

MINUTES  
**SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 27, 2022

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW53

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Burtenshaw, Vice Chairman Bayer, Senators Patrick, Den Hartog, Blair (Johnson), Zito, Ricks, Nelson, and Semmelroth

**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 Burtenshaw** called the meeting of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:01 a.m.

**WELCOME:** **Chairman Burtenshaw** welcomed the Leadership Idaho Agriculture Class 41.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Zito** moved to approve the Minutes of January 18, 2022. **Vice Chairman Bayer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chairman Burtenshaw passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Bayer.

**DOCKET NO. 11-0201-2100F** **Notice of Omnibus Rulemaking (Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule - Idaho State Police/State Brand Board (SBB)**, p. 321. **Cody Burlile**, Director, SBB and Idaho State Brand Inspector, introduced himself to the Committee. **Mr. Burlile** reported that the docket contains minor changes to eliminate unneeded language and provide clarity. He added that there are no changes to any fees.

**Senator Zito** inquired if the SBB eliminated lifetime brand certificates. **Mr. Burlile** answered no. He advised that the only change is to remove a definition that is duplicative of Idaho Code.

**Senator Patrick** asked if all the strikeouts pertain to language that also appears in statute. **Mr. Burlile** responded that some deleted language appears in Idaho Code. The SBB also eliminated terms that do not appear in either statute or rule, he said.

**MOTION:** **Senator Blair** moved to approve **Docket No. 11-0201-2100F**. **Senator Patrick** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 02-0701-2100F** **Notice of Omnibus Rulemaking (Fee Rule) - Proposed rule - Idaho Hop Growers' Commission (IHGC)**, p. 318. **Candi Fitch**, Executive Director, IHGC introduced herself to the Committee. **Ms. Fitch** described the rule and stated there are no changes from last year's rule.

**MOTION:** **Senator Nelson** moved to approve **Docket No. 02-0701-2100F**. **Senator Semmelroth** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Vice Chairman Bayer passed the gavel to Chairman Burtenshaw.

**PRESENTATION:** **Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Budget Presentation. Celia Gould**, Director, ISDA introduced herself to the Committee. **Ms. Gould** gave an overview of the ISDA's fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget request and FY 2022 supplemental requests (see Attachment 1). She highlighted accomplishments of the past year and the need for additional staff to accommodate growth in ISDA programs.

**DISCUSSION:** In response to questions from **Senator Blair** about the increase in field inspection acres, **Director Gould** invited Lloyd Knight, Administrator, Division of Plant Industries, ISDA to respond. **Mr. Knight** introduced himself to the Committee. He responded that most of the inspection work pertains to seed production in the southern part of the state for product entering the export market. He added there are more plant varieties and destinations, and some crops require multiple inspections. **Mr. Knight** noted that this inspection program does not handle organic crop inspections. He advised that the organic program is voluntary and pertains to marketing and non-regulatory inspections.

**Chairman Burtenshaw** asked for a definition of "phytosanitary". **Mr. Knight** answered that the ISDA conducts inspections of soil and product under strict protocols. He observed that export products must have a phytosanitary certification to verify thorough samples were drawn from certain loads and areas of a field. A phytosanitary certification is only valid for a certain number of days, he said. **Mr. Knight** added that shipping delays and split loads have added to ISDA's inspection workload to ensure the product is acceptable for export.

In response to Committee questions about the invasive species watercraft inspection program, **Mr. Knight** replied that local cooperating groups assist the ISDA with conducting watercraft inspections. He reported that the ISDA has upgraded facilities at many check stations to enhance equipment security and employee safety and comfort. **Mr. Knight** said the ISDA provided containers with power, heat, and air conditioning as well as an office and a secure storage area. He explained that the ISDA chose inspection sites at established locations for traffic safety and possible access to water. **Mr. Knight** clarified that the inspection site on Highway 93 will remain open. He stated that the ISDA will take over its operation.

**PRESENTATION:** **University of Idaho (U of I) - College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) Update. Michael P. Parella**, Dean, U of I, CALS introduced himself to the Committee to provide an update on CALS activities (see Attachment 2). **Dean Parella** reported on statewide CALS facilities and reviewed planned capital projects. He gave an overview of enrollment data and CALS programs. **Dean Parella** expressed concerns related to faculty and staff recruitment and retention. He identified challenges and possible solutions regarding the Washington, Idaho, Montana and Utah Veterinary Science (WIMU) program.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Patrick** asked for more information about establishing a task force to address WIMU program issues. **Dean Parella** answered that a task force comprised of stakeholders will be able to gather information and provide recommendations. He stated that the WIMU program will likely require additional investment. **Senator Patrick** commented that the entire state is experiencing a shortage of labor. He remarked it is possible the Legislature will approve a larger increase in employee salaries than the Governor's 5 percent recommendation. **Dean Parella** agreed that more would be better.

**Senator Nelson** inquired about the number of new veterinarians needed in Idaho. **Dean Parella** replied that a task force would ascertain that information. **Senator Nelson** remarked that chronic underfunding of Idaho education has created a crisis. **Dean Parella** answered that one option is for U of I to leave vacant positions open and use salary savings to augment existing faculty salaries. He added that this option would negatively impact the extension offices.

**Chairman Burtenshaw** asked for clarification on the number of seedlings grown in the new seed potato germplasm facility. **Dean Parella** said the new facility will handle 750,000 seedlings, three times more than the old facility. **Chairman Burtenshaw** inquired about the source of staffing for the Idaho Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (CAFE). **Dean Parella** answered that without additional funding, it is likely U of I would have to redirect positions from other facilities. He observed that CAFE will generate revenue from milk sales and research investment.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Burtenshaw** adjourned the meeting at 9:16 a.m.

---

Senator Burtenshaw  
Chair

---

Jeanne Jackson-Heim  
Secretary