

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 04, 2014
TIME: 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment
PLACE: Room EW42
MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representative(s) Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: Jodie Ellis, Board of Veterinary Medicine; Carol Youtz, Board of Veterinary Medicine; Leland Tiegs, IACSC; Brett Wilder, Food Producers; Colby Cameron, Idaho AGC/Sullivan & Reberger
MOTION: **Chairman Andrus** called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.
SCR 136: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, February 12, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
MOTION: **Senator Guthrie**, presented **SCR 136**, Ag Department Rule Rejected. He said this is a Senate Concurrent Resolution to reject certain rules submitted for review by the Agricultural Affairs Committee, as they relate to the Department of Agriculture Rules Governing Noxious Weed Free Gravel and Rocks Products.
SCR 137: **Rep. Batt** made a motion to send **SCR 136** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Batt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
MOTION: **Senator Guthrie**, presented **SCR 137**, Rule Rejection, Veterinary Board. He said this is a Senate Concurrent Resolution to reject certain rules of the State of Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine, Section 154, Subsection 05.
Jodie Ellis, Executive Director, Board of Veterinary Medicine said in order for a veterinarian to properly care for a patient the veterinarian performing the treatment must have the most current medical records. She said it optimizes treatment and protects owners from repetition of tests. She said the deadline is unrealistic to ensure the best possible care for the patient. She said she spoke with members of the Board about the concerns of the small operations and they felt it would be very rare and should not have a lot of bearing on the vast majority of veterinarians. She asked the committee to allow the change to go forward.
Senator Guthrie said before the rule change a veterinarian was given 24 hours to produce the vaccination records, that signifies the records were important and time sensitive. Now veterinarians will be given three days and this is confusing. Also, before the rule change, if a veterinarian was out of the office they had 24 hours from the time they reopened the office to submit the records and therefore the change to the three days would have made sense. He said this was the rational and the mind set for why the Senate rejected it.
MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to **HOLD SCR 137** in committee and to not concur with the Senate. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
Rick Waitley, Administrator, Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission, said several years ago their organization was called the Idaho Alfalfa Seed Commission and a number of clover growers asked to be a part of the Commission. He said as a result, they changed their name through Idaho Code to the Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission.

Leland Tiegs, Chairman, Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission, presented the annual report. He said in fiscal year 2013, the Commission brought in more money than they spent and seed acres and production were up as well. He said in fiscal year 2013, Idaho produced approximately 8.5 million pounds of alfalfa and clover seed, an increase from the prior year's total of 7.5 million pounds and they expect an increase in the coming years. He said the assessment for the seed in 2013 was \$0.004 per pound.

Mr. Tiegs said the Idaho Commission, on behalf of Idaho growers, is affiliated with the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance (NAFA). He said NAFA coordinates and promotes educational and research activities which are a direct benefit to Idaho seed growers. He said in fiscal year 2012 there was \$3.7 million spent on alfalfa research and members of the Idaho Commission met with federal agencies and government officials in Washington DC to elevate the importance of alfalfa production and research in the United States. He said alfalfa production ranks second in the state among all field crops and Idaho ranks third in the nation.

Mr. Tiegs said the use of chemicals is important to the production of alfalfa seed and because it is considered a minor crop they do not have access to the large amounts of money needed to get chemicals. The Commission works closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in order to make chemicals available that can be used.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Angela Sandoval
Secretary