

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW42

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Kauffman, Vice Chairman Andrus, Representatives Boyle, Kerby, Giddings, Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon, von Ehlinger, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Reps. Boyle, Giddings, Moon, Toone

**GUESTS:** Mary Anne Nelson, DEQ; Jerri Henry, DEQ; Tiffany Floyd, DEQ; Jess Byrne, DEQ; B. Roy Prescott, Northdise Soil and Water District; Richard Kunau, IASCD; Kristin Ryan, DEQ; Douglas Jones, IWE; Mike Sommerville, IASCD; Steve Becker, IASCD

**Chairman Kauffman** called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 4, and March 8, 2021. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Jess Byrne**, DEQ Director, explained their mission is to protect human health and the quality of Idaho's air, land and water. In working for the people of Idaho, he said local compliance assistance leads to better long term outcomes and gives them the ability to influence the implementation of federal acts for the best fit for Idaho. Their focus is to assess environmental problems and oversee compliance of facilities that generate air, water and hazardous waste pollution and monitor Idaho's air and water quality. The Department also oversees cleanup of contaminated sites, responds to hazardous materials and emergency response calls and issues permits and authorizations for new and expanding businesses and manufacturing facilities. He discussed topics relevant to agriculture such as crop residue burning, ammonia from dairy farms and water ways of the US.

In response to a committee question concerning the issuing of fines, **Mr. Byrne** said they view fines as a deterrent, and issue them as a last resort.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

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Representative Kauffman  
Chair

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Joan Majors  
Secretary