MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE:	Wednesday, February 20, 2013
TIME:	1:30 P.M.
PLACE:	Room EW41
MEMBERS:	Chairman Raybould, Vice Chairman Eskridge, Representatives Anderson(1), Hartgen, Vander Woude, DeMordaunt, Nielsen, Thompson, Anderson(31), Anderst, Mendive, Monks, Morse, Trujillo, Smith, Rusche, Woodings
ABSENT/ EXCUSED:	Rep. Vander Woude, Rep. DeMordaunt
GUESTS:	Barry Burnell, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; Nate Bondelid, Tek-Hut; Kendra Kenyun and Max Pond, Idaho Council of Governments; Brady Kraft, Idaho Education Network; Kyle Miller, Abbey Bressler, and Jaime Hernandez, Caldwell High School; Brenda Tominaga, Idaho Rural Water Association

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

MOTION:	**Rep. Thompson** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2013, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote**.
MOTION:	**Rep. Smith** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2013, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

Chairman Raybould introduced new page **Brooklyn Burk**, to the Committee.

H 185:	**Tana Cory**, Bureau of Occupational Licenses, presented **H 185**. This legislation will allow the Board of Drinking Water and Wastewater Professionals to charge less than the set examination fee in order to ensure that the cost of online and written exams are equal. Ms. Cory explained the fee is currently $37 for written exams, and $39 for online exams. This difference causes problems and delays in applicant status, and they are requesting the same $37 fee for both exams. Ms. Cory stated this will reduce the board's dedicated fund by $1100, based on the number of on-line examinees in calendar year 2012.
MOTION:	**Rep. Monks** made a motion to send **H 185** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to questions from the Committee, **Ms. Cory** explained online exams are higher than written exams due to the programming and set-up involved.

VOTE ON MOTION:	**Chairman Raybould** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 185** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Monks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Ann Joslin, State Librarian, Idaho Commission for Libraries, introduced **Jan Wall**, Idaho Commission for Libraries, to the Committee. Ms. Wall presented information on E-rate in Idaho, specifically in public libraries. She explained E-rate provides discounts to help schools and libraries obtain affordable rates for telecommunications, telecommunications services, internet access, internal connections, and basic maintenance of internal connections. The program is administered by Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC), and is overseen by the Federal Communications Commission.

Ms. Wall stated, to be eligible for E-rate, libraries must meet the statutory definition found in the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) of 1996. For-profit or private libraries are not eligible for E-rate. Priority 1 services for eligible libraries covers telecommunications, including Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS), and Internet. Priority 2 services cover Internal connections and basic maintenance of internal connections. Ms. Wall explained the application process and the different forms required. She said the number of libraries successfully funded has risen from forty in FY 2010-11 to sixty-five in FY 2012-13, and the funds being disbursed have risen from $132 thousand to $545 thousand for the same time period. Ms. Wall added E-rate is not federally funded, the monies come from a fee charged by phone carriers.

In answer to questions from the Committee regarding wireless availability, and privacy, **Ms. Wall** explained it depends on the strength of the signal, but it usually only extends as far as the parking lot. She stated many libraries are starting to filter content, but the rules for the public computers inside the library don't apply to wireless.

In regard to questions regarding how E-rate interacts with IEN, **Ms. Wall** said E-rate is a separate funding source. She also stated some libraries can get their Internet on the market, cheaper than from IEN. **Brady Kraft**, Idaho Education Network, further clarified IEN is geared toward schools, E-rate is geared toward libraries, and they are not in competition with each other.

Nate Bondelid, Tek-Hut Inc./OneWave Networks presented to the Committee, "What is Wireless?" He stated wireless is a cost effective way to deliver many different high speed technologies. Some of these include broadband internet access, dedicated internet access, educational access, rural health care, private transport and private networks, streaming audio and video, and media such as Netflix. Mr. Bondelid explained wireless technologies provide a solution for growth in rural areas where Cable/DSL is not available. Mr. Bondelid discussed OneWave Network's involvement to extend the IEN to the Parma, Marsing, and Wilder School Districts, and to extend the University of Idaho Iron Network to 4 research centers.

In answer to questions, **Mr. Bondelid** stated security associated with present technology has a wide range of ways to encrypt traffic, so the possibility of hackers getting into bank accounts through wireless networks is very difficult. He also said the different technologies for wireless today are changing rapidly and would continue to be driven by the need for bandwidth.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

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Representative Raybould
Chair

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Lynn Walker
Secretary