

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 24, 2018

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Dayley, Representatives Bell, Miller, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Stevenson, Amador, Armstrong, Hanks, Zito, Erpelding, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Troy, Kerby

GUESTS: Karen Launchbaugh, University of Idaho; Brandy Kay, Sheep and Goat Health Board; Gretchen Hyde, IRRRC; Brent Olmstead, CALS; Jan Barnett, IRP

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

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2018 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 25800: **Brandy Kay**, Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board, explained the purpose of the proposed legislation is to clarify the goat assessment for future negotiated rule making.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to introduce **RS 25800**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Bandy Kay, Executive Director of Idaho Wool Growers, said their challenge as a board is to clarify negative publicity and help the public see the industry in a more positive light. She explained sheep grazing is not harsh on the environment and actually can be beneficial in keeping fire fuel down. She spoke about the need for migrant workers in the industry and the complexity of laws surrounding their availability.

In response to a committee question, **Ms. Kay** said their research indicates grazing sheep do not pass on diseases to Big Horn Sheep.

Gretchen Hyde, Executive Director of Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC), explained the new web site which was developed to be used on mobile phones. Research has shown that more than 60 percent of people engaged in the internet marketplace do so from their mobile phones. She said the site has the same web address and includes all of the educational materials for K-12 schools in Idaho and the Life on the Range video series.

Ms. Hyde said the Rangeland Resource Commission received grants from both the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service which allowed them to continue their Care/Share initiative. She stated this year they set a record for outreach sign and sign production leading to the printing of 100 Care/Share cattle and sheep signs that have been sent into the field for posting. She said they emphasize caring for the resource and sharing it with others in the sign language.

Ms. Hyde said the University of Idaho Rangeland Center and Owyhee County Extension hosted the 2017 Western National Rangeland Career Development event in Marsing last November. This premier range judging event attracted 58 participants from 14 FFA chapters in 4 western states. She said the Idaho kids did extremely well, taking all five individual awards and four of the top five spots in the cumulative team scores.

Ms. Hyde stated the IRRC has been successful in developing partnerships and grants to help fund many of their programs but without the assessment and support of the livestock producers, the programs could not exist. She said the assessment rate has been the same since 1997. She stated the board works hard to get the most out of every dollar received.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary