

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 19, 2023

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Mendive, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Blanksma, Manwaring, Yamamoto, Raybould, Durrant, Hill, Mickelsen, Nelsen, Pickett, Raymond, Tanner, Burns, Necochea, Galaviz

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Boyle, Vander Woude

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 Mendive called the meeting to order at 1:34 P.M.

Chairman Mendive introduced presenter **Mike Meyers**, Water Master of Water District 63.

Mike Meyers delivered a presentation about Water District 63's Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project. The project collects data to account for the amount of water in the river in order to save time, money, and water in Water District 63, which encompasses the Boise River basin from headwaters to the confluence with the Snake River.

Mr. Meyers then introduced **Julie Bushell**, CEO of Ethos Connected, the private sector provider of the equipment. **Ms. Bushell** briefly described Ethos' mission of providing technological solutions for agricultural uses. She advocated for the use of technology such as the ones her company provides as a way to help the state of Idaho better manage natural resources, decrease environmental impact, and more efficiently and profitably produce food.

Mr. Meyers returned to the stand for an additional presentation on assessing and managing changes in flow on the Boise River. He described a proposal to establish long-term flow measurement infrastructure capable of quantifying water supply throughout the Treasure Valley. This will allow modeling and analytics to quantify changes in order to manage water supply more effectively. He described a situation from June 30, 2022, in which a portion of the Boise River between Caldwell and Notus had no remaining natural flow left, which could result in parts of the river drying up if it keeps happening. Currently, running out of water in this manner comes as a surprise; new monitoring technology would allow water districts to be better prepared for such shortages.

Chairman Mendive thanked the presenters.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Representative Mendive
Chair

Cameron Douglas
Secretary