

MINUTES
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 17, 2014

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Pearce, Vice Chairman Bair, Senators Cameron, Siddoway, Brackett, Heider, Tippetts, Stennett and Lacey

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Pearce** called the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 p.m. He stated that the first order of business would be to consider the appointments that were heard last Wednesday.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Cameron** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Charles H. Correll to the Idaho Park and Recreation Board to the floor with a recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. The floor sponsor will be Senator Patrick.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Tippetts** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Tom Long to the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board to the floor with a recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Vice Chairman Bair** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. The floor sponsor will be Senator Siddoway.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Heider** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of C. Wayne Hunsucker to the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board to the floor with a recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Vice Chairman Bair** seconded the motion.

During the discussion, **Senator Cameron** said that Mr. Hunsucker is the representative for the public and at his hearing, **Senator Cameron** said that he questioned him regarding rules on waterfowl and turkey guiding. In Mr. Hunsucker's comments, he referred to a survey done by the Idaho Farm Bureau and implied that they were involved. **Senator Cameron** stated that he has since visited with the Farm Bureau, at their request, because they were concerned that they had been misportrayed. He asked the Chairman (or someone) to deliver a message to the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board that they need to be a little more responsive to the public.

The motion carried by **voice vote**. The floor sponsor will be Senator Nuxoll.

WITHDRAWAL OF S 1255: **Senator Tippetts** stated that he wished to withdraw his bill, **S 1255** today, and asked that it be heard at a later date.

WITHDRAWAL OF S 1279: **Mr. Norm Semanko**, Idaho Water Users Association (IWUA) also requested that **S 1279** be held until a future date.

S 1280: **Mr. Norm Semanko**, IWUA, presented **S 1280**. He said the purposes of this legislation are to: (1) require each irrigation district director to meet director qualification requirements during the term of office; (2) require each director to notify the other directors if he will no longer meet those requirements during his term; (3) allow a disqualified director to serve until a successor takes office if necessary to conduct the district's affairs; (4) authorize the directors to declare a vacancy in the office of director; (5) conform the bonding requirement for an appointed director to the bonding requirement for an elected director; and (6) provide that an appointed director has all of the rights, powers, liabilities, duties and obligations of the director's office.

MOTION: After a brief discussion, **Senator Cameron** made the motion to send **S 1280** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. The motion was seconded by **Vice Chairman Bair**. The motion passed by unanimous **voice vote**. The floor sponsor will be Senator Cameron.

S 1281: **Mr. Norm Semanko**, IWUA, presented **S 1281**. He stated that this legislation is to clarify the irrigation district code by correcting all instances when an irrigation district director is mistakenly referred to as an officer.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Bair** made the motion to send **S 1281** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. The motion was seconded by **Senator Stennett**. The motion passed by unanimous **voice vote**. The floor sponsor will be Vice Chairman Bair.

S 1344: **Mr. Norm Semanko**, IWUA, presented **S 1344**. He said this legislation has three purposes. The first is to clarify and further define a flood control district's authority to protect life and property from injury or damage resulting from flooding. The second is to authorize district commissioners to fix compensation and expense reimbursement, up to prescribed limits. Last, it will clarify a flood control district's permitting requirements before responding to a flooding emergency,

Senator Siddoway made the motion to send **S 1344** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. The motion was seconded by **Senator Heider**. The motion passed by unanimous **voice vote**. The floor sponsor will be Senator Siddoway.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEE HEARING: At precisely 2 p.m., the Committee finished with the bills on the agenda and a conference call was received from **Mr. Craig Hill** of Priest Lake, Idaho. He was reappointed to the Lake Pend Oreille Basin Commission to serve a term commencing July 24, 2013 and expiring July 24, 2016. He has served on the Commission for the past six years and is happy to be of service to the community. **Mr. Hill** said that he is concerned with the water quality in Idaho in general, but specifically Priest Lake and Lake Pend Oreille. Mr. Hill will be leaving very soon to spend a month in Thailand.

Mr. Hill has lived at Priest Lake for 54 years. He is a graduate of Priest River High School and attended the University of Idaho and Eastern Washington University. At the present time, he is the owner of Hill's Resort (started by his father), is married with two children, and is the president of the Priest Lake Golf Course.

Other community organizations that he is a member of include: Chamber of Commerce, past President; West Priest Lake Fire Department, past Commissioner; West Bonner County Groomer Advisory Board; Kalispel Bay Water and Sewer District, past Board member; member of the Lakes Commission; and a past Cub Scout leader.

The advantage of Priest Lake is that it is so clear and pristine. When asked what the biggest issues they are facing, **Mr. Hill** replied that Eurasian milfoil and quagga mussels are high on their list. There are also some Fish and Game issues - lake trout and bull trout, as well as the Clark River delta.

Senator Heider said a lot of money is being spent through the Department of Agriculture to control Eurasian milfoil. It is also being pulled by the roots by divers a few days a year, and he inquired which method is the most effective and how is the eradication progressing. **Mr. Hill** replied that Priest Lake has a limited amount of Eurasian milfoil and they are containing it by the divers. However, he feels that a herbicide would be more effective. That method is being used on Lake Pend Oreille and the Pend Oreille River and is successful in curbing its growth, slowing it down, and getting their arms around the situation. Only by herbicide application are they able to do this. **Mr. Hill** stated that the State needs to keep vigilant at the border with regards to the quagga mussel.

Senator Tippetts inquired about the resort that Mr. Hill owns. **Mr. Hill** said it was started by his father in 1946 with just a cabin at Priest Lake, with no electricity or running water. It has now grown to 52 units. The lodge has a cocktail lounge and a restaurant; the marina has 75 slips for boats; and there is an 18 hole golf course. It's a typical family type vacation resort as people return year-after-year and stay in the same cabins. There are winter sports and activities as well as the standard summertime sports and activities. **Mr. Hill** stated that it is a family operation - brother, sister, wife, and children. **Senator Tippetts** told Mr. Hill that it sounded like he has a wonderful resort and then thanked him for serving on the Commission.

Senator Lacey questioned Mr. Hill's answer to the number ten question on the questionnaire, regarding conflict of interest (due to the resort's use of the lake and potential water issues). **Mr. Hill** said that he doesn't view it as a conflict and would do whatever he had to, to protect the lake.

Senator Siddoway inquired about the sewage system for the cabin sites around the lake, as well as businesses located there, and asked if it has created water quality problems. **Mr. Hill** replied by saying in the early 1970s, the first sewer district was created, then other areas were added. In the late 1980s, DEQ conducted a study. At this point, about 90 percent of the residents of the lake have had a sewer system put in. As far as the water quality of the lake, the sewer system has certainly helped to clean up the lake. **Senator Siddoway** then asked about the lake level and inquired how the Commission works with the electric company when they want to change the level. **Mr. Hill** said that the Commission was created for that reason, to not only protect the water quality, but to also protect the water quantity. The real controversy comes with Lake Pend Oreille and Pend Oreille River.

Mr. Hill's understanding of the situation is that they wanted to be able to take advantage of the fluctuations in the weather and to capture a weather event and raise the level of the lake whenever there was a big rain storm or snow storm and be able to use the water to make electricity. The Commission gives their input where they would like to see the levels; however, there is a group that makes the final decision. It seems that as the years go by and the more education that they have, they have developed a level that they are happy with.

Chairman Pearce thanked Mr. Hill for making the call on time and for the information that he has provided the Committee. The vote will take place on Wednesday.

**INTRODUCTION
OF PAGE:**

Chairman Pearce introduced the Committee's new Page, Lydia Woodland. He asked her to speak to the Committee regarding her schooling and activities. **Lydia** said she is from Burley and has two sisters that were Pages for the Senate. She would like to major in accounting when she goes to college.

INTRODUCTION: **Senator Siddoway** introduced and welcomed Rigby's Mayor, Jason Richardson, who has brought a delegation with him from a charter school. **Chairman Pearce** also welcomed them to the meeting.

ADJOURNED: **Chairman Pearce** thanked the Committee for their work, then adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Senator Pearce
Chair

Juanita Budell
Secretary