

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 07, 2012

TIME: 1:30 p.m. or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Stevenson, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representative(s) Wood(35), Barrett, Moyle, Eskridge, Raybould, Bedke, Andrus, Wood(27), Boyle, Hagedorn, Harwood (DeVries), Vander Woude, Gibbs, Pence, Higgins, Lacey

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Wood(35)

GUESTS: Dan Dinning, Boundary County; Stan Leach, Clearwater County; Max Greenlee, Risch Pisca; Elizabeth Criner, NWFPA; Karry Ellen Elliott, IAC

Chairman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 5, 2012.
Motion carried by voice vote.

SJM 103: **Rep. Anderson** said this memorial is about the Rural School Trust Pilot Project. He yielded to **Commissioner Dinning** from Boundary County and **Commissioner Leach** from Clearwater County to present the memorial.

Commissioner Dan Dinning, Boundary County, thanked **Rep. Anderson** and the co-sponsors of bill for bringing this memorial. He said this pilot project has been developed by five Idaho counties and they feel it is an extremely important issue. He said the Secure Rural Schools Act authorized payments directly to the counties. He said they had a financial obligation to the counties. He reviewed the percentage of the payment that goes to the road and bridge fund and the percentage that goes to rural schools. He said they have just received the last payment and although the Secure Rural Schools is up for reauthorization they are not sure it will be reauthorized. Commissioner Dinning said without Secure Rural Schools they will have no option but to cut funds. This will be a stress to roads, bridges and schools. He said they need an alternative to this funding and have come up with the concept of the Community Forest Trust. He said it is a partnership with the Department of Lands and the subject of **SJM 103**.

In response to Committee questions, **Commissioner Dinning** said all the counties endorse this and it is not specific to the five counties only. He said the profit from this will be distributed to all the counties in Idaho.

Commissioner Stan Leach, Clearwater County, listed the commissioners and counties that were involved in creating the pilot project. He said this will designate by law a trust for the purpose of providing revenue to support the local schools and roads. He said the management of the natural resources of the trust lands would be handled by the land professionals. He said this creates a small pilot project to prove the revenue would meet the obligations of the Secure Rural Schools funding. He thanked those who have work on this project and the others who have sponsored the memorial.

In response to Committee questions, **Director Tom Schultz**, Idaho Department of Lands, said the increase in timber production could be handled and they wouldn't need federal funds to run the production. He also said the federal and state management processes differ.

MOTION: **Rep. Eskridge** made a motion to send **SJM 103** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Bedke said this is only a pilot project for ten years, involving only 200,000 acres. He said the state needs to be ready to do this on a larger scale and use its own resources for these projects.

Rep. Shepherd said the state has been trying to go in this direction for a lot of years and this is a good way to handle the funding problem. He said the timing is good on this as well and the sponsors have done a good job working toward this goal.

Rep. Anderson said the thanks should be directed to the counties and commissioners that have work on this project.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Anderson and Eskridge will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1289:

Norm Semanko, Idaho Water Users Association, said this bill refers to antiquated references in Code. It is replacing old language with existing Code that governs appeals. He said they want to up date the Code with what is occurring today.

MOTION:

Rep. Bedke made a motion to send **S 1289** to the floor with **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Bedke** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1290:

Norm Semanko said currently there are no provisions for drainage districts to be assessed. He said they will be able to determined who is getting a benefit, which will allow for reapportionment to occur.

MOTION:

Rep. Hagedorn made a motion to send **S 1290** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Hagedorn** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Representative Stevenson
Chairman

Susan Werlinger
Secretary