

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Denney, Vice Chairman Gibbs, Representative(s) Wood(35), Barrett, Moyle, Eskridge, Raybould, Andrus, Shepherd, Wood(27), Boyle, Vander Woude, Gestrin, Miller, Anderson(1), Pence, Erpelding, Rubel

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Moyle

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the 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 1:32 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wood(35)** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 29, 2014. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2014. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2014. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Teri Murrison**, Administrator of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, provided a presentation on the agency's 2014 annual report. She expressed her gratitude to the landowners, stakeholders, government agencies, and their partners for the cooperative efforts in accomplishing positive results for the land and the people who live and work on the land. Ms. Murrison referred to Conservation the Idaho Way and this philosophy is a voluntary way of life for Idahoans to improve the natural resources for future generations. She indicated the group is focused on cooperative and collaborative efforts between local people. She asserted since 1990, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission has been involved with over \$88 million worth of projects and has impacted almost 1.5 million acres. She indicated the ground water program treated 35,685 acres, reducing nitrates by 15,000 pounds, phosphorus by 24,000 pounds and sediment was reduced by 137,000 pounds. Ms. Murrison mentioned the Soil and Water Conservation Committee is celebrating their 75th Anniversary.

**Steve Becker**, Treasurer for the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District, lives in Genesee, Idaho, and expressed his appreciation for the benefits provided by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

**Jeffery Burwell**, Natural Resources Conservation Service, said the Soil and Water Conservation Commission provides technical assistance and accomplishes the needs of resource conservation in Idaho. Mr. Burwell expressed his appreciation for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

**H 371:** **Betty Munis**, Director of Idaho Forest Products Commission, spoke regarding **H 371**. She said this legislation was created to update procedures to reflect changes and increase opportunity for partnerships.

**Michael Boeck**, works in forest and lumber industry, said he is a graduate of the University of Idaho in forestry. Mr. Boeck supports **H 371** as this legislation will provide the opportunity to bring a variety of people onto the commission. Mr. Boeck said this legislation will improve the representation of people on the Commission.

**Darin Ball**, representing Potlatch Corp. which owns 800,000 acres in the state. He said Potlatch is a supporter of this legislation.

**Jim Lowe**, Food Producers of Idaho spoke in support of **H 371**.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Eskridge** made a motion to send **H 371** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Eskridge** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 372:** **Eric Wilson**, Idaho Department of Lands, spoke regarding **H 372**. He said **H 372** will amend and clarify terms of motorized exploration and casual exploration related to the diameter of dredge intake size. He said the statute has unclear terminology resulting in information requests and litigation.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to send **H 372** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Erpelding** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 373:** **Tom Shultz**, Director of Idaho Department of Lands, stated **H 373** is a clean up bill and will restructure the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission within the Department of Lands for administrative purposes.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wood(35)** made a motion to send **H 373** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Wood(35)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 424:** **Norm Semanko**, Idaho Water Users Association, presented **H 424** to update the irrigation district election laws through clarification of the district director election. He stated if one person is running for the district director position, the irrigation district does not go through the expense of holding an election. Mr. Semanko stated that if there is only one qualified candidate, this candidate would be declared elected and there would be no further proceedings beyond this point. A certificate of election is presented upon the start of the new director's term.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to send **H 424** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Raybould** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 425:** **Norm Semanko**, Idaho Water Users Association, represents water providers and supporters from around the state and this legislation would increase the minimum water user fee that water districts may assess an individual water user for water master services. The water master regulates storage rights and flow diversions from the river. Mr. Semanko and the water users have proposed to raise the fee at their annual meeting to not more than \$250.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Miller** made a motion to send **H 425** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Miller** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

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Representative Denney  
Chair

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Jennifer Smith  
Secretary