought up the possibility of incorporating a midweek social meeting hosted by NAFSR. He noted that our NAFSR BOD Meetings held in conjunction with Reunions have not worked well in the past. He would like to see a more interactive format. The consensus was that Jim would get with Mac and look for a best time to hold an event and we will also have a booth staffed by NAFSR volunteers.

Fire Committee Update - Al West

Al West brought the BOD up to date with the NAFSR Fire Committee. This has been one of the longest standing NAFSR committees and was initiated with the start of NAFSR. All the original members are still on this committee with the exception of John Marker who passed away several years ago.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled on April 10, 2018 with WO staff at McClellan Air Force Base near Sacramento, CA. The continuing drought situation suggests that harsh fire conditions are likely to continue. The committee is concerned about the agency's capacity to be responsive to the exceptional hazard conditions likely to exist over the next few years.

Although the committee is small there are a whole host of interested retirees that are heavily involved with this committee's work.

Tom Thompson mentioned the need to incorporate younger NAFSR members, so this committee has an orderly transition to replacement members as current committee members are getting "a little long in the tooth".

Update on the Western Region of the Cohesive Strategy – Mike Rogers

Mike brought the BOD up to date with the need to get fire back on the land. This is the focus of the National Cohesive Strategy. Severe drought conditions have precluded doing as much prescribed fire the past year as had been planned/hoped. The crux of the situation is making careful analysis of when and how to use wildfires that ignite as a management tool. Communities are growing more supportive of this, as they see the wisdom of reducing future risks and avoiding future damages by thoughtful, deliberate decisions. The Forest Service is still very aggressive in attacking newly ignited wildfires when dangerous weather conditions exist.

Mike brought along a video presentation by Fire Researcher Mark Finney that was shown during the lunch hour. His research has been very helpful in getting people's attention. His video makes the case for what the agency is trying to do. Finney's point about the mega-fires in Region 3 is important. The result after the mega-fires is that stands where prescribed fire had been implemented as part of treatments resulted in very different outcomes than places that hadn't been treated. The presentation ends with the statement backed up by field reviews that Fuel Treatments that do not incorporate the use of fire are NOT FUEL TREATMENTS.

Awards Committee Update - Phil Aune

Stan Tixier passed away this past year. He was an important proponent of the John R. McGuire Award. His leadership and hard work were appropriately recognized at a Region 4 retiree meeting this past year, prior to his passing. He was deeply touched and appreciative.

There are some vacancies on the Awards Committee. Phil Aune is looking for a couple of new representatives on the Committee from Regions 3 and 6.

Phil encouraged people to submit nominations for the McGuire Award. Stimulating interest in nominations continues to be important.

Brett Beasley was nominated for an award posthumously. His strength was working with community interests on-the-ground. The award was made in October 2017 at a community center in Salida, Colorado, with over 150 members of the community attending. It was a moving presentation.

A new award has been proposed which, for now, we will call the "Leadership Award". The hope is that the initial award will be presented at Asheville, NC. The question today is to receive comments about the proposed terms of reference.

- Can we clarify overlap between NAFSR and the Museum? The point is that support for both organizations and their missions is desired, not service on both boards. Either board can nominate folks, according to the terms of reference. Emphasize that both NAFSR and the Museum are **sponsoring** this award.
- Are there ways to broaden the award beyond NAFSR and Museum? The award could be sponsored by NAFSR and the Museum, but the existing terms that limit consideration to either NAFSR or Museum board members is too narrow.

Open Discussion: Objectives and Approach - Rich Stem and Jack Troyer

Rich Stem introduced the subject and brought up Jack Troyer to kick the topic off. This is the time to ask – how are we doing as an association? Are we working on the right issues? Do we want to take on things that we have not done up to now?

Jack started off by stating issues today are moving at a lightning pace and timing on addressing issues is essential. We need to be quick and nimble. We always take on way more than time allows, then we beat ourselves up for not meeting our objectives. The Board continually hears that we are not working on the right things, that we have the wrong priorities. Do we need to have an Executive Director? What kind of a legacy do we want to leave? Are we satisfied with being an advocacy group for professional Forest Land Management and signing position letters?

Rich picked it up from there and stated that it appears our business model needs to be tightened up and then asked the basic question of the group: What do we want to take on for the future considering our own capacity issues?

Jim Caswell stated that organizationally we are presently more in line with Public Lands Foundation (BLM) as an active retiree association. USF&WL is more of a social organization. The Park Service Retirees are a totally different, well organized association with five permanent fulltime staff and an Executive Director.

How Are We Doing as an Association? – Open Discussion

Dale Robertson made the point that we have an administration in place that wants to make good changes for the American people and we need to be about helping the administration to move in the right direction of bringing jobs back to rural communities by putting people back to work in forest industries, fixing the fire funding issue so the USFS can get back to managing the nation's forests and keeping public lands public.

Rich Guldin pointed out several examples where the Administration and the Department of Agriculture have done things right and we need to go on record acknowledging these actions, giving credit where credit is due.

Other thoughts from Board Members –

- We are doing a good job on the advocacy side.

- Are Board members connecting with NAFSR members in their region?
- Members support our charter.
- Do we need a more activist name (such as Park Service group)?
- Should we be open to current employees? (They are welcome to join).
- Are there conflicts between NAFSR and the regional retiree organizations?
- NAFSR was created to advocate for the Forest Service.
- Fire Funding Fix is currently our number one priority.
- We advocate for positive change.
- We support change from the administration “for the better”.
- We support NEPA reform.
- We give positive feedback to Secretary Perdue.
- We are good at writing letters.
- We don’t tap our members efficiently.
- We have never harnessed the power of R-9.
- Every issue is different in how we strategize.
- We need to go deeper into the “how”.
- We should form a strike team on each issue like PLF.
- We should only get involved in issues where we can add value.
- Continue to build coalitions.
- How do we extend our reach?
- We should have more bias for action(s) as opposed to just letters

How to Strategize Issues? – Open Discussion

For each specific issue –

- Identify a team to work on each issue.
- Develop a standard, succinct message.
- Identify the critical people we need to contact.
- Use our best spokespersons to make the contacts.
- Target specific NAFSR members in states with access to critical congressional members and have them make personal contacts.

Critique and Summary of Decisions/Actions on Day 1 - Jim Caswell

Jim thanked everyone for the good thinking and involvement. He suggested we let this discussion ruminate over the evening and we will get back to it in the morning. Tomorrow we also need to look at our priorities and determine what we need to keep and what we need to drop. We also need to determine if we want to pursue a search for a replacement Executive Director. We also need to summarize our accomplishments.

Ed Shepard was asked to share his observations of our meeting. Ed thanked Jim Caswell for the invitation to participate and indicated his organization is going through the same growing pains as NAFSR and he learned a lot. He took a lot of notes and is taking back more from this meeting than he provided.

Day 1 meeting adjourned.

February 7

Decisions and Actions from February 6 - Jim Caswell

- We settled on how we will engage with national reunion attendees.
 - Evening social – We agreed to sponsor a reception at the reunion at a cost of \$2,500.
 - We will participate in an afternoon session with leaders of regional retiree groups.
 - We will staff a booth at the reunion primarily to recruit new members.
- The Leadership Award is on track. Our comments will be shared with Museum Board tomorrow. We will need a slot on the reunion program to make the award.
- The key role and mission of NAFSR is advocacy.
 - We need to decide on the specific areas of advocacy for the coming year.
- Rich Guldin will contact Paul DeLong, retired state forester in Wisconsin, seeking advice on how to reach out to Congressman Paul Ryan.
- Immediate issues for this morning
 - Settle on questions for Chief Tooke's telephone call.
 - Whether and how to better connect with the Public Lands Foundation.
 - Settle on conference call dates and date for 2019 board meeting.
 - Decide whether to have an Executive Director.
 - Review program of work -
 - How have we done on the items that we had in the program of work for 2017?
 - What's the program of work for 2018 and 2019?
 - Talk a bit about our name. Does it need to change or not, and if so, how?
 - Assign leadership responsibilities for specific items and understand how we are going to manage those priorities and leverage the skills and knowledge of our membership.

Comments:

- Larry Payne
 - Need a clear and concise fire message.
 - Be prepared to describe what will happen if the fire funding situation isn't fixed.
- Sam Foster
 - We discussed learning how to use Twitter. Do we need to name this as an administrative item for our program of work?

- We need to find an NAFSR member who is really into Twitter and can help us understand how to engage on the Twitter platform.
- Ranotta McNair
 - At one point in time, Jim Golden had a NAFSR Facebook page. We need to see whether he still has that and how it might be used to NAFSR's advantage.
- Rich Guldin
 - Get information together on how to connect to the North American Forest Partnership.

Public Lands Foundation Student Convention - Jim Caswell

Jim discussed an expansion of our opportunities to influence young people in the management of our Public Land Legacy. Jim pointed out that PLF has stepped out in this area and has established a Student Congress every other year for 20 students from various disciplines at locations germane to the topic. The goal is not for recruitment, but rather to create an awareness of the need to professionally manage Public Lands. Their next Congress is coming up in August.

Sam Foster mentioned the possibility that these Congresses would eventually alternate between PLF and NAFSR. These Student Congresses are designed to bring the feedback gained from these students to BLM management.

