

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020

**TIME:** 8:05 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairwoman Lodge, Vice Chairman Harris, Senators Hill, Winder, Vick, Souza, Stennett, and Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Anthon

**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:** **Chairwoman Lodge** called the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:05 a.m.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **THE GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT** of Scot Ludwig to the Idaho State Racing Commission (ISRC).

**Scot Ludwig** said he has lived in Boise for more than 40 years and is honored to be on the ISRC. He owns and races horses, and has a passion for horse racing. He has a business background which is what the ISRC needs at this time. **Mr. Ludwig** said he has served in private industry, on the Boise City Council, and now the ISRC, which he believes after reviewing the books, will need some work . It will be an honor to serve.

**Senator Souza** asked how long he has been on the ISRC and what are some specific needs for improvement and change. **Mr. Ludwig** said he was recently appointed and has attended one meeting. He has reviewed the challenges for the ISRC and believes there are hard decisions ahead.

In response to Senator Winder, **Mr. Ludwig** replied that his business background will help him because he can bring some tools to the ISRC and can bring in the appropriate people to help. The ISRC is not operating well financially and it will take the right people to determine how to fund their projects.

**GUBERNATORIAL RE-APPOINTMENT:** **THE GUBERNATORIAL RE-APPOINTMENT** of Estella Zamora to the Idaho Commission on Human Rights (Telephone Interview).

**Chairwoman Lodge** introduced Estella Zamora, and asked how long she had been serving. **Ms. Zamora** said she was first appointed by Governor Andrus and has been re-appointed by each consecutive governor.

In response to Senator Buckner-Webb, **Ms. Zamora** responded she would love to have "Add the Words" legislation passed during her tenure.

**GUBERNATORIAL RE-APPOINTMENT:** **THE GUBERNATORIAL RE-APPOINTMENT** of Megan Ronk to the Idaho Commission on Human Rights (IHRC).

**Megan Ronk** said she has served on the IHRC since 2008, and has a unique perspective. She has not had to face discrimination, has pursued her career and goals as the daughter of a small business owner, and has served in public service. Also, she is the former Director of the Idaho Department of Commerce. The work of the IHRC is to balance and respect the rights of individuals and to

ensure business owners have the opportunity to respond to discrimination claims. She gave credit to the staff of the IHRC for their excellent performance. **Ms. Ronk** stated it has been a pleasure to serve on this commission and looks forward to another term.

**Chairwoman Lodge, Vice Chairman Harris, and Senators Hill, Buckner-Webb, and Winder** all thanked her for her service.

**GUBERNATORIAL  
RE-APPOINTMENT:**

**THE GUBERNATORIAL RE-APPOINTMENT** of Brian Scigliano to the Idaho Commission on Human Rights (IHRC).

**Brian Scigliano** said he started on the IHRC 13 years ago and appreciated working with 3 great administrators. He likes to serve individuals who don't commonly have a voice and to ensure there is the ability to work in a healthy environment for both the employer and employee, and that work issues are resolved equitably. In response to Senator Hill's question, **Mr. Scigliano** said he serves about 10 hours a month reviewing the cases the staff has spent an enormous number of hours investigating.

**Senators Hill and Buckner-Webb** stated their appreciation for his service.

**Benjamin Earwicker**, Administrator, Idaho Commission on Human Rights, thanked the Committee for considering the three re-appointments today and for listening to the feedback from the IHRC on **H 400**. The co-sponsors of this bill worked with the IHRC taking their recommendations into consideration. He reported they have had a record number of cases this year and stated his appreciation of the staff and IHRC for the neutral and balanced perspective they exhibit. **Mr. Earwicker** stated his pleasure in serving the people of Idaho.

**MINUTES  
APPROVAL:**

**Senator Vick** moved to approve the Minutes of February 17, 2020. **Senator Souza** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**Senator Vick** asked Phil McGrane, Office of the Secretary of the State (SOS), to brief the Committee on the upcoming election.

**Mr. McGrane** explained that the Coronavirus outbreak has affected the process for the May election. They are considering ways to conduct this election season that will reduce the effect this pandemic has on the May election and forward; this is an evolving situation. There was a lengthy discussion with the Committee regarding absentee ballots, notification forms, polling locations, etc. The SOS and the clerks throughout the state are taking this very seriously and have some tools in place such as extending on-line registration as part of the plan. **Mr. McGrane** stated they could use legislative help because flexibility for emergencies is not built into Idaho statutes. Even though absentee ballots are used, there is a large portion of people who need to vote at polling locations and there are questions about the availability of locations and staffing. He stated he is ready to assist the Legislature in any way possible.

**PAGE  
GRADUATION:**

**Chairwoman Lodge** asked Emily Blattner, Committee page, to come forward and tell the Committee about her experiences at the Capitol and future plans.

**Ms. Blattner** stated this was the greatest experience during her high school career. She is planning to attend University of Idaho for a law degree. **Ms.**

**Blattner** stated her appreciation to the Committee, Chairwoman Lodge, and Secretary Twyla Melton, and presented each Committee member with a

personal letter of appreciation along with a gift to Chairwoman Lodge and Ms. Melton. **Chairwoman Lodge** thanked Ms. Blattner for her work and presented her with a gift from the Committee along with a letter of appreciation signed by each Committee member.

**Senator Winder** requested that, in the essence of time, the room be cleared and that the Committee vote on the Gubernatorial appointees due to the Senate schedule over the coming days..

**VOTE ON  
GUBERNATORIAL  
APPOINTMENT  
AND  
RE-APPOINTMENTS:**

**Senator Winder** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Scot Ludwig to the Idaho State Racing Commission, and the Gubernatorial re-appointments of Estella Zamora, Megan Ronk, and Brian Scigliano to the Idaho Commission on Human Rights to the floor with the recommendation they be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

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Senator Lodge  
Chair

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Twyla Melton  
Secretary