

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2016

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman McKenzie, Vice Chairman Lodge, Senators Davis, Hill, Winder and Lakey

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Siddoway, Stennett and Buckner-Webb

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 McKenzie** called the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

HCR 38 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE and recognizing a National Day of the Cowboy.

Representative Miller, District 26, said that HCR 38 establishes the National Day of the Cowboy to celebrate who we are and where we came from in the West. That cowboy tradition has always reflected core values for people growing up in the West. In Representative Miller's childhood, the cowboys were the ones who were respected, who got the job done and who set a standard for young people. **Representative Miller** read part of the bill on lines 36-41 and drew attention to a handout; "The Code of the West" (see attachment 1).

Chairman McKenzie noted that 30 million fans worldwide attend rodeos and that Canyon County has two of the top 10 rodeos in the nation: Caldwell Night Rodeo and the Snake River Stampede.

Senator Harris, District 32, said that when he was originally asked about this bill, his first question was "why?" "What does it have to do with Idaho?" Idaho ranks number 11 in the nation as a cattle producing state; it takes cowboys to make that happen. Idaho is home to 2 of the top 20 feedlots in the nation; cowboys are the ones that keep these lots going. Idaho is home to 2 of the top seed stock growers (purebred breeders) in the nation and home of the number 2 cow-calf producer in the nation, J. R. Simplot. It takes cowboys to run these companies. **Senator Harris** described cowboy activities: they go out in the night and during blizzards to watch and care for the stock.

Because of Idaho cowboys, Del Harwood of Shelley, Idaho, has become one of the top saddlemakers in the nation. Idaho raises about \$2.5 billion worth of cattle a year and Idaho is home to about 4,000 ranching families. The heyday of the cowboy was during the time following the U. S. Civil War up to late 1880, when falling cattle prices, hard winters and barbed wire put an end to the days of free range.

Senator Harris displayed some pictures of a cowboy family that showed six generations living on the same ranch since about 1880 in Bear Lake County. The barn is still standing and the cowboy in training is the sixth generation. Cowboys are who we are, with their streaks of independence, resilience and love of open space and animals, especially horses and cows. A horse is the cowboy's tool and part of his identity.

Vice Chairman Lodge commented that Canyon County not only has two of the top ten rodeos in the United States, it also has one of the top equine hospitals, the Idaho Equine Veterinary Hospital, where people bring horses from around the region for treatment. There is also the horse park in Nampa where there are snaffle bit, quarter horse, and cutting horse competitions and shows that bring economic development and tourist money into Canyon County. The horse industry is over a \$1 billion dollar industry in the State. She stated her sadness that racing activities weren't being encouraged because that brought economic resources into the State.

Senator Winder said he attended an awards ceremony at Concordia University School of Law to honor Judge Edward Lodge. **Senator Winder** knew he had grown up on a ranch and farm and loved that way of life but was unaware of a time in his life when he wanted to be a cowboy instead of an attorney and judge. **Senator Winder** said that throughout his life and accomplishments there was always that love of the cowboy life and that his ranch and family was most important to him.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Lodge** moved to send **HCR 38** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lakey** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: The Gubernatorial reappointment of Paul J. Schneider to the Idaho State Racing Commission (Commission).

Chairman McKenzie recognized Paul J. Schneider's distinctive "voice of the radio" and thanked him for his continued service on the Commission.

Senator Davis referred to the history of the Commission and the Legislature over the last few years and, although he disagrees with the Commission, that is a different issue than supporting good people who are willing to serve on the Commission. **Senator Davis** assured Mr. Schneider that he is grateful for his willingness to have served so many years in this industry.

Mr. Schneider thanked Senator Davis and stated that it has been quite an experience to serve on this Commission.

Chairman McKenzie indicated that the Committee would vote at the next meeting.

HCR 46 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE urging Idahoans to participate in activities surrounding the 2016 U. S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

Representative Gestrin, District 8, stated that it is his privilege to present HCR 46. Since 1970, a tree has been chosen from a national forest somewhere in the country for display on the front lawn at the U. S. Capitol (Capitol). 2004 was the last time a tree came from Idaho, and it was taken from the Boise National Forest in Valley County. The 2016 tree will be selected from the Payette National Forest and probably will be cut in Adams County.

Chairman McKenzie stated that Representative Gestrin's District covers a lot of territory in the State. **Representative Gestrin** said he has the Salmon-Challis National Forest, the Sawtooth National Forest, the Boise National Forest and the Payette National Forest – 18 percent of the land in Idaho. The newly created Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness is also part District 8.

This winter, the smoke jumpers have donned snow shoes to select candidates for the Capitol Christmas tree. The tree will be around 80 feet tall; the species has not yet been identified. This summer the Capitol architect will come to Idaho to make the final selection. It will be cut in December and travel to different communities in Idaho. **HCR 46** urges the people in those communities to participate in the celebration of the Capitol Christmas tree and to encourage students to make Christmas ornaments; 8,000 ornaments are needed. This is a special privilege for the citizens and the State.

Chairman McKenzie commented that it is always a pleasure to see those trees displayed at the Capitol.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Lodge** moved to send **HCR 46** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Chairman McKenzie introduced Craig Logan from the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security who will be presenting an update for the Emergency Communications Commission.

PRESENTATION: Idaho Emergency Communications Commission (IECC) Annual Report (see attachment 3).

Craig Logan, 911 Program Manager for the IECC, explained that the funding for the operations of the IECC comes from the assessment level of one percent of all emergency communication fees collected in the State.

The fiscal year operations budget was approved at \$252,400; revenue collected in 2015 was \$186,684; the Enhanced Grant Fees generated \$2,128,681. A full explanation can be found on page 5 of the report. Grant fees allocated for 2016 are \$1,108,097, see page 2-3.

Goals of the IECC are to:

- Ensure that all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS) are brought to the E9-1-1 level. The Commission met that goal in 2014 when Butte County went live with its system.
- Ensure that all PSAPS are compliant with requirements to receive information from callers using wireless or cell phones: Phase I and II. That goal was met in February 2016 when Butte County went live with Phase II. Oneida and Clark Counties had to upgrade their systems and are now Phase II. All 46 PSAPS in the State are Phase II compatible.
- Assess the feasibility of implementing Next Generation 9-1-1 throughout Idaho. That is currently in progress. There is a Next Generation working group that is beginning the process of planning for Idaho. Two contractors have been selected to run an assessment throughout the state to identify the feasibility, the cost and the implementation for Next Generation.

Results for the IECC show that all 46 PSAPS are Phase II capable. Since 2010, approximately \$13.0 million has been returned to the counties through the Emergency Grant Fund to help them with E9-1-1, Phase I - Phase II. Thirty nine out of 44 counties participate in this fund. It is a huge opportunity and a great help for smaller, more rural counties. County-to-county participation have allowed counties to work together, share and locate equipment and do a host remote operation.

The PSAPS Standards and Training Committee continues to work toward certification of the dispatchers within the State. This is bringing stakeholders together to share information, to achieve consensus and make recommendations to the IECC. **Mr. Logan** listed the counties and cities that have text 9-1-1 capabilities.

Chairman McKenzie commented on the appendix pages that show the history of the expansion of service over the years 2008 - 2014. **Mr. Logan** responded that a lot of work has occurred resulting in great benefits to Idaho citizens.

Chairman McKenzie thanked Mr. Logan for the presentation and recognized the Borah Government class that was attending the meeting. He stated his appreciation to the Committee and alerted them of the change to the Lincoln Auditorium for the next meeting.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman McKenzie** adjourned the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Senator McKenzie
Chair

Twyla Melton
Secretary