Pete Griffin mentioned the opportunity for articulate retirees to participate in New Employee Orientations in various USFS Regions. Rich Guldin mentioned other existing opportunities to reach out to ongoing efforts with ethnic studies. Rich and Sam Foster have the contact information.

There was discussion about NAFSR support and participation at the upcoming meeting in August 2018 in Baker City, OR. Jim Caswell and Sam Foster will attend. They will evaluate this opportunity and bring back graphic examples of how the feedback gained has benefited BLM.

Scheduling of Conference Calls and Board Meeting

The Board agreed to the following schedule for conference calls in 2018.

- Thursday, May 10th
- Thursday, August 9th
- Thursday, November 8th

Our next Board Meeting is planned for February 2019, probably the week of the 11th in the Phoenix area.

Executive Director Position – Jim Caswell

Do we want to do a search for another Executive Director? Has the role changed? Do we need to re-look at what we expect out of this Officer?

Jim has done a personal assessment and has noted he knows what he would do if he were the Executive Director and he has read both job descriptions and knows that what he wants to do is not really his job as the Chair. Jim proposed that we try operating without the Executive Director for a while and see how it goes. Larry Payne pointed out we have an outstanding Board of Directors and going without the Executive Director Position would involve more BOD members.

Johnny Hodges pointed out that there is a huge workload, and this is going to fall on Jim Caswell and Larry Payne, and the workload on these two is going to greatly accelerate on these two unpaid positions. Johnny mentioned that when Corbin Newman was the Executive Director he was quite comfortable making decisions and signing support letters and correspondence on behalf of NAFSR, where Sam initially struggled with which decisions he should make, and which decisions should be forwarded.

The question is whether to fill the position or not. Jim, Larry, Johnny, and Sam have served as an “Executive Council” to manage daily and weekly work. Further, Bill Timko has been heavily engaged on congressional issues. We have been trying to make decisions collectively and collaboratively. If you hear from one of us, be assured that all four of us have “been in the game.” How is that working for the rest of the Board?

The general tenor of the comments was that the current situation has worked well and there are no complaints. But we are now considering going to an “Incident Commander” sort of structure, where there is a lead for an issue, and that lead has some additional support from NAFSR members who are knowledgeable on an issue. Consider how Al West is leading the fire issues for NAFSR. He has several folks he relies on to help staff out fire-related issues. Al keeps Johnny, Jim, and Larry in the loop and they share information with Board members, as appropriate.

The relationship between the Executive Director and the Chair can take several different forms and it is not clear which form is better than others. The Bylaws state that the Chair manages the Board and the Executive Director manages the issues. There is an ongoing tension here.

After some discussion, the sense emerged to try to find an Executive Director. Meanwhile, have the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer delegate issues to Board members or others, as needed. There is workload associated with handling lots of the daily, across-the-transom stuff that is probably not recognized by most Board members. We will re-evaluate and discuss in May.

Potential Consideration of a Name Change

Do we need a name that describes what we do rather who we are? BLM retirees are known as the “Public Lands Foundation”. National Parks Retirees are known as “Protect National Parks Association”. The consensus was to leave our name as it is. The existing name has considerable name recognition and reputation. The brand exists and has current value.

There was some discussion that a clearer and more concise mission statement or logo might be useful. The previous tag line used on our website was “Sustaining Our Heritage.” This was changed after the “Principles, Beliefs, and Values” one-pager was approved in 2015. This paper was written by a committee headed by Tom Thompson. The tag line on our website from that paper is “Dedicated to sustaining the Forest Service mission and adapting to today’s and tomorrow’s challenges”.

Conference Call with Chief Tony Tooke

Chief Tooke called into our meeting and spent 45 minutes sharing his thoughts and answering our questions.

- OneUSDA – The Chief was aware of our letter concerning OneUSDA and the potential loss of the Forest Service identity. He discussed Secretary Perdue’s reasoning behind the concept and did not feel it was a threat to the Forest Service.
- Infrastructure – He discussed the lack of funding for infrastructure, especially for maintenance, and hoped that it would be part of the administration’s discussion on improving the country’s infrastructure.
- NEPA Reform – He talked about current efforts on NEPA reform and would like our input. We did not know about a comment period, he said to send in our comments anyway even if the period closed on February 2.
- His emphasis is on getting resources to the ground. He described how interested the Secretary is in the operations of the Forest Service.
- He indicated Retirees need to communicate with the publics we encounter on the value of the benefits they all receive from our National Forests and the need to keep Forests as Forests. The Chief stated that this theme is resonating in different ways.
 - Coca Cola has signed on as a Forest Service partner because of water production on NFS lands.
 - The Center for Disease control has signed on as a partner in the promotion of the use of prescribed fire due to the low emission rates vs. the emission rates from wildfires and their devastating health impacts.
- Retirees can help with the generation of additional partners and volunteers. The Chief has had to get a message out to employees to embrace this help from the outside and not to feel threatened that the volunteers and partners are going to take their jobs as there is more than enough work to go around.
- He emphasized the positive and growing contributions through the Good Neighbor Authority. He indicated that Secretary Perdue is keenly interested in how the USFS functions at the ground level up through the headquarters office in Washington, DC.
- The Chief feels we are close to getting the Fire Funding issue resolved. He discussed its impacts on the budget. Jim stated that once Fire Funding is fixed, it will expose the serious capacity issue for accomplishing work.
- Jim asked how the hiring freeze is affecting the FS. It has affected 6,500 positions. The FS is losing 2,000 employees per year. His priority is to move more positions to the field.

