

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2022

TIME: 1:30 or upon adjournment

PLACE: Room EW42

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

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 1:31 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 24, 28, 2022 and March 2, 2022 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1345: **Rep. Lickley** said this legislation revises provisions regarding a property owner's liability after receiving notice that barbed wire or barbed wire fence has been left down or strewn around on the ground or in disrepair in such a manner that livestock are liable to be injured. Idaho is considered an open-range and a fence out state, meaning cattle roam at will in many areas. Livestock must be present in circumstances or conditions likely to injure livestock for a citation to be issued. The committee expressed concern whether the legislation applies only to the fence causing injury to the cattle. **Senator Harris** explained what constitutes careless exposure of livestock to barbwire which would be likely to injure livestock. If the fence is down, the cow could get out onto the road, and the cow could be injured. This legislation adds circumstances or conditions likely to injure livestock, not the fence alone. **Holly Kooley-Rebholtz**, Idaho Prosecuting Attorney's Association, explained the legislation reads it's the barbwire fence causing the injury. Senator Harris said the fence law does not apply to any federal land.

Russ Hendricks, Idaho Farm Bureau, and **Wyatt Prescott**, Idaho Cattle Association, Idaho Grain Producers Association, spoke **in support** of **S 1345**, saying it would help keep Idaho landowners, livestock owners, and occupants accountable for their fences.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to send **S 1345** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Moon** made a substitute motion to send **S 1345** to general orders.

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made an amended substitute motion to **HOLD S 1345** in committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Amended Substitute Motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE and 6 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Boyle, Kerby, Giddings, Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Andrus, McCann, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias, Kauffman.**

Brian Patton, Idaho Water Users Association, gave an update from the Idaho Water Resource Board. The budget has been set for the Idaho Water Resource Board with significant funding for water infrastructure projects across the state. Aging infrastructure needs to be rebuilt and water storage and delivery systems need to be improved. ARPA funds are anticipated to go towards projects such as the Anderson Ranch Reservoir Enlargement, the Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Supply Pipeline, recharging infrastructures on other areas and other projects. The Revolving Development Account is an account for canal companies, irrigation districts, groundwater districts, and others to finance their water projects. The Water Management Account is where general fund dollars are placed and where the previous appropriations for large water infrastructure have been placed. The Secondary Aquifer Planning Management Implementation Fund manages aquifer recharge and operations, and funds aquifer monitoring and modeling statewide. Cloud seed funding is in a collaborative program with Idaho Power and water users in the Boise River Basin, Wood River Basin, and Upper Snake River Basin. Studies indicate this provides about a ten percent increase in the water supply, or adding up these basins, approximately one million acre-feet. Benefits analysis is conducted to better understand who benefits from the increased water supply so further costs can be more fairly allocated.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Representative Kauffman
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary