

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 16, 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:** Rep.(s) Moon, Giddings

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.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2022 committee meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

David Doeringsfeld, Manager of Lewiston Port, explained the port operates in three areas; transportation, economic development and international trade. The Lewis Clark Terminal is independently owned and operated. Ten percent of all US wheat exports move by barge on the Snake River, explaining Camas Prairie and Palouse have the best dry land farming in the US, which is perfect for growing wheat. The total commodities shipped on the Snake River have remained fairly constant over the past decade averaging approximately 3.8 million tons per year. The economic impact to the community if the dams were to be breached would be financially devastating. He commented on the infrastructure that would need to be in place to replace the barges. The difference in cost shipping grain by train or truck as compared to barges would be anywhere from a 50 to 100% increase in cost.

Mike Meyers, Water Master, District 63, explained how automating management of the Boise River through broadband capabilities will provide real-time measurements and data. Currently, district workers monitor the river levels and flow by driving once or twice a week to 88 sites, a total of 121 miles, to collect data, and spend three to four hours the next workday inputting the data into the state's database. The information is used to make determinations about the river's headgates, which control water flow for the following week. The district will soon implement a setup using Paige Wireless, Cisco Meraki, and Cisco's Ultra-Reliable Wireless Backhaul to get this data in real time. By putting a motor on top of a headgate and controlling it from a computer, the team can adjust the gate to get the water flowing into the canal. The communication happens through high-speed broadband and access points. This came together through Cisco's Country Digital Acceleration Program, which supports public-sector leaders' efforts to solve infrastructure challenges and provides technology to do so. It has more than 1,000 active or completed projects in 44 countries.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Representative Kauffman
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary