

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 30, 2015

TIME: 1:30 p.m. or upon adjournment

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives McMillan, Batt, Bell, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Pence, Erpelding

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: John Curver, ICOA; Jay Stark, ISCAC; Jim Lowe, Food Producers of Idaho; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Chanel Tewalt, ISDA; Karianne Fallow, United Dairymen; Rulon Jones, Broadmouth Ranch; Chase Jones, Self

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, March 18, 2015, Friday, March 20, 2015 and Tuesday, March 24, 2015 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Andrus recognized **Quentin Frederick** who has served as the Agricultural Affairs Committee Page and thanked him for his service.

Chairman Andrus and the Committee thanked Secretary, **Joan Majors** for her work for the Committee this session.

SCR 116: Senate Concurrent Resolution to reject **IDAPA 02.04.21**, relating to the importation of animals.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to send **SCR 116** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:** **Chairman Andrus** requested a roll call vote on **SCR 116**. **Motion failed by a vote of 6 AYE and 8 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Batt, Bell, Dayley, Troy, Pence, Erpelding. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Boyle, McMillan, Miller, Romrell, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Andrus.**

The committee was addressed by **Jeff Sayer**, Director of Idaho Commerce. He stated Idaho has an unprecedented opportunity to capitalize on the growing opportunity in the developing industry of Ag Tech. He explained in the next 40 years the world population is expected to pass the 9 billion threshold. Feeding the world is about to become a hot topic and an economic growth opportunity for Idaho's Agriculture. He said topics like optimum soil use, water preservation, and energy efficiency will all become higher priorities as we move forward. Food production will need to increase by 70% in the next 40 years. The only way to meet those trends is to enhance the yields and efficiencies in our food supply chain which will require technology and for Idaho this presents a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Chairman Andrus turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Boyle**.

Mr. Sayer said all of the latest IGEM (Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission) grants went to Ag Tech projects. The grants included Idaho State University for unmanned aircraft, Boise State for Ag Computer Science and University of Idaho for water technology.

Mr. Sayer explained how BYU Idaho is in the planning stages to build a \$50 to \$60 million Ag Tech program. BYU Idaho already has world wide industry partners and wants to partner with the University of Idaho to be a feeder program for their PHD research teams.

When given the chance to support Ag technology and innovation, **Mr. Sayer** asked the committee members to do so at every opportunity.

In response to a committee question regarding how this will impact the work force in Idaho, **Mr. Sayer** said this would bring good paying jobs to Idaho and help us stay competitive as we are able to capitalize on this trend.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary