

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 24, 2012

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representative(s) Lake, Stevenson, Trail, Bolz, Shirley, Patrick, McMillan, Batt, Pence, Lacey

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None.

GUESTS: Richard Bronson, SWCC; Max Greenlee, Risch Pisca; Roger Batt, Idaho Grape & Wine Commission; Teri Murrison, Kristen Magruder, Jerry Trebesch, SWCC; Brent Olmstead, MPIIdaho

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m

Rep. Batt welcomed several FFA members to the meeting.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of Wednesday, January 18, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Batt** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Boyle Subcommittee on Livestock Rules for Wednesday, January 18, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 20987: **Roger Batt**, representing Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission, said this proposed legislation will allow the Commission statutory authority to promote Idaho grape products, while meeting the mission and objectives of the Commission through better marketing of the industry. Mr. Batt explained the Commission has frequently been asked to do several promotions and events and has only been able to assist individually licensed wineries with this marketing. He said the Commission feels it is missing out on numerous opportunities for expansion, growth and new potential markets. He said this legislation would allow the Commission the ability to fully promote and market the industry's products. He asked for support and introduction of the legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Bolz** made a motion to introduce **RS 20987**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Teri Murrison, Administrator, Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission, said fiscal year 2012 has been a new start for the Commission. She said they have had significant staffing changes and a major renovation to the Strategic Plan. She said they also have a new partnership agreement. Ms. Murrison said they plan to expand their partnership and achieve more on the ground in 2012. She said they plan to do this with more communication and coordination, have more accountability and transparency and do more with less. She said the goal for today's presentation is to give an overview of their mission and provide an update of the Commission and district relations. She gave a review of the Commissioners and advisors and said they provide district support services. She reviewed their comprehensive conservation and incentive programs.

Ms. Murrison reviewed their district support services. She reviewed the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program. Ms. Murrison explained the Commission is focused on district outreach and identifying cost savings. She said the Commission still faces challenges as result of the recession, but they are focusing their resources on the districts and programs and they are optimistic about the future. Ms. Murrison said the Commission's charge is to balance natural and human environments benefitting plants, animals, soil, water and air. She said the Commission's job is to help districts and to coordinate voluntary conservation. She said they have fewer resources but are working smarter to provide effective environmental solutions. Ms. Murrison briefly answered questions from the Committee.

Bret Rumbeck Executive Director, Idaho Soil & Water Assoc., said 47 of the 50 districts are members of the Association. Mr. Rumbeck showed a video about the Association found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rdXvjMUYYs>. He said they have had a significant improvement in technology and communication with the districts and the public and have established the ability to get information to the districts and district chairmen. Mr. Rumbeck said they have also been working with the Commission to develop the new strategic plan.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chairman

Susan Werlinger
Secretary