

MINUTES  
**SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, March 15, 2019

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Heider, Vice Chairman Brackett, Senators Patrick, Guthrie, and Jordan

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senators Bair, Johnson, Mortimer, and Stennett

**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 Heider** convened the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) at 8:00 a.m.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Scott Pugrud was appointed Administrator to the Office of Species Conservation (OSC) to serve a term commencing January 7, 2019 and will serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

**DISCUSSION:** **Mr. Pugrud** stated for the past six years, he has spent his time at the Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEM) and was acquainted with the OSC through their collaboration with OEM on stabilizing sage grouse populations. **Mr. Pugrud** has been pleased to be working with OSC during his time at OEM and he has always admired the collaborative approach between the two State agencies.

**Chairman Heider** commented that the Committee is very passionate about sage grouse and is very appreciative of Mr. Pugrud's desires to maintain the sage grouse population as well.

**Vice Chairman Brackett** asked what are the biggest challenges OSC will be facing in the next several years. **Mr. Pugrud** responded that they are currently working on grizzly bear and potentially wolverine delistings. **Mr. Pugrud** also stated the next landscape issue is monarch butterflies. The Western Governors Association is working on a plan right now preserve monarch butterfly populations by making sure their primary food source, milkweed, remains intact.

**Senator Guthrie** asked for Mr. Pugrud's resume. **Mr. Pugrud** gave a brief overview of his work history and stated he would e-mail a copy of a resume to everyone after the meeting.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Jeffrey Allen was appointed to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) for a term commencing February 19, 2019 and will expire February 19, 2022.

**DISCUSSION:** **Mr. Allen** gave a brief description of the NPCC. The missions that the NPCC was given are to ensure that the region had an adequate, reliable economic supply of energy and to ensure mitigation for the impacts of power generation on fish and wildlife species. **Mr. Allen** also stated that NPCC keeps the public informed of all of their decisions and deliberations. The council is made up of eight members, two each from Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, and they are appointed by their governors who serve for a term of three years. **Mr. Allen** also went into detail about his resume, particularly his time working for Governors Kempthorne and Risch, and his time working for U.S. Representative Crapo, now U.S. Senator Crapo.

**Chairman Heider** asked Mr. Allen if he enjoyed his time in Washington D.C. **Mr. Allen** stated that Washington D.C. was great for all its history, particularly its proximity to Civil War battlefields. However, **Mr. Allen** did not enjoy the D.C. metro's recreation opportunities compared to Idaho, which is one of the major reasons he moved back to the state.

**Senator Patrick** asked how the Columbia River Treaty could affect Idaho's energy output. **Mr. Allen** stated that the treaty could have a pretty dramatic impact. The Canadian government wishes to change the primary purpose of their dams on the Columbia River from flood control to electric production, and that could make North Idaho's reservoirs that are connected to the Columbia River Aquifer be primarily used for flood control instead of electricity.

**Chairman Heider** asked if Mr. Allen had any guesses on the Treaty's time line of getting ratified. **Mr. Allen** stated that he believed the process would take years and from his time discussing with U.S. State Department officials. According to Mr. Allen, U.S. State Department officials sometimes have an easier time negotiating with the North Korean or Iranian governments than the do with the Canadian government.

**GUBERNATORIAL  
APPOINTMENT  
HEARING:**

Betty Coppersmith was appointed to the Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (OGCC) to serve a term commencing March 8, 2019 and will expire July 1, 2020.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Ms. Coppersmith** stated that her degree is in petroleum engineering and she has about 30 years of experience, including exploration, drilling, and production. The second half of Ms. Coppersmith's career was spent in the regulatory arena, particularly in rural areas where she worked with regulatory agencies and where they produced rules and regulations that accomplish their mission.

**Chairman Heider** asked what the future for oil and gas production is in Idaho. **Ms. Coppersmith** stated that the industry has potential and so much of oil and gas here is driven by economics. **Ms. Coppersmith** further stated that technology is changing in the industry, and many years ago the industry would have never thought about producing from shale gas. **Ms. Coppersmith** stated with advances like that, who knows what is around the corner for oil and gas production in Idaho.

**Senator Jordan** asked how Ms. Coppersmith will approach working for a public commission versus private enterprise and other regulatory agencies. **Ms. Coppersmith** stated that she is meeting with Mick Thomas, the Administrator of the OGCC, and his staff to help get her adjusted with public service.

**Senator Jordan** asked if Ms. Coppersmith's oil and gas stocks were managed individually or with a 401k. **Ms. Coppersmith** stated that her stocks are managed by a 401k and she does not manage that account.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Heider** adjourned the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

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Senator Heider  
Chair

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Tyler Brock  
Secretary