

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 04, 2016

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

**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:** Stephanie Cook, INL; Arthur Beal, IRP; Gretchen Hyde, IRRRC; Jodie Ellis, BOVM; Jared Buff, IVMA; Trent Clark, Monsanto; Vicki Smith, Idaho Veterinary Medicine Association; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; John Revier, INL; Roger Batt, Batt Associates; Ann Joslin, Commission for Libraries.

**Chairman Andrus** called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

**H 381:** **Jodie Ellis**, Board of Veterinary Medicine, explained the members of the Certified Euthanasia Task Force (CETF) and the Board members believe the continued use of the term "Task Force" is no longer appropriate for this ongoing entity and wish to change the name to "Committee on Humane Euthanasia" to more accurately describe its functions and purpose.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McMillan** made a motion to send **H 381** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. McMillan** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 382:** **Jodie Ellis**, Board of Veterinary Medicine, stated the Board of Veterinary Medicine currently has statutory authority to impose formal discipline against a license or certificate. It also has authority to offer a non-disciplinary option (NDO) for certain record-keeping or continuing education violations. The legislation seeks to broaden the circumstances in which the NDO is available to include all situations where board statutes or rules have been violated, but only when the Board's Liaison Officer has determined public safety has not been compromised and a better or more appropriate resolution can be achieved through use of a NDO. The legislation will clarify when an alternative to discipline is not available, as well as authorize the Board to recover its costs and expenses incurred in investigating the violations.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Ellis** clarified the \$1,000.00 penalty is the upper cap of the fine imposed. The intention of the Board is only to recover costs from expenses incurred investigating violations.

**Vicky Smith**, Executive Director of Idaho Veterinary Medical Association, spoke **in support** of the legislation. She stated the legislation will create a more appropriate way for minor infractions to be addressed.

**MOTION:** **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to send **H 382** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. VanOrden** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 417:** **Rep. Dayley**, explained the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) is a genuine partnership between the private sector and government. Participation is on a volunteer bases and changes depending on the project they are working on. Since 2009 it has functioned without using State of Idaho Funds. This year, Governor Otter has allotted \$50,000 for some specific projects he would like the Partnership to work on. IRP is by law non partisan. It is resource based addressing issues important to Idaho rural communities.

**Rep. Pence** explained to the committee the process of setting up a community review. Usually these reviews are in small rural towns with limited access to information concerning grants and other resources.

**Stephanie Cook**, program manager of Economic Development for Idaho National Laboratory (INL) stated she represents INL on the Idaho Rural Partnership Board of Directors. She spoke in support of **H 417**. She said she has seen the benefits of this program first hand. She stated IRP strengthens rural communities, therefore strengthens rural economics while in turn strengthens rural schools. She stated INL is in support of the proposed amendment to the enabling legislation as these changes strengthen efforts to draw a straight line to local, state, federal and other key resources to create stronger more resilient local economics and build Idaho's talent pipeline.

**Trent Clark**, Monsanto's Public and Government Affairs Director, said Monsanto has been a member of IRP for 20 years. He gave an example of the Partnership working on solving a problem to supply EPA approved drinking water to Bancroft, Idaho. He stated it is in Monsanto's interest to improve living conditions in the communities of their employees. He explained it is most effective when collaboration takes place between the private sector, community leaders and government.

In response to a committee question **Rep. Dayley** explained how this legislation does not impact specific government funds.

In response to a committee request, **Rep. Dayley** assured the committee an annual report to this Committee would be possible.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to send **H 417** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Dayley and Rep. Pence** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 24361C1:** **Rep. Troy** explained this is the International Year of the Pulse. Pulse crops include peas, lentils, chickpeas and beans. These crops are represented by two commissions, the Bean Commission and the Pea and Lentil Commission, the later being headquartered in Idaho. She noted nearly all of Sabra's garbanzo beans are purchased from Idaho crops.

In response to a committee question, **Rep. Troy** explained a pulse crop is defined as anything that has a pod excluding soy beans.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to introduce **RS 24361C1**.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Erpelding** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 24361C1** and recommend it be sent to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Troy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Gretchen Hyde**, Executive Director, stated the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission's (IRRC) assessment rate is the same as it was in 1997, when the rate was originally set. Request for refunds were less than 2%. The license plate revenue continues to increase amounting for nearly \$35,000 this year. Care/Share grants from the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service provided much needed funds for working with agency officials, ranchers and recreationists.

**Ms. Hyde** explained there is increased support for grazing on rangelands, validated by the University of Idaho public opinion poll earlier this year. Not surprising, hiking and camping received the highest acceptability. What might be surprising to some is that 90% of the respondents support livestock grazing on public lands. That's a 10% increase from a poll taken in 2001.

**Ms. Hyde** indicated the newest education program is the 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-Thon. She said the key is to teach kids about how working ranches also provide wildlife habitat. Students learned about rangeland management and were given a wildlife challenge on the greater sage-grouse to present to a panel of judges. Their goal is to develop a full curriculum and expand the contest to more students in the future.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Joan Majors  
Secretary