

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 17, 2020

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representatives Moyle, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Mendive, Kauffman, Blanksma, Addis, Lickley, Moon, Raybould, Rubel, Toone, Mason, Necochea

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Rubel, Mason

GUESTS: Paul Kline and Ed Schriever, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Mitch Jaurena, self; Stan Gearhart, self; Brian Patton, Idaho Department of Water Resources; Brian Olmstead, Twin Falls Canal Company; Mike Dimmick, Flood District 10; Roger Batt, Treasure Valley Water Users

Chairman Gibbs called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

Chairman Gibbs welcomed the committee's new Page, **Claire Walker**, and had her introduce herself.

H 493: **Rep. Vander Woude**, District 22, stated this bill reduces the archery permit fee and the muzzleloader permit fee for Disabled American Veterans. Currently, the annual fee for each of those resident permits is \$17.75 and \$18.25 for nonresidents. This bill would make those permits available for \$2.00 for resident Disabled American Veterans and \$4.00 for nonresident Disabled American Veterans, which is more in line with the current hunting license discounted fee for Disabled American Veterans. He commented, currently it costs more for a Disabled American Veteran to purchase one of these permits than it does for their hunting license or their combination hunting/fishing license.

Paul Kline, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated the Commission voted unanimously **in support** of **H 493**.

Mitch Jaurena, representing himself, stated he is a retired United States Marine combat veteran and has an 80% disabled rating from the Veteran's Administration. He explained he and his peers try to stay away from the crowded general hunts so use the archery and muzzleloader tags to get out of the high concentration of people. Because of their disabilities they cannot get deep into the hunting areas and when they do harvest game, they have to be able to pack it out, so must stay close to their entry points. He indicated currently it is eight times the cost for them to buy a license, so this bill will level the playing field to make it better match what other hunters pay. He concluded by stating he is **in support** of this bill because it recognizes the sacrifices of veterans.

MOTION: **Rep. Addis** made a motion to send **H 493** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Roger Batt, Treasure Valley Water Users Association, kicked off the Flood Management Program Update. He stated the purpose of this annual presentation is to provide project accomplishments to the Legislature to show how the funding is being spent.

Dan Steenson, Attorney, Flood Control District 10, stated although flooding is a reoccurring natural phenomenon, fortunately flooding doesn't occur in the Treasure Valley routinely, but it is still an event that must be proactively managed. He provided a brief historic background of flood events including the most recent flood event in 2017 when there was 101 days of water releases from Lucky Peak, totalling two million acre feet of water flowing downriver by mid-June of that year. Those releases caused extensive damages to river banks and channels as well as damages to public infrastructure and private property along the Boise River. He remarked there is new technology available to predict and model flood damages in advance of an event to be better prepared to mitigate damages to bridges and other infrastructure, banks, stream channels, and inform developers considering building adjacent to the river.

Brian Patton, Executive Officer, Idaho Water Resource Board, stated his role is to assure the successful administration of appropriated dollars. In Fiscal Year 2018 the Board received \$1 million from the State's General Fund to start a competitive grant program state-wide. Projects included repairs for flood damaged stream channels, stream channel improvements, flood risk reduction, and flood prevention projects. Fourteen projects were funded state-wide. In 2019, the Legislature appropriated \$800,000 for the grant program to be added to the \$70,000 remaining from 2018 funds as a result of several projects coming in under budget. With that \$870,000, ten projects were funded and project implementation is currently on-going. He noted a large part of the success of this grant program is the ability of the applicants to leverage the money with matching dollars.

Brian Olmstead, General Manager, Twin Falls Canal Company, stated he appreciates the grant program because it provides a funding stream to continue to tackle projects in his area. Mr. Olmstead gave an overview of some of the ongoing projects in his area including the East Perrine Pond/Wetland project which will help to retain and moderate flood flows, reduce flood damage to properties, and remove tons of sediment and nutrients from discharge to the Snake River.

Mike Dimmick, General Manager, Flood Control District 10, provided an overview of the 2018 projects ongoing in his district including the Duck Alley Pit Capture, the New Dry Creek Diversion and several bank repair and gravel removal projects. In 2019 his district received funding for a new tool, the Boise River Management Tool (BRMT), which produces a 2-D hydraulic model of the Boise River. Mr. Dimmick commented that he is reaching out to other districts and stakeholders to demonstrate how the BRMT can help inform decisions on flood control management. He explained how the 2-D hydraulic model, with the use of green liDAR, can see through water, which aids in simulating various levels of water flow in the river to determine impacts to stream banks and channels, as well as potential damages to bridges and other infrastructure during flood events.

In response to a question regarding whether cities and/or counties are working with flood control districts when updating comprehensive management plans, **Mr. Dimmick** replied he could only speak for Canyon County, and that they do work together well. **Mr. Olmstead** stated for Twin Falls, there are multiple entities at the table when planning is taking place, but it is generally an uphill battle because developers do not want to give up land for greenbelts. He continued, they need to learn from past mistakes and plan for open areas as a place for water to go in a flood event rather than into homes and businesses. Mr. Dimmick provided additional comments that his district is currently working to put together an interagency coalition to work with developers, using the BRMT, so during the planning and zoning phase developers can be responsible for flood mitigation while they have the equipment on site to avoid that becoming a burden on the home owner's associations after the development is built out.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.

Representative Gibbs
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary