

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2015

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Heider, Vice Chairman Martin, Senators Lodge, Nuxoll, Hagedorn, Tippetts, Lee, Schmidt and Jordan

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 Heider** called the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Lee** moved to approve the Minutes of March 3, 2015. **Vice Chairman Martin** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUB APPT: **Chairman Heider** introduced Mark Von Lindern as gubernatorial appointee to the Hazardous Waste Facility Siting License Application Review Panel (Panel) for a term commencing March 6, 2015, and expiring on March 6, 2018.

Mark Von Lindern, Senior Manager, Environmental Engineering, Alliant Techsystems (ATK), Lewiston Operations, said he has lived in Idaho most of his life. He graduated from Lewiston High School and the University of Idaho College of Engineering. He was formerly the Public Works Director for the City of Lewiston, then Water Quality Engineer for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and subsequently Regional Administrator for DEQ Region 2 in Idaho for 5 years. He has had a good opportunity to work with the DEQ staff and understands the environmental issues throughout the Lewiston district and across the State. In 1990, he went to work for a private company called Blount in Lewiston that grew into ATK which builds everything from .22 ammunition to space shuttle rockets.

Mr. Von Lindern said he has served three 3-year terms on the Panel over the last 25 years. The Panel has not been very active with respect to opportunities, which he said is probably a good thing, but they met a couple of times on expansions at the hazardous waste facility near Grandview approximately eight years ago. He has enjoyed bringing his experience to the Panel with respect to the State's environmental issues. **Mr. Von Lindern** thanked the Committee for the opportunity and stood for questions.

Vice Chairman Martin thanked Mr. Von Lindern for his service and asked him to tell the Committee more about the Panel. **Mr. Von Lindern** said the Panel was formed when there was public interest and discussion about the need for oversight when hazardous waste sites were going to be expanded or brought into the State, particularly at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL). The Panel is comprised of people from different academic areas, industries, and the public sector who meet together and go to public hearings to provide testimony.

Senator Schmidt asked if the panel was fully appointed with everyone that is supposed to be on the panel according to Title 39, Chapter 58. **Mr. Von Lindern** said he is acquainted with a few members who have been reappointed, but he cannot speak for the full panel. **Senator Schmidt** said there are requirements of different people from different areas. He asked Mr. Von Lindern if he is a representative of the State or of a private entity. **Mr. Von Lindern** said he is the representative for the large quantity generator industry.

Chairman Heider asked if the Grandview site has had any issues. **Mr. Von Lindern** said yes, in the mid 1980s environmental regulations were not established well enough to be comfortable with the facility. He said as regulations became more defined and people became more astute and knowledgeable about receiving materials at the site and preparing to send them there, he has become very comfortable with the Grandview site. He said it has been managed very well for the last 15 to 20 years.

Senator Nuxoll asked if the Clearwater Basin Advisory Group (BAG) is the same as the Clearwater Basin Collaborative. **Mr. Von Lindern** said no, they are not the same. The Clearwater BAG, which he sits on, is a group that was put together under a DEQ and Environmental Protection Agency agreement for establishing watersheds in the State to determine if beneficial uses were being achieved. A number of different basins in the State have local collaboratives that have more defined information on specific watersheds. The Clearwater BAG acts as the overall umbrella over the collaboratives.

Senator Tippets thanked Mr. Von Lindern for his service.

Senator Hagedorn also thanked Mr. Von Lindern for his service and asked what has been his biggest environmental challenge in all the years he has been at ATK. **Mr. Von Lindern** replied wastewater issues have been the biggest challenge. He said ATK's facility discharges to the City of Lewiston's wastewater treatment plant under a pretreatment permit, and the City discharges into the Clearwater River. The Clearwater and Snake Rivers have threatened and endangered species in them, so the wastewater discharge requirements are stringent. He said ATK's compliance record has been extremely good, but oversight is costly in terms of money and 24-hour-a-day manpower.

MOTION: **Senator Tippets** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Mark Von Lindern to the Hazardous Waste Facility Siting License Application Review Panel to the floor with recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Nuxoll** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Nuxoll will carry the confirmation on the floor.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Heider** adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Senator Heider
Chair

Erin Denker
Secretary

Paula Tonkin
Assistant Secretary