

MINUTES
SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 07, 2019

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Den Hartog, Senators Patrick, Harris, Mortimer, Lent, Bayer, Jordan, and Nelson

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Guthrie** convened the meeting of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) at 8:00 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Mortimer** moved to approve the Minutes of January 22, 2019. **Vice Chairman Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 38 **Relating to the Food Safety Modernization Act. Elizabeth Criner**, Food Northwest, stated that the primary oversight for food safety and inspections for human food manufacturers falls within the jurisdiction of the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), under the authority of the Food and Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). **Ms. Criner** explained that the FDA may contract a number of inspections out to the State of Idaho. **Ms. Criner** stated that inspections are currently contracted with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Legislation was passed in 2018 to transition this authority from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. The purpose of this legislation is to extend the timeframe for that transition to be completed by September 29, 2021. **Ms. Criner** further explained that the transition may require a General Fund request of \$86,000 in order to cover the partial cost of part of one inspector to carry out contracted human manufactured food inspections.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Guthrie passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Den Hartog.

DOCKET NO. 60-0501-1801: **Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP). Teri Murrison**, Administrator, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC), explained that the ISWCC initiated this rulemaking to resolve inconsistencies between Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code and the RCRDP Rules, remove outdated references, resolve internal inconsistencies, and correct typographical errors. **Ms. Murrison** stated that the revisions also include adding or changing provisions to streamline the loan application process, update credit guidelines, and give more flexibility to set maximum loan amounts. **Ms. Murrison** further explained that the proposed changes include: adding sections to the rules as required by the Office of Administrative Rules Coordinator; update Section 10 (Definitions) to resolve inconsistencies; update various sections to streamline the application process; and give ISWCC more flexibility to set loan limits. ISWCC also intends to make changes throughout other Sections of the rules as needed for internal consistency, to correct typographical errors, or to remove outdated references.

MOTION: **Senator Mortimer** moved to approve **Docket No. 60-0501-1801** with the exception of Section 103, but leaving intact all of the remaining subsections of that section, and the exception of Section 151, Subsection 01. **Senator Jordan** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Den Hartog passed the gavel back to Chairman Guthrie.

PRESENTATION: Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission (IRRC). **Gretchen Hyde**, Executive Director, IRRC, briefly explained the IRRC's budget for the fiscal year (FY) ending June 30, 2019, which detailed the net assessments and net revenue of the program. The program has a projected net revenue of \$250,700 for FY 2019. **Ms. Hyde** also explained the IRRC education program expenses, industry and research expenses, public relations expenses, and administration expenses. Total projected expenses for the program for FY 2019 is \$320,301. **Ms. Hyde** further explained the IRRC's 2018 balance sheet of current and total assets, along with the details of the program's total liabilities and fund balance. The total liabilities and fund balance for the program is \$217,975. **Ms. Hyde** continued to explain the IRRC's revenues and expenditures for FY 2018. **Ms. Hyde** stated that total revenue for FY 2018 was \$300,137 and total expenditures were \$296,949. **Ms. Hyde** also detailed the various activities of the IRRC from 2018, such as youth education activities and programs that are designed to promote rangeland awareness and to foster understanding by creating collaborative partnerships to sustain healthy rangelands. **Ms. Hyde** concluded her presentation with a video which detailed a brief history on the introduction of Canadian wolves to Idaho's central wilderness in 1995. The video detailed the controversies and unintended consequences of the introduction of those wolves to Idaho.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Mortimer** asked Ms. Hyde if she could address the difference in projected revenues and expenditures for FY 2019 from 2018. **Ms. Hyde** answered that she expects more federal grants to be coming in this year, which will give the IRRC more projected funds.

Senator Harris asked Ms. Hyde if she plans to use the IRRC's trailer to reach out and educate the youth. **Ms. Hyde** answered that she plans on using more than one trailer for the purpose of educating.

PRESENTATION: Idaho Wool Growers Association (IWGA). **Brandy Kay**, Executive Director, IWGA, explained that there are currently 230,000 breeding sheep and market lambs in Idaho. **Ms. Kay** also explained that lamb meat is very flavorful and nutritious, as well as all natural. The IWGA does not add any hormones to the meat and it meets the definition for lean meat. **Ms. Kay** explained that Idaho produces about 1.6 million pounds of wool each year. Idaho currently ranks seventh in the United States for both number of sheep and pounds of wool produced. **Ms. Kay** further explained that sheep should not be sheered until they are at least one year of age. Shearing, despite contrary arguments, helps keep sheep healthy by allowing them to be mobile and to regulate their body temperature. **Ms. Kay** also explained the variety of sheep flocks from farm flocks, which are smaller, to commercial flocks, which typically raise 1,000 sheep or more. **Ms. Kay** also detailed some of the struggles with radical environmentalists who oppose sheep grazing due to their alleged damage to public lands. **Ms. Kay** refuted that argument by stating that sheep are actually very gentle grazers.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Harris** asked Ms. Kay how the sheep industry is trending and whether or not there are younger people starting out in the industry. **Ms. Kay** answered that the majority of sheep producers in Idaho are baby boomers with a small minority being younger.

Senator Patrick asked Ms. Kay if she knew what the status of the Dubois Research Center was. **Ms. Kay** answered that it has money and it has positions available for hire, but it is currently on a hiring freeze.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Senator Guthrie
Chair

Jacob Garner
Secretary