

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
TRAIL SUBCOMMITTEE
Administrative Rules Review

DATE: Thursday, January 12, 2012
TIME: 8:15 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW20
MEMBERS: Chairman Trail, Representatives Shirley, Lacey
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS:

Brandon Lamb, Kevin Merritt, Leah Clark, Michael Cooper, Laura Johnson, Idaho State Department of Agriculture; Dennis Stevenson, Administrative Rules Coordinator; Martha deSimon, Majority Pool Secretary

Chairman Trail called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m.

Laura Johnson, Market Development Division, Dept. of Agriculture, briefly introduced the Department staff that were present for review of the Administrative Rules.

Dennis Stevenson, Administrative Rules Coordinator, gave a brief review of the rules procedure regarding Pending, Temporary and Fee rules.

DOCKET NO. 02-0104-1101 **Leah Clark**, Trade Specialist, Marketing Development Division, introduced **Betty Munis**, Idaho Forest Products Association. Ms. Clark said these are Pending Rules requested by the Forest Products Association and approved by the Forest Products Commission. She said the rule adds a definition and she requested approval of the rules.

In response to questions from the Subcommittee, **Ms. Clark** clarified that many forest product manufacturers have products out of state, but the majority of products need to come from the state of Idaho. She said many producers own land in two states and the trees grown in Idaho are labeled.

MOTION: **Rep. Shirley** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0104-1101** to the full committee. **Rep. Lacey seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0214-1101 **Kevin Merritt**, Section Manager, Bureau of Weights and Measures, said the purpose of this Rule is to update a document reference in the Weights and Measurements handbook. He said updating the document promotes uniformity throughout the United States.

In response to questions, **Mr. Merritt** said most states follow certain guidelines in the handbook and exempt themselves from certain guidelines. He said Idaho is a state that also does this. Mr. Merritt said that most of the changes are housekeeping and the most drastic change is the addition of a definition which would not create any hardships for the industry.

MOTION: **Rep. Shirley** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0214-1101** to the full committee. **Rep. Lacey seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0630-1101 **Mike Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Division of Plant Industries, said these were primarily housekeeping rule changes and the only changes that might affect bee keepers is pushing back an inspection date by a month.

MOTION: **Rep. Lacey** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0630-1101** to the full committee. **Rep. Shirley seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0633-1101 **Brandon Lamb**, Organic Program Manager, Division of Agricultural Inspections, said the changes to the organic food product rule will eliminated the education activity requirement to comply with legislation that was passed in 2011. He said it would also eliminate fees which will comply with the national rule.

In response to Subcommittee questions regarding the organic food industry trends and economic impact in Idaho, **Mr. Lamb** said that organic food production has been pretty recession proof, and there are about 250 certified operations in the state. Mr. Lamb's response regarding the elimination of the July 1st deadline for approval was the national rule requires an annual inspection and the operation is given a renewal date at that time. He said it allows them to work more with the producer on their schedule.

MOTION: **Rep. Lacey** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0633-1101** to the full committee. **Rep. Shirley seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Subcommittee the meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

Representative Tom Trail
Chairman

Susan Werlinger
Secretary