

MINUTES
SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 09, 2023

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Hartgen, Vice Chairman Nichols, Senators Foreman, Hart, Schroeder, Carlson, Zuiderveld, and Taylor

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Semmelroth

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Hartgen** called the meeting of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

RS 30228 **Relating to Fences. Senator Harris** reported the purpose of this Legislation was due to the increased conflict and frustration around the state of Idaho with livestock on state highways and, in grain fields. Owners had permitted their livestock to roam without making efforts to contain them and repair their fences. Instead using Open Range law as the answer to why livestock was roaming free. He stated **RS 30228** was specifically focused on the barbed wire section of Title 35. **Senator Harris** requested the Committee send **RS 30228** to print.

MOTION: **Senator Schroeder** moved to approve **RS 30228**. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

S 1036 **Raw Milk - Amends Existing Law to Revise Provisions Regarding Raw Milk and Raw Milk Products. Senator Herndon** discussed administrative rule 02.04.13 the selling of raw milk and raw milk production. The change included removing the criminal penalty of a misdemeanor to a civil penalty for those not in compliance with the raw milk statute.

TESTIMONY: **Bob Naerebout**, Idaho Dairymen's Association, cited he was not in favor of commercial sale of raw milk. **Mr. Naerebout** mentioned Senator Herndon approached the Idaho Dairymen's Association and, we support the amended changes to **S 1036**.

MOTION: **Senator Foreman** motioned to approve **S 1036**. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Hartgen passed the gavel to Vice Chair Nichols.

DOCKET NO. 24-3801-2200F **Rules of the State Of Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine - Notice of Omnibus Rulemaking (Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule Tim Frost**, Deputy Administrator Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses explained **Docket No. 24-3801-2200F** had a chapter reduction of 30 percent in 2019 and another 30 percent reduction in 2021. The rule had no changes and was approved by the Committee in 2022. **Mr. Frost** asked the Committee to approve **Docket No. 24-3801-2200F**.

MOTION: **Senator Schroeder** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-3801-2200F**. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO.
02-0801-2201

Sheep and Goat Rules of the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board (New Chapter, Fee Rule) - Temporary and Proposed Rule. **Emily Merrigan**, Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board, reviewed **Docket No. 02-0801-2201** she stated there were no changes and, it was scheduled to go through negotiated rulemaking in May of 2023. **Ms. Merrigan** requested the Committee approve **Docket No. 22-0801-2201**.

MOTION: **Senator Taylor** motioned to approve **Docket No. 24-0801-2201**. **Senator Schroeder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chair Nichols passed the gavel back to Chairman Hartgen.

PRESENTATION: **Gretchen Hyde**, Director, Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission (IRRC) opened with a brief overview of the IRRC funding. The assessment fees were contributed by ranchers and landowners, and were refundable upon request. The assessment fee was set in 1997, and changes on the fee must be Legislatively approved. Furthermore, the IRRC received grants from partners based on its projects and activities. Other revenues came from license plate sales, trespass fines, sales of materials and registration fees from workshops.

Ms. Hyde talked about IRRC goals to increase public understanding that Idaho's rangeland were a renewable source of important consumer products and environmental values. By the promotion of Idaho's livestock industry she hoped to achieve and maintain a responsible rangeland stewardship through balanced use of rangeland resources.

Ms. Hyde detailed the Care and Share Campaign. The primary audience was outdoor recreationists who may not be aware of the authorized and historic use of public and private lands for livestock grazing. She mentioned the IRRC produced more than 50 educational videos that feature BLM topics of range monitoring, fire suppression, sage grouse habitat, multi-use land management, post-fire restoration, recreation and, livestock grazing.

Ms. Hyde cited a 2013 Legislation was passed to formalize the Rangeland Fire Protection Association (RFPA). The Idea was to allow ranchers to work together with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and rural fire departments to respond to fires quickly. New procedures were quickly put in place, the BLM and Idaho Department of Lands provided training, start up costs, fire fighting equipment and radios so ranchers could easily respond to wildfires in remote locations. The Department of Lands and the BLM were celebrating the success of the RFPA on its ten year anniversary this year. (Attachment 1)

Senator Carlson inquired if the videos were on the local TV stations or social media to aid the education of rangeland use.

Ms. Hyde responded due to the budget constraints it did not allow TV slots. The IRRC did use social media to get the word out. She mentioned a video on sheep grazing had close to a million hits. People were watching on various social media venues from all over Idaho and, the country.

RS 30295

Concurrent resolution Appointing a Committee to Study Agricultural Issues. **Senator Hart** reported the purpose of the Committee would be to study the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agriculture sector of Idaho's economy. The last two years Idaho had seen a 50 percent decline in the sector. What could the Legislature do to help Idaho recover from the fertilizer, and egg shortages. Would the vaccine that was used in Australia and New Zealand livestock be used in Idaho and, would people boycott the food products. He mentioned he had more questions than answers.

Senator Schroeder questioned