

MINUTES
SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 22, 2018

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rice, Vice Chairman Den Hartog, Senators Patrick, Bayer, Guthrie, Harris, Foreman, and Jordan

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Thayn

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: **Vice Chairman Den Hartog** called the meeting of the Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Jordan** moved to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2018. Seconded by **Senator Harris**. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

INTRODUCTION: **Rick Waitley**, State Director, Leadership Idaho Agriculture, had the Class of 38 introduce themselves to the Committee.

CONFIRMATION VOTE: **Vote on the reappointment of H. Norman Wright of American Falls, Idaho, to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission to serve a term commencing July 1, 2017 and expiring July 1, 2022.**

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send the Gubernatorial reappointment of H. Norman Wright to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission to the floor with recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. Seconded by **Senator Guthrie**. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

CONFIRMATION VOTE: **Vote on the appointment of Catherine Roemer of Jerome, Idaho, to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission to serve a term commencing July 1, 2017 and expiring July 1, 2022.**

MOTION: **Senator Patrick** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Catherine Roemer to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission to the floor with recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. Seconded by **Senator Jordan**. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 407 **Relating to Goat Assessments.** **Chairman Rice** stated **H 407** is a clarification in the Sheep and Goat Assessment. The bill clarifies that goats be assessed on a per head basis and removes the language, and at a rate that is comparable to the assessment on wool. This has created confusion for the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **H 407** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. Seconded by **Senator Bayer**. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1207 **Relating to the Seed Indemnity Fund Law.** **Chairman Rice**, said there has been a great deal of discussion since the printing of **S 1207**. The consensus is that the first section of the bill pertaining to Idaho Code § 22-5103 should be deleted. **RS 25750A1** is the amendment to **S 1207** deleting, page 1, lines 11 through 41 and page 2, lines 1 through 37; this will delete section 1 in the bill. There is also an amendment on page 3, line 7, section D, to change the wording. **S 1207** sets standards for the rejection of a license application or renewal of a license.

The standard criteria for rejection would be:

1. The seed buyer is not paying the seed growers.
2. Failed to make prior claimants whole.
3. Misrepresented material facts in the application.
4. There are relevant objections from the industry, including a material fact provided by a seed producer.

The Seed Indemnity Fund is paid for by the seed producers to indemnify them for a failure of a seed buyer.

Senator Patrick stated he served on the advisory committee for the Seed Indemnity Fund for a few years and strongly supports this legislation. The advisory committee made sure they kept apprised throughout the State of seed buyers who were not following the correct procedures in the seed industry. This legislation stipulates the standards for seed buyers and he is in support of the bill.

Senator Jordan asked for some historical information for the elimination of the sections on page 1 and 2. In Idaho Code § 22-5103, , it appears to establish the requirement to obtain a license. She asked if this requirement exists somewhere else in Idaho Code, so that removing this section will not have unforeseen consequences. **Chairman Rice** explained the removal of Idaho Code § 22-5103, . In Idaho Code § 22-5103, everything but the underlying portions and the strike-outs is existing code and will still be existing code after these changes.

Richard Durant spoke in support of **S 1207**. He stated he is currently a producer who pays into the Seed Indemnity Fund and also runs a warehouse that collects those indemnity funds. **Mr. Durant** currently serves as the Chairman of the Seed Indemnity Fund Committee (SIFC). The SIFC had negotiations with the industry in forming this legislation and the industry believes this legislation, with the amendments, is the correct avenue for standard criteria for seed buyers.

MOTION: **Senator Patrick** moved that **S 1207** be referred to the 14th Order for amendment. Seconded **Senator Jordan**. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: Idaho Beef Council (IBC). **T.K. Kuwahara**, Executive Director, said the mission statement of the IBC is to build global consumer demand for beef. Enhancing opportunities for Idaho producers to market their product. IBC is funded by assessment \$1.50 per head of cattle. One dollar of this collection is for the National Beef Promotion Act and Research Order and fifty cents are Idaho funds. Fiscal year 2017 total collections were \$2.3 million, which was down from 2016; 2018, at this time ,is ahead of projected budget (Attachment 1).

The national promotional program, "beef it's What's For Dinner," to promote the presence of beef protein against the other proteins sources available to the consumer. The resources that the national board affords includes a consolidated website where the consumer can get information on producers; recipes; cuts of meat; and educational data. Some consumers have the conception that the cattle industry is out in the West with cowboys and sagebrush. To educate the consumers on where their food is coming from, the National Beef Council produced a video "Rethink the Ranch" depicting the modernization of ranching/farming, humane animal husbandry, and food safety.

A database of more than 800 beef recipes promote the incorporation of using beef in answering the question, "What can the consumer make for dinner?" and What is quick and easy? IBC educates and promotes food service and retailers to reach the consumers in Idaho through different channels. One of the channels of a promotional event is IBC's sponsorship of the "Race for the Steak." Runners race in this event each year and at the end of the race they are treated to a steak dinner.

Challenges of the beef industry:

- Through the industry dietitian, IBC is reeducating the medical field on the benefits offered by beef in patients diets.
- Idaho is partnering with Oregon, Washington, and the United States Meat Export Federation to increase beef consumption in the Japanese market.
- Providing information to producers of IBC's efforts in representing their industry on their behalf. The challenges IBC has overcome, and future opportunities for the Idaho beef industry. This information is transmitted to the producers through a quarterly newsletter and annual report.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **Vice Chairman Den Hartog** adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Senator Rice
Chair

Carol Deis
Secretary