

MINUTES
SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 03, 2020

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Den Hartog, Senators Patrick, Harris, Mortimer, Lent, Bayer, Jordan, and Nelson

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

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 Guthrie** called the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Patrick** moved to approve the Minutes of February 13, 2020. **Senator Mortimer** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Bayer moved to approve the Minutes of February 18, 2020. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Moya Dolsby**, Executive Director, Idaho Wine Commission (Commission), reported the Commission's annual report. She spoke about the Commission's staff and the board of directors. She told about the mission and vision and reported that Idaho wines are high quality, important to Idaho' economy, and detailed the wine industry's' upward development and expansion. **Ms. Dolsby** spoke about the economic statistics of the wine industry in Idaho, the Commission's budget structure, and the economic impact Idaho wines have on the state. She reported that the wine excise tax funds the Commission and explained their reliance on the funds. She told about upcoming legislation that will defer some of the beer tax money and addressed the concerns of losing those funds. She reported the Commission's top nine 2019 events and expanded on the future challenges.

DISCUSSION: In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Dolsby** explained why Idaho's soil and climate are conducive to grape growing and detailed the importance of minimal watering to achieve an ideal crop. She stated there are more growers inquiring about growing grapes in Idaho. She explained the reasons for the funding loss and how the Commission will work to find a solution to the reduced revenue. **Ms. Dolsby** said that Idaho exports almost 30 percent of its wine and highlighted the retail work of Idaho wineries.

PRESENTATION: **Lloyd B. Knight**, Administrator, Division of Plant Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), presented Idaho Watercraft Inspection Program, Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. He addressed the different sectors of the invasive species program that ISDA oversees: 1.) prevention; 2.) early detection monitoring; 3.) management and control; and 4.) Education and Outreach. He spoke about the ongoing efforts with the inspection stations around the state, cooperation from law enforcement and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), and the training for the seasonal staff. He detailed the movement of fouled watercraft and emphasized the importance of the work that is being done to keep the Columbia-Snake River basin free of invasive species.

Mr. Knight updated the Committee about the noxious weed program and explained the treatments that are being done across the state's lakes to eradicate noxious plants. He told the Committee that the Mormon cricket and grasshopper population had less of an impact resulting in a reduction of financial resources.

In response to Senator Patrick's questions about the Cotterell inspection station, **Mr. Knight** explained that the building is contaminated with mold and asbestos. The site where the building stands is the property of ITD and they direct what buildings are to go on that site and where they will be located. He said that inspection station has road visibility issues but with the help of law enforcement and signage, the site is still viable for boat inspections.

Mr. Knight addressed additional inspection concerns and explained how the boats and rafts are inspected for live mussels at the ports of entry (POE). He reported how other western states' inspections have helped reduce the number of POE inspection stations in Idaho. He said compiled data from cooperative states has helped them track noxious species. He spoke about difficulties with the federal waters, especially in Colorado and the Great Lakes area and stated that mussels will not survive in saltwater.

When asked how boat transporters respond to multiple inspections, **Mr. Knight** said the majority understand the need for the inspection and cooperate.

Chairman Guthrie thanked Mr. Knight for the presentation and said that the Committee is quite interested and concerned with this issue. He said the work of ISDA is valuable to help keep invasive species out of the state's waters.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

Senator Jim Guthrie
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary