

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 02, 2022

TIME: 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room WW02

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep.(s) Giddings, Ruchti, Moon

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 Ehardt called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

Doug Jones, Government Affairs, Idaho Water Engineering, Cat Creek Energy and Water (CCEW) explained the two and one half-billion-dollar water and energy project on the Boise River system will add 1,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity and create 100,000 acre-feet of new water storage. The changing electrical market, driven by efforts to remove fossil fuels from our energy supply, led CCEW to look at Pumped Storage Hydro. A solution was found to store renewable energy to benefit the electrical system and store early snowmelt for later use while helping avert spring flooding. CCEW is an advanced Pumped Storage system with an oversized reservoir and a new generation of hydro turbines powered by on- and off-site wind and solar energy creating the largest and longest-duration energy storage in the nation and will create and store enough clean electricity to power 300,000 homes. The smart recycling hydro resource is available at full power for up to 121 hours and can restart the Western grid if needed. Pumps in Anderson Ranch Reservoir will carry early runoff otherwise lost to the Valley to the new upper reservoir for later use by municipalities and irrigation districts, adding up to 80,000 acre-feet of water storage for other uses. CCEW is a privately financed project which will create jobs and spur economic investments in Idaho while paying fees and taxes to its public partners during its hundred-year lifecycle.

Chairman Ehardt turned the gavel over to **Chairman Kauffman**.

Recharge Development Corporation provides groundwater recharge to be credited to water users. Formed in the Eastern Snake Plain and the Boise River Basin, and initial steps being taken in the Wood River Basin, the mission is to clean agricultural drains to provide cost-effective phosphorous and sediment trading credits for municipalities and industrial users. Aquifer recharge in the Treasure Valley will help meet future groundwater needs.

Clean Water Partners, LLC's mission is to clean agricultural drains to provide cost-effective phosphorous and sediment trading credits for municipalities and industrial users. Cleaning the agricultural return flows to Idaho's rivers is a more cost-effective way to meet the needs of municipal water treatment facilities.

Lost Valley Reservoir was stopped due to the threatened Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel. A study conducted in 2019 demonstrated ways to mitigate any impact on the squirrels. It is now ready for detailed Environmental Impact Studies and Engineering.

Karianne Fallow, CEO, Dairy West, representing Idaho Dairy Products Commission, said their mission is to inspire trust in dairy farming and dairy products and build demand for these products around the world. They work with school meals and nutrition professionals to make sure that dairy is a priority on the school menu. Ms. Fallow explained the two brand strategies Dairy West is using; a new brand, Unbottled, to market audience interactions more effectively, and when seen in the marketplace it will be recognized as a Dairy West product. Research shows drinking milk is an effective way to help the body refuel and recover after exercise. Chocolate milk is the perfect package of the ideal post-workout beverage because it contains the appropriate ratio of carbohydrate to protein to refuel, rebuild, recover, and enhance athletes to meet their everyday greatness goals.

HCR 37: **Rep. Kauffman** said all pending administrative rules or portions of pending administrative rules that impose a fee or charge reviewed by the House Agricultural Affairs Committee and the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee adopted by the Department of Agriculture, the Idaho Hop Growers' Commission, the Idaho State Police/State Brand Board, the Idaho Wheat Commission, the Idaho Oilseed Commission, the Idaho Beef Council, and the Idaho Barley Commission pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act during the prior calendar year, and submitted through the Office of the Administrative Rules Coordinator to the Legislature for review during the 2022 legislative session be, and the same are approved.

MOTION: **Vice-Chairman Andrus** made a motion to send **HCR 37** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kauffman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Representative Kauffman
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary