

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Denney, Vice Chairman Gibbs, Representatives Wood(35), Barrett, Moyle, Eskridge, Raybould, Andrus, Shepherd, Wood(27), Boyle, Vander Woude, Gestrin, Miller, Anderson(1), Pence, Erpelding, Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following then end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to approve the minutes for January 29, 2013. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21866: **Rep. Shepherd** introduced **Mr. Lee Barren**, who is a professional well driller. Mr. Barren stated that this proposed legislation would be a correction to the Idaho Department of Water Resources rules for a new standard for well systems. He stated drillers have found this unnecessarily arbitrary and in many cases can almost double the cost of a domestic well.

MOTION: **Rep Gestrin** made a motion to introduce **RS 21866**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21821: **Rep. Anderson(1)**, explained this proposed legislation transfers the issuance of the aquatic non-motorized boat registrations to the Idaho Department of Fish & Game. He stated the Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation has done this in the past, but they are moving away from issuing recreational vehicle stickers.

In answer to committee question, **Rep Anderson(1)** said a motorized boat registration in the state will be issued through the Idaho Department of Transportation. He clarified a non-motorized boat, or a boat registered in another state, can be registered online with the Idaho Department of Fish & Game.

MOTION: **Rep. Gibbs** made a motion to introduce **RS 21821**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21931: **Rep. Perry** stated this proposed legislation is in response to the frustrations posed by many who would like to see a bonus point system put in place for a controlled hunt. The main change in the RS is changing the word "may" to "shall."

MOTION: **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to introduce **RS 21931**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21952: **Rep. Gibbs** explained this proposed joint memorial is asking the House of Representatives to take action to open the Frank Church Wilderness Area.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood(35)** made a motion to introduce **RS 21952**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21974: **Rep. Boyle** explained that about twenty years ago the Legislature designated 75 cents from each deer, elk, and antelope tag be set aside for a winter feeding account. She said animals feed at the landowners expense and damage their resources. She said if feeding could be done in a manner to make the animals, the hunters, and the landowners happy, it would go a long ways towards public relations.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 21974. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Ms. Teri Murison, Administrator, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District, explained the commission's core functions which include technical support, conservation programs, and administration. She stated that soil and water conservation is a bit misleading, there is a lot more to districts than soil and water. She said they are also a leading force for the conservation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources. She stated that when they say conservation the "Idaho way," they mean using the natural resources of the state to benefit Idahoans while maintaining the state's resources and improving those resources for future generations. She said the districts focus is on voluntary, cooperative efforts with local people rather than a regulatory approach. She said the districts are involved in conservation planning, engineering services, project implementation, construction inspections, and low interest loans for equipment and projects. She said they also manage the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and the completed Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She stated they are the designated lead agency for the agricultural and grazing components of the Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plan for water quality impaired surface waters in the state. She stated they are also working on improved communication and outreach relationships. She explained their major challenges include Idaho's urban growth, land-use conflicts, and the loss of agricultural land and open space. She stated the commission will continue to do more with less when facing those challenges.

Mr. Bret Rumbeck, Executive Director, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation, explained that soil conservation isn't just rural and that we are in an Idaho Soil and Conservation District right now. He said the Association is the unified voice for the soil conservation districts in the state. The Association is in a strong partnership with local, state, and federal partnerships.

He shared some conservation districts specific to the committee member's districts and mentioned the boat wash stations being run by the Bonners Soil and Water Conservation District. He stated that the Association keeps the private landowner in the driver's seat when it comes to their own land.

In answer to committee questions, **Mr. Rumbeck** stated the Idaho Soil Conservation was formed in 1944, and in the 1930's Roosevelt sent out sample legislation for each state to develop a district and a commission. He said they partner federally with the Natural Resources Conservation. He stated they are locally elected.

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

Representative Denney
Chair

Rosee Winder
Secretary