



**Notes from
NAFSR Board of Directors
Zoom Meeting
November 12, 2024**

Attendees

Board Members - Steve Ellis (Chair), Johnny Hodges (Secretary), Cheryl Probert (R-1), Frank Beum (R-2), Jerry Perez (R-3), Lynn Sprague (R-4), Teresa Benson (R-5), Becki Heath (R-6), Marisue Hilliard (R-8), Don Howlett (R-9), Earl Stewart (R-10), Doug Crandall (Congressional Liaison), Rich Guldin (Research), Ralph Crawford (Research), Gene Blakenbaker (National), Ranotta McNair (National), Nora Rasure (National), Jeanne Wade Evans (National), Bill Timko (National), Tim DeCoster (National), Kevin Martin (AWCP liaison)

Committee Chairs – Rich Guldin (Climate), Nora Rasure (Recreation), Mike Dudley (Fire)

Staff – Bill Disbrow (Webmaster)

Unable to Attend – Jamie Connell (Vice Chair), Cheryl Probert (R-1), Bill Avey (National), Susan Skalski (National), Ed Shepard (PLF Liaison)

Welcome – Steve Ellis

- Ranotta McNair is leaving the Board. She is currently our longest serving Board member. Thank you Ranotta for your many years of service on the Board. She will continue working with the Student Congress.
- Becki Heath will move from the R-6 representative to a National representative. We will recruit a new R-6 rep.
- I will start work on the 2024 Accomplishment Report next month. I need help from the BOD.
- It has been quiet in Congress during the election season. We weighed in on the Continuing Resolution which was passed in September.
- I have received several media calls on various issues, but I tried to stay quiet during the election season.

Administrative Report – Johnny Hodges

Membership

- Our current membership is 779.
- We started 2024 with 688 members so we have a net gain this year of 91 new members. Most of this gain occurred during our Membership Drive in January.

Finances

- Our current bank balance is about \$33,873 and our investment fund is about \$14,868 for a total of \$48,741.
- We expect to finish 2024 with a net gain of about \$5,000.
- The proposed budget for 2025 includes revenue of \$20,600 and expenses of \$24,550 for a projected deficit of \$3,950. The budget includes a donation of \$5,000 to the 2025 FS Retirees Reunion.
- After extensive discussion, the 2025 budget was approved. The donation to the 2025 FS Retirees Reunion will be a maximum of \$5,000.

2025 In-person Board Meeting – Johnny Hodges

- I have a contract waiting for signature for an in-person 2025 Board meeting in Denver the week of February 10. My meeting planner, Nancy, asked for quotes from hotels in Phoenix and Denver for dates in late January and early February. The Embassy Suites near Denver International Airport was again the cheapest option. We have met there the last 2 years.
- Steve said there has been some discussion about not meeting in February and instead meeting at the FS Retirees Reunion in Missoula in September.
- We then discussed the pros/cons of a February meeting vs. meeting in September.
- Becki – We have several new board members. It is good to spend time together, set priorities, and develop our 2025 Plan of Work. We would lose some progress if we waited until September. Lynn agreed.
- Rich – The 9th Forest Congress will need nominees to attend the meeting in July in DC. The chair of the Congress is based in Denver and might be available for our February meeting.
- Nora – It is good to interact in person with other Board members.
- It was agreed by the Board to meet in February.
- Johnny will complete the contract and organize the logistics for the meeting.

Congressional Update – Doug Crandall

- If you are a Democrat and a pessimist, you couldn't have a scarier scenario than the results of this election.
- All swing states broke in one direction. The last time this happened was Reagan's election.
- Dems are finger pointing and blaming. This will last until the mid-terms.

- Republicans say, “voters gave us a mandate.” They will go for the partisan agenda, then overreach. Voters will not like it and make changes in the mid-term election. Of the last 30 presidents that started with control of both the House and Senate, they all made same mistake.
- In 2016, Trump had trouble making decisions on appointments. This time he is more prepared.
- There are thousands of positions to fill with political appointees.
- Lots of rumors about who will fill what positions.
- The first major legislative issue is Appropriations. There will probably be a CR (Continuing Resolution) until March. It will be up to Trump to agree.
- The Farm Bill must be done by the end of year or dairy price supports will expire. There may be a temporary authorization until next year.
- The FS only had one line in Project 2025.
- Schedule F will come back.
- Transitions are dangerous for agencies. It is hard on existing staff. New people are unknown. Bad things can happen.
- There is a chance the Senate filibuster could be ended.
- Good job Becki on your work on ACES and the CR.

Administration Transition - Steve Ellis and Doug Crandall

- We will put together a small group to draft a Transition Paper. Doug has a template from the State Foresters that he likes. He will provide it to the group.
- Volunteers to the group – Steve, Sharon Friedman, Jerry Perez, and Tim deCoster.
- We want to get the paper to the Administration in about a week. We will then update it for the new Secretary later.
- We will finish a draft by 11/19, provide time for a 2-day review by the Board, and complete the final by 11/22.
- Doug will provide an address.

2025 Membership Drive – Nora Rasure

- Members of the Membership Team are Nora, Johnny Hodges, Ralph Crawford, Susan Skalski, and Cheryl Probert.
- All Board members need to participate in the Drive.
- Our goals are to retain existing members, increase donations, and recruit new members.
- We want to reach out to the 100 new members we recruited this year and retain them.
- We began sending out emails yesterday for paying dues and donations.
- Our next Membership Drive will run for 4 weeks in January 2025.
- We will use existing members to reach out to potential members.
- We will place additional emphasis on mailing lists we could tap into. We will work with regional reps on accessing lists.
- National Board members work with regional reps.
- Additional training for regional reps is scheduled for November 14 and 18. They will be given assignments for the next 6 weeks and be ready to go by January.

Student Congress Recap – Ranotta McNair

- The Student Congress was held in Las Vegas in October.
- It was successful and well attended.
- The students are finalizing their report. With the change in administration, there are some questions about going to DC to deliver the report.
- Thanks to NAFSR for your support.
- Many students are interested in FS and BLM careers.
- I would like to have a BOD member to liaison with SC. Let Ranotta know if you are interested.
- I also attended the PLF Board meeting that week. It was worthwhile.

Recognition Committee – Tim deCoster

- I contacted Lisa Tate about the Doug Leisz award. We will begin the process shortly. We will present the award at the FS Retirees Reunion next September.
- I will issue a formal call letter for the McQuire award nominations after the holidays.
- We have streamlined the process with a 2-page maximum nomination.

FCWG (Forest Climate Working Group) Update – Rich Guldin

- The Summary Report of the Mature and Old Growth Science Summit has been issued. We sent it to all members, and it is posted on our website.
- The 9th American Forest Congress will be held in DC next July.
- The theme of the Congress is “Equity and Climate Change”.
- December 12 is the next meeting of the FCWG group.
- The Public Lands Committee is preparing policy statements for the incoming administration. We need someone else from NAFSR to join the committee.
- The WO retirees meeting was held last week. There are a lot of changes going on in WO staff.

Wrap up and schedule next meeting - Steve Ellis

- Our next Board of Directors meeting will be held in-person in Denver on February 11 and 12, 2025.