

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 18, 2016

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

**PLACE:** Room EW42

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives McMillan, Batt, Bell, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Pence, Erpelding

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Brent Olmstead, MP Idaho; Bob Naerebout, Idaho Dairyman's Assoc; Roger Howard, LINC; Sean Ellis, Capitol Press; Rick Waitly, Food Producers; Rich Garber, U of I; Dean Michael P. Parrella; Kim O'Neil; Wyatt Prescott, Idaho Cattlemens.

**Chairman Andrus** called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

**Chairman Andrus** and the Committee thanked page, **Austen Thomason**, for his help to the committee during the first half of session.

**Chairman Andrus** welcomed **Rick Waitley** and the 36th Leadership Idaho Agriculture Foundation class to the committee meeting.

**Rick Waitley**, Leadership Idaho Agriculture, acknowledged **Chairman Andrus** for receiving the Governor's Life Time Achievement Award for Excellence in Agriculture earlier this week. The award recognizes individuals who have shown outstanding leadership in Idaho agriculture.

**Mr. Waitley** explained three of the committee members are graduates of the Leadership of Agriculture program. He stated there have been 901 graduates from this program who are now scattered over 27 states and 5 countries. **Mr. Waitley** said Idaho is one of 38 states that offers such a leadership program as this. He then invited the members of the Leadership program to introduce themselves, tell where they are from and their current employment.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, February 16, 2016, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**S 1259:** **Bob Naerebout**, Executive Director of Idaho Dairyman, stated the purpose of this legislation is in response to the shrinking number of qualified candidates able to serve on the commission. This legislation will update the election process.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Naerebout** explained, although the Dean of Agriculture from the University of Idaho is no longer an appointed member, he will still be involved in the commission to the extent he has availability and desire.

**Brent Olstead**, Milk Producers of Idaho, stated the board had met and they are in full support of the changes in this legislation.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to send **S 1259** to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 24555:** **Rep. Mike Moyle**, explained changes reworked into the legislation to include dogs where aggressive behavior may be justified, such as service animals or herding dogs. He also stated local entities have allowance to enforce stricter regulations if that is their desire.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to introduce **RS 24555**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Andrus** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Boyle**.

**RS 24560:** **Rep. Ken Andrus**, stated this is a bill that in some form or another has been around for the last three years. He said in re-writing this legislation, several groups who previously opposed it were contacted and their input has resulted in the current bill. The legislation defines companion animals and torture to an animal. It provides a new section stating any person convicted of torture to a companion animal is guilty of a felony on the first offense if that person has been convicted of voluntary infliction of bodily injury upon any human within the previous ten years. Any person convicted of torture to a companion animal is guilty of a felony on the second or subsequent convictions.

**Rep. Andrus** said the legislation provides that a court shall order a pre-sentence investigation that shall include a psychological evaluation.

In response to a committee question **Rep. Andrus** explained an act of omission is something that you didn't do to the animal that may have caused harm.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to introduce **RS 24560**. **Motion carried by voice vote.****Rep. Batt** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**Vice Chairman Boyle** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Andrus**.

**Rich Garber**, U of I, introduced **Michael P. Parrella**, newly appointed Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Idaho.

**Dean Michael P. Parrella** stated he is the 15th Dean of the College of Life Science and Agriculture at the University of Idaho. He stated he received his BS in Animal Science from Rutgers State University. After completing his Masters and PhD from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, he moved to the West Coast where he spent the last 25 years at UC Davis. **Dean Parrella** said he plans to be very engaged in all parts of agriculture as he serves in this new position at the University of Idaho.

**Karianne Fallow**, CEO United Dairymen, explained the vision of United Dairymen is to protect the long-term economic interest of the Idaho dairy industry. The United Dairymen of Idaho is the dairy checkoff organization for Idaho farmers. They are the marketing and promotion arm for the farmer investors.

**Ms. Fallow** explained they are focused on leveraging the nutritional benefits of dairy to enhance consumer trust. She said dairy nutrition is a source of pride for farmers and for dairy food manufactures. For the United Dairymen, nutrition is at the core of both building trust in our products and increasing the sales of products that are some of the most affordable, accessible, and naturally nutrient rich.

One of the core initiatives is youth wellness which **Ms. Fallow** explained is at the heart of a lot of the work they do. They know healthy students are better students. Students who have a healthy diet and get good adequate physical activity tend to be better focused; they then tend to achieve more academically; and there are fewer absences. She stated healthy habits begin at a young age. By inspiring trust in dairy as a foundation for wellness, they can encourage lifelong consumers of healthy, nutritious foods.

**Ms. Fallow** explained their Monthly Grant Calendar provided to deserving schools around the state access to things like smoothie blenders, milk coolers, cheese graters and healthy food display carts. In addition, the United Dairymen offer free string cheese to any requesting school for students during the standardized testing season. **Ms. Farrow** also explained the Fuel up to Play 60 programs which is the premier national in-school wellness program. Through this program they are able to make grants to schools for food service and PE equipment and other wellness support.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Joan Majors  
Secretary