He has received approval to advertise 1,000 vacancies. These are permanent positions. Seasonal positions are not affected by the freeze.

- Jim asked about getting an appointment to the EO Advisory Council being established that will provide input to a new Policy Group. The Chief committed to seeing what he could do.
- Professional Organizations – We discussed the lack of FS participation in various professional organizations. The Chief said he has a personal interest in that issue and was working on it.
- Secretary Perdue is interested in meeting with NAFSR and other FS retirees. We will invite him to the national reunion in September.
- The Chief expressed interest in periodic Conference Calls with NAFSR. Jim Caswell will be our contact.

2017 Plan of Work Update – Jim Caswell

Following is an update on our strategic issues for 2017.

1. Strategic

- a. Keeping Public Lands Public
 - i. Position paper completed by Jack Troyer, posted on website, and distributed.
- b. Fire Funding
 - i. Bill Timko is active with the Fire Coalition.
 - ii. NAFSR signed on to letters of support to Congressional members.
- c. Forestry Policy/Process Reform
 - i. NAFSR prepared and sent to Sec. Perdue and Chief Tooke a list of 9 recommendations toward the Exec. Order 13790 on Rural Prosperity.
- d. Establish Restoration Position
 - i. Position paper completed by Rich Stem and Marlin Johnson, posted on website, and distributed.
- e. Emerging Public Land Management Issues
 - i. NAFSR prepared and sent to Sec. Perdue and Chief Tooke a list of 9 recommendations toward the Exec. Order 13790 on Rural Prosperity.
- f. Fire Recommendations
 - i. The Fire Committee sent a letter to the Chief on behalf of NAFSR. We received a reply from the agency.
- g. Transition of New Administration
 - i. Recommendations for the New Administration developed and transmitted by NAFSR on 12/12/16. Will require additional input once an Undersecretary is named.

2. Operations

- a. Governance Guidelines
 - i. Completed by Darrel Kenops, Pete Griffin and Mike Rogers.

- b. Records Management
 - i. Ongoing – Darrel Kenops working with Museum to house historical records. Johnny Hodges managing current records.
- c. Succession Planning
 - i. Jim Caswell and Jane Kollmeyer completed a new succession policy and Johnny Hodges is adding the policy into the NAFSR Constitution and Bylaws.
- d. Management of Website
 - i. Johnny Hodges worked with Bill Disbrow, our webmaster, to update our website and keep it effective and attractive.
- e. Support 2018 Forest Service Reunion
 - i. NAFSR has agreed to provide support as described earlier in the notes.
- f. Forest Service MOU
 - i. No progress.
- g. Coalitions
 - i. NAFSR is working closely with several coalitions including the Fire Funding Coalition, American Wildlife Conservation Partners, and Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition.
 - ii. NAFSR is working currently on establishing connections to other organizations such as the Public Lands Foundation and National Forest Homeowners Association.

2018 Program of Work

Following is our list of priorities for 2018 with leads for each issue.

- 1. Strategic
 - a. Keeping public lands public – Jack Troyer
 - b. Fire funding – Bill Timko
 - c. Forestry policy/process – Rich Stem
 - d. Transition of Undersecretary – Larry Payne
 - e. Restoring Forest Service capacity – develop position paper – Lee Nightingale with help from Tom Thompson and Rich Stem
 - f. Farm Bill – Larry Payne, Rich Guldin, Ranotta McNair
 - g. Emerging Issues – Jim Caswell and Larry Payne
- 2. Operations
 - a. Facebook – Ranotta McNair
 - b. Twitter – Bill Disbrow and Bill Timko
 - c. National Reunion – Jim Caswell, Mac Gramley, Johnny Hodges
 - d. MOU with Forest Service – Jim Caswell
 - e. Records Management – Darrel Kenops and Johnny Hodges
 - f. Executive Director Search – Larry Payne
 - g. Newsletter – No decision

Final Thoughts

Greg Griffith has agreed to replace Marlin Johnson as the R-3 representative on the Board and they will transition this year.

END