

MINUTES  
**SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020
- TIME:** 8:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW53
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairwoman 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** called the meeting of the Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.
- Chairman Guthrie** said the order of business would be changed and the approval of minutes will be first on the agenda.
- MINUTES:** **Senator Nelson** moved to approve the Minutes of January 16, 2020. **Senator Mortimer** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- PRESENTATION:** **Mike Morrison**, Executive Director, Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) presented on behalf of Senator Cuffe. He introduced PNWER attendees and gave an overview of the region PNWER serves (see Attachment 1). **Mr. Morrison** noted that PNWER is made up of 5 states, 3 provinces, and 2 territories, representing 24.4 million people and having a gross national product (GNP) of over \$1 trillion, making it the thirteenth largest economy in the world. **Mr. Morrison** announced the thirtieth Annual Summit to be held in Montana in July, 2020, which will have a significant focus on agriculture.
- Brandon Hardenbrook**, Deputy Director, PNWER, presented an overview of the agriculture issues that will be considered at the summit. He reported they have been focused on the following:
- livestock health management;
  - precision agriculture technology;
  - forestry management including mass timber innovation and carbon sequestration;
  - critical minerals collaboration; and
  - the Columbia River Treaty water policy.
- Patrick Kole**, Co-Chair of PNWER and the Idaho Potato Commission, spoke about the focus of agriculture working groups (see attachment 2). **Mr. Kole** discussed:
- invasive species;
  - trade issues;
  - reducing regulatory burdens on both sides of the border;
  - harmonizing trade standards; and
  - modern autonomous farm equipment operated by satellite, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

**Mr. Hardenbrook** identified the following action items which were addressed during PNWER's work in 2019:

- establish a statewide UAS Coordinator position to help coordinate local government and private sector stakeholders;
- encourage possibilities for improved broadband access to enhance precision farming; and
- explore policy gaps related to utilizing unmanned vehicles in farming.

A brief discussion was held regarding the cost of the equipment, the size of a farm that can support UAS equipment, and how soon this technology will be used on a large scale.

**Brandon Hardenbrook** gave an update on the invasive quagga and zebra mussels. He indicated that currently the region has virtually no infestations (see attachment 3), and PNWER is working to keep the infestation out of the region.

**Mr. Hardenbrook** reported that if these mussels invade the region, the cost of addressing the problem would be over \$500 million per year as the mussels clog irrigation pipes, pumps, and aqueducts. He pointed out that they also alter vital ecosystems and fish habitats. **Mr. Hardenbrook** gave an analysis of the federal funding received by states for watercraft inspection and monitoring, explaining that the federal funds must be matched by the states. **Mr. Hardenbrook** identified actions taken by PNWER as follows:

- established an Advisory Committee to provide input to the US Army Corps of Engineers;
- communicating to congressional delegation the need for continued funding;
- supporting mandatory decontamination of fouled watercraft at federally managed water bodies; and
- conducting a regional cross-border exercise to test response plans.

**Senator John Brendan**, Montana Legislature, invited members of the Committee to attend the thirtieth Annual Summit to be held in July in Big Sky, Montana. He commended Idaho's management program for invasive species.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

Chairman Guthrie passed the gavel to Vice Chairwoman Den Hartog.

**DOCKET NO.  
29-0000-1900**

**Patrick Kole**, Vice President, Legal & Government Affairs, Idaho Potato Commission, presented **Docket No. 29-0000-1900**, Rules of the Idaho Potato Commission. **Mr. Kole** noted that the rules were consistent with the Red Tape Reduction Act (RTRA). He stated that a large number of rules were eliminated. Rules dealing with the following were retained:

- potato tax;
- certification marks;
- classification;
- branding;
- variety labeling;
- record keeping requirements; and
- licensing.

**Senator Mortimer** inquired if there were any substantive changes in the rules. **Mr. Kole** replied there are no substantive changes in the rules.

**MOTION:** **Senator Mortimer** moved to approve **Docket No. 29-0000-1900**. **Senator Patrick** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 02-0207-1901** **Cindy Stark**, Administrator, Agricultural Inspections, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), presented **Docket No. 29-0207-1901**, Rules Governing Bulk Permits and Retail Sale of Potatoes. **Ms. Stark** informed the Committee that this rulemaking did not impose a new fee, nor did it change any previously approved fee. She stated that the rulemaking was consistent with the RTRA. **Ms. Stark** explained the updates of the rules resulting in the combination of two separate rules. Through this combined rule, the ISDA created a single rule chapter to meet requirements of Idaho Code §§ 22-901 and 22-911.

**MOTION:** **Senator Patrick** moved to approve **Docket No. 02-0207-1901**. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 02-0303-1901** **Victor Mason**, Administrator, Agricultural Resources, ISDA, presented **Docket No. 02-0303-1901**, Rules Governing Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application, and advised the Committee that no fees were added or changed. The rulemaking was in compliance with the RTRA. **Mr. Mason** indicated that this rule proposes a standard for human health which is broader in scope and more stringent than the federal rules. This stronger rule is intended to provide a safer Idaho.

**MOTION:** **Senator Jordan** moved to approve **Docket No. 02-0303-1901**. **Chairman Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 02-0403-1901** **Dr. Bill Barton**, Administrator, Animal Industries, ISDA, presented **Docket No. 02-0403-1901**, Rules Governing Animal Industry. **Dr. Barton** informed the Committee that this is a new fee rule addressing disease prevention, surveillance, and reporting, and was produced by consolidating two previous rules. He stated that no substantive changes were made. He advised that the new consolidated rule was in compliance with the RTRA. He stated that an Idaho Code § 22-101A analysis was conducted, and the rule is broader in scope and more stringent than federal requirements.

**MOTION:** **Senator Nelson** moved to approve **Docket No. 02-0403-1901**. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 02-0405-1901** **Dr. Barton** presented **Docket No. 02-0405-1901**, Rules Governing the Public Exchange of Livestock. He noted that this new rule, Rules Governing Grade A Milk and Manufactured Grade Milk, has been reconsidered. **Dr. Barton** requested this rule be held until a future time. **Vice Chairwoman Den Hartog** stated the rule would be held.

**DOCKET NO. 02-0426-1901** **Dr. Barton** presented **Docket No. 02-0426-1901**, Rules Governing the Public Exchange of Livestock. He noted this is a new fee rule consolidating two previously approved and codified rules into a single chapter. **Dr. Barton** said the rule relates to the sale, trade, exchange, identification, and movement of livestock markets, buying stations, or trader lots. He advised the Committee that the rule was in compliance with the RTRA, and that there were no increases or changes in fees. **Dr. Barton** described the negotiated rulemaking process and reported an Idaho Code § 22-101A analysis was conducted. He pointed out this rule is broader in scope and more stringent than federal requirements.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve **Docket No. 02-0426-1901**. **Senator Jordan** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.  
02-0420-1901**

**Dr. Barton** presented **Docket No. 02-0420-1901**, Rules Governing Brucellosis. He explained the negotiated rulemaking process, and noted the rulemaking is consistent with the RTRA. He stated an Idaho Code § 22-101A analysis was conducted, indicating parts of the rule are broader in scope and more stringent than federal requirements. **Dr. Barton** advised the Committee that the rule reduces the Brucellosis test eligible age, and removes Idaho origin as a prerequisite for adult vaccination. He gave a detailed explanation of these changes.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Mortimer** moved to approve **Docket No. 02-0420-1901**. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairwoman Den Hartog passed the gavel to Chairman Guthrie.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

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Senator Jim Guthrie  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary

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Carol Cornwall  
Assistant Secretary