

MINUTES  
**SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, January 30, 2012

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

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Pearce, Vice Chairman Bair, Senators Cameron, Siddoway, Brackett, Heider, Tippetts, Werk, and Stennett

**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.

**CALL TO ORDER:** **Chairman Pearce** called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M. He announced that Ms. Kiefer, from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, has provided information that was requested concerning the Landowner Appreciation Program (Deer, Elk, and Pronghorn) and also the LAP History and Current Status, which are in the Committee's blue folders.

He then announced that the Committee would consider the Gubernatorial appointments that were heard Friday, January 27.

**MOTION:** **Senator Siddoway moved** to send the Gubernatorial appointment of **Robert "Bob" Graham to the Idaho Water Resource Board** to the floor with the recommendation that it be confirmed by the Senate. **Vice Chairman Bair seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** by unanimous voice vote. **Senator Keough** will be the **floor sponsor**.

**MOTION:** **Senator Stennett moved** to send the Gubernatorial appointment of **Peter D. Van Der Meulen to the Idaho Water Resource Board** to the floor with the recommendation that it be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Cameron seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** by unanimous voice vote. **Senator Stennett** will be the **floor sponsor**.

**MOTION:** **Senator Siddoway moved** to send the Gubernatorial appointment of **Jeffery D. Raybould to the Idaho Water Resource Board** to the floor with the recommendation that it be confirmed by the Senate. **Vice Chairman Bair seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** by unanimous voice vote. **Senator Siddoway** will be the **floor sponsor**.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Bair moved** to send the Gubernatorial appointment of **Kenneth T. Anderson to the Idaho Water Resource Board** to the floor with the recommendation that it be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Siddoway seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** by unanimous voice vote. **Vice Chairman Bair** will be the **floor sponsor**.

**MOTION:** **Senator Tippetts moved** to send the Gubernatorial appointment of **Fred Trevey to the Idaho Water Resource Board** to the floor with the recommendation that it be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Heider seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** by unanimous voice vote. **Senator Johnson** will be the **floor sponsor**.

**PASSING OF GAVEL:** **Chairman Pearce** passed the gavel to **Vice Chairman Bair**, who will conduct the voting on three Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Rules that were heard on January 25.

- DOCKET NO. 58-0109-1101** *Rules Regulating Swine and Poultry Facilities. Senator Tippets moved, seconded by Senator Heider, that the Committee adopt Rule No. 58-0109-1101. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*
- DOCKET NO. 58-0110-1101** *Rules Regulating The Disposal of Radioactive Materials Not Regulated Under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, As Amended. Senator Heider moved, seconded by Senator Siddoway, that the Committee adopt Rule No. 58-0110-1101. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*
- DOCKET NO. 58-0124-1101** *Rules Regulating Swine and Poultry Facilities. Senator Siddoway moved, seconded by Senator Heider, that the Committee adopt Rule No. 58-0124-1101. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*
- PASSING OF GAVEL:** **Vice Chairman Bair** returned the gavel to Chairman Pearce.

**Chairman Pearce** said the next order of business would be to hear from the two Gubernatorial appointees to the **Department of Parks and Recreation, Robert Hansen and Charles Correll.**

**SPEAKER:** **Mr. Robert Hansen**, from Menan, Idaho, was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Board to serve a term commencing July 12, 2011 and expiring June 30, 2017.

Mr. Hansen received his BS degree in Finance at Weber State in Ogden, Utah and his MBA at Utah State University. He served six years in the Army and Air Force Reserves and also served a two year Mission for the LDS Church.

He taught at Ricks College in the Business Department for 11 years and also taught night classes (10 years) for the University of Idaho MBA students during the same time period.

Mr. Hansen started a business, Big Sky Financial Resources, which he has now owned since 1978. It is a financial planning business and he has licenses in real estate, insurance and brokerage.

Following are some of his civic activities: Past president of Eastern Idaho Estate Planning Council; Past president of East Idaho Chapter of CLU and CHFC; Chartered Life Underwriter; Chartered financial consultant; Past member of Board of Directors for Red Steer Corporation; Boy Scout merit badge counselor for over 20 years; and County Commissioner (2005-2011). Some of his assignments were: District 6 representative for the IAC legislative committee; Regional Develop Alliance; Madison Memorial Hospital Board; Madison Economic Partners Board; and a number of state committees, as well as normal duties as a Commissioner.

Mr. Hansen is also a member of the American Quarter Horse Association (since 1966) and a member of the National Cutting Horse Association (since 1986). He rides his horses on BLM land, the mountains of Eastern Idaho and Western Wyoming. He has also packed horses in these mountains, as well as in Yellowstone.

When asked what his goals and/or recommendations are for the Department he replied that there is always the issue of balance for the public good of funding some things with tax dollars and other things with a users fee. Because the parks are a service to the public, it has to be balanced, but one has to find ways to collect revenue from the sources of those that are using it. He feels that is the challenge, as some ways are easy and some are not. The resource cannot be used up, but must be kept up, so that it can be used for future generations, and that is the fragile balance. Mr. Hansen added that he feels there are a great number of people who do not understand what Idaho has and it is an education process for the younger generation to get a grasp of the resources so that they can be the participant in keeping them up, instead of using them up.

**Senator Siddoway** said that he has great respect for Mr. Hansen and the job that he has done.

**Senator Heider** inquired about the Boy Scout merit badge counseling. **Mr. Hansen** said it was in horsemanship and money management.

**Chairman Pearce** thanked Mr. Hansen, then called on Mr. Charles Correll.

**SPEAKER:** **Mr. Correll** was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Board on January 16, 2012 and his term will expire on June 30, 2013.

He received his B.S. in Business from the University of Idaho and has had a public accounting office in Jerome for 38 years. Mr. Correll is also a registered investment advisor. His military service was for the U.S. Army and he received an honorable discharge.

Current memberships and offices held include the Jerome Chamber of Commerce and the Jerome School District Foundation of which he is the secretary/treasurer.

Previous offices and Boards that he served on consist of the following: Mayor, City of Jerome, eight years; Jerome City Council, eight years; Comprehensive Aquifer Management Committee, Alternate member; Family Health Services, Director and Vice President; Region IV Development, Director and Vice President; Jerome Urban Renewal Agency, Director and Chairman; Idaho Association of Public Accountants, Director and President; Jerome Recreation District, Clerk; Jerome School District, Clerk; Jerome Chamber of Commerce, Director and President; St. Benedict's Hospital Foundation, Treasurer; Jerome Hospital Association, President; and the Jerome Rotary Club, Treasurer. Mr. Correll is active in various capacities in his church and also in Respite Foster Care.

**Senator Tippets** stated that Mr. Correll has a rich history of service in various capacities and thanked him for it.

**Senator Cameron** said that he and Representative Maxine Bell had recommended Mr. Correll to the Governor. He noted that the city of Jerome had less problems when Mr. Correll was the mayor and added that he has a fine working style.

**Chairman Pearce** thanked Mr. Correll for his willingness to serve. He then called on **Director Nancy Merrill** who provided information regarding the parks and then explained the "2012 Idaho Parks Passport."

**SPEAKER:** The Mission of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation is "To improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship." The Board of Directors include Tom Crimmins, Region I; Randy Doman, Region II; Ernest Lombard, Region III; Charles Correll, Region IV; and Jean McDevitt, Chairman, Region V.

Statistics show there are 30 state parks and 60,263 managed acres. Last year, 5.2 million park visitors were served, with 1.65 million out-of-state day users. Overnight camping increased by 1.07 percent. IDPR registers 300,000 boats, ATVs, motorbikes and snowmobiles annually. There were 60 ATV/motorbike safety classes in 2011, reaching 882 students. There were also 12 avalanche awareness classes that reached 900 students.

**Director Merrill** reported on the "Successes" of 2011. They were – all 30 parks remained open; volunteers contributed over 86,000 hours; customer satisfaction increased from 89% to 94%; overnight camping increased by 1.07%; revenues were up by 8.3%; visitation was up by 8%; the 30 marketing plans were finished; and better communication was established with state and community leaders.

The Director explained their strategy to improve the Department. It includes reinventing IDPR to incorporate Best Business Management Practices; expand fundraising efforts; develop marketing and promotion capabilities; new operating and staffing models (different mix of skill sets); redirect capital improvement to public health and safety/revenue generation; and to secure dedicated funding to replace lost general funds. One of the ways in moving towards long-term sustainable solutions is establishing the Idaho State Parks Passport. When vehicle registration is due, one can purchase annual access to the state parks for \$10.

Currently, the annual pass is \$40 and the day pass is \$5, per vehicle. IDPR's current program brings in \$800,000 annually. According to the Idaho Transportation Department, it has 1,251,800 registered motor vehicle owners. A conservative estimate of vehicle owners who will choose to purchase an Idaho State Parks Passport is 20%. That would equal 250,300 vehicles. That number times \$10 would amount to \$2.5 million, less the present \$800,000 from the current program, the projected increase in revenue would be \$1.7 million.

Director Merrill said that the end result will be that Idahoans will have a choice when they register their cars to purchase access to all 30 of the state parks for a tremendous discount. And it is a movement towards a long-term, sustainable funding source to assist in keeping Idaho's state parks open and accessible. Legislation is being proposed.

**ADJOURN:**

**Chairman Pearce** thanked Director Merrill for her presentation. He then adjourned the meeting at 2:20 P.M.

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Senator Pearce  
Chairman

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Juanita Budell  
Secretary