

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2020

TIME: 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Troy, Representative(s) Kerby, Stevenson, Zito, Andrus, Giddings, Goesling, Marshall, Nichols, Raymond, Kiska, Toone, Abernathy, McCrostie

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Kerby, Giddings

GUESTS: Mary Anne Nelson, DEQ; Roger Batt, Treasure Valley Water Users Association; Nick Blanksma, IPC

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

DOCKET NO. 29-0000-1900: **Nick Blanksma**, Chairman IPC (Idaho Potato Commission) stated this rule adopts and republishes previously analyzed and reviewed rules. He said in line with the Red Tape Reduction Act the rule has been updated and streamlined to make it more readable. He stated there were no substitutive changes. He explained the rules are necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Idaho. He said without these rules in place, the IPC cannot bring administrative proceedings to protect the IPC's trademark and branding.

In response to s committee question, **Mr. Blanksma** said negotiated rulemaking was not feasible because of time restraints.

In response to a committee question concerning some labels printed in Spanish, **Mr. Blanksma** said that is because they ship to countries where Spanish is the predominate language.

MOTION: **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 29-0000-1900. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Roger Batt, Treasure Valley Water Users explained they deliver irrigation water to farms, ranches and urban areas in the Treasure Valley area. He said their organization has taken the lead role in getting money appropriated to the agriculture community through the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee and the Legislature to help with the programs. He said BMP (Best Management Practices) are voluntary for agriculture and they are hoping to keep it that way.

Mary Anne Nelson, DEQ Division Administrator explained DEQ's mission to protect human health and the quality of Idaho's air, land, and water. She said as part of this mission, DEQ has identified performance measures, which impacts how DEQ intends to address both point and nonpoint source pollution management and to increase the percentage of Idaho's water ways that are supporting beneficial uses to 35%. She said to meet this goal, DEQ is utilizing their processes and procedures to work with watershed and basin advisory groups to identify criteria for prioritization and potential partnerships. She explained in 1987, Congress created the Nonpoint Source Grant program to help with the nation's largest source of water pollution. She said the grant program allows for participating states to pass federal dollars to applicants for the purposes of reducing pollution associated with nonpoint sources. She described briefly the process the state and federal funds go through to be awarded. She stated these projects provide an opportunity for state and local partners to work together in reducing the impact from nonpoint

pollution outside the regulatory framework by helping folks reduce impacts rather than requiring them to do so.

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

Dan Steenson, Sawtooth Law Office said his office represents numerous water delivery drainage and flood control districts around the Treasure Valley and other areas. He stated he also is a director on the Lower Boise Water Shed Council that serves as the Water Shed Advisory group to the Department of Water Quality. He explained water quality management consists of water quality standards set by the states and administered by the DEQ for fishable, swimmable conditions, sediment, nutrients and other factors that affect aquatic life and recreation. He explained subbasin assessments are performed to determine the status of these standards in water bodies throughout Idaho. He said if these water bodies do not meet the standards, then TMDL (total maximum daily loads) will be developed for those watersheds which are intended to set limits for the discharge of phosphorus, sediments and other attributing factors to try and attain water quality standards. He said once the TMDL are set, the stakeholder groups develop and impanelment plans. He explained TMDL set objectives for reducing loadings to met instream targets in order to attain water quality standards.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary