

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 02, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Kauffman, Vice Chairman Andrus, Representatives Boyle, Kerby, Giddings (Carlson), Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon, McCann, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Chairman Kauffman

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Vice Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2022. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 455: **Chanel Tewalt**, Deputy Director, Idaho State Department of Agricultural (ISDA), presented **H 455**, legislation to repeal tonnage fees for fertilizer, soil and plant amendment program, and to eliminate the rule which governs artificial production of rainfall. **H 455** would create a more streamlined framework for fertilizer, soil and plant amendment registration. The process requiring customers to pay a registration fee and separate fees for tonnage is cumbersome and takes considerable time for ISDA staff to review. **H 455** would eliminate the process of paying by tonnage and simplify the fee structure. **Elizabeth Criner**, Far West Agribusiness Association (FWAA) spoke **in support** of **H 455**, saying FWAA appreciates the efforts of the ISDA and the opportunity to provide input on program changes.

MOTION: **Rep. Ruchti** made a motion to send **H 455** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. McCann** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Rick Naerebout, Chief Executive Officer, Idaho Dairymen's Association (IDA), stated their mission is to protect Idaho dairy producers and families through environmental, legal and legislative leadership. He pointed out the largest growth is occurring in dairies with 1000-2000 plus cows. There are 33,000 jobs in Idaho related to the dairy industry with dairy bringing in \$10.7 billion in total sales to the state. Eighty-nine percent of on-dairy jobs are filled by foreign-born labor. Without those jobs none of the other jobs in dairy could exist. The goal of the Idaho Dairy Nutrient Management is to minimize nutrient loss to the environment by reducing soil erosion and improving water quality and to maximize nutrient utilization by increasing crop yields, enhancing water use efficiency, and improve soil health with manure application.

RS 29282: **Nate Fisher**, Legislative Advisor for Idaho Brewers United, presented **RS 29282**, proposed legislation to define what the Idaho Hop Growers Commission can do in regards to the promotion of beer. Idaho ranks number two in the nation for hop production. Idaho hop acreage and production of hops has grown for nine straight years as has the number of breweries in Idaho and across the country. Since 2015 the value of hop production has increased from \$31 million to an estimated \$100 million in 2020, and is beneficial to Idaho's economy. Hops ranked as Idaho's No. 9 farm commodity in 2019 in terms of farm-gate receipts.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to introduce **RS 29282**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0701-2100F: **Candi Fitch**, Executive Director, Idaho Hop Growers Association, presented **Docket No. 02-0701-2100F**. This administrative rule gives the Idaho Hop Commission the authority to collect assessments on hops grown in Idaho and to set the assessment rate. The money that is collected is used to promote and educate about Idaho hops, and to conduct research. There are no changes to the Idaho Hop Commission Rule.

MOTION: **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0701-2101F**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Joe Peterson, Natural Resources, presented for **Delwyne Trefz**, Administrator, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission. **Crystal Rosen** assisted with the PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Peterson stated their mission is to facilitate coordinated non-regulatory, voluntary and locally led conservation by working with many partners including Idaho's 50 Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service and others. Working together they promote voluntary conservation on private lands balancing the economic health of landowners and communities. The two types of assistance provided to the conservation districts include financial and technical assistance. The commission has begun an outreach process between now and the end of March to brainstorm funding allocation options to determine the preferences of the majority of districts board by board. The Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP), provides technical support to participants in the Idaho Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and are the designated agency responsible for developing Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plans for agricultural and grazing land.

Devin Fielding, the Idaho Association of Conservation Districts, Division 5 Director, explained conservation districts enter into agreements, acquire property, assist private land owners in conserving soil resources, assist in preventing erosion and flooding, and implement water conservation measures. Funding for districts is obtained from grants, contracts, state allocations, and county allocations.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Vice Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary