

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 10, 2020
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW42
MEMBERS: Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Troy, Representatives Kerby, Stevenson, Zito, Andrus, Giddings, Goesling, Marshall, Nichols, Raymond, Kiska, Toone, Abernathy, McCrostie
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative (s) McCrostie, Nichols
GUESTS: Vic Mason, ISDA; Chanel Tewalt, ISDA; David Lehman, Primus Policy; Brad Carlson. Capitol Press; Marv Patten, MPI; Brad Griff, ISGA; Doug Paddock, IORC; Irene Ruiz, IORC

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

RS 27688: **David Lehman**, Primus Policy, said the proposed legislation clears up sub-sections and clarifies prohibited acts. He said the EPA labels on all pesticides and herbicides provide ample direction on how to safely apply the chemicals. He asked that "faulty" and "careless" be taken out of the statute as those terms are difficult to define. He explained they are asking the department to go through the rule making process to put the guidance and penalty matrix into rule, clarifying restrictions and penalties.

MOTION: **Rep. Kiska** made a motion to introduce **RS 27688. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Celia Gould, Director of the Department of Agriculture, reviewed the accomplishments from 2019, including the organic program certification, greater marketing opportunities and continued growth of the invasive species program. She explained two new people were added to staff while taking on additional projects as in the Animal Health lab. She stated in the past 13 years the ISDA's budget has been increasingly based on dedicated funds as they are less reliant on general funds. She said as the agriculture farmers are aging and less family farms are successfully passed on to the next generation, they are creating a new program to assist family farms, veterans and emerging farmers. She concluded saying despite the challenges of labor shortages, trade headwinds, and transportation problems, Idaho's agriculture is full of promise.

Chanel Tewalt, Chief Communication Officer ISDA, in response to a committee question, explained depending on what the Hemp agricultural program looks like, it could take up to three years for the program to become solvent.

Rob Sepich, Senior Policy Analyst, briefly explained the historical summary of the Department of Agriculture budget. He summarized the Governor's recommendation items, highlighting changes to the sick leave reserve fund. He continued by explaining the OITS Governor's recommendations, including IT consolidation and modernization, operating cost allocated for security software and physical space of the data centers. Also included is service and licensing for software programs and the agency tech consolidation of the IT staff.

In response to a committee question, **Director Gould** explained the four items under the program maintenance are the main goals for the Governor going forward.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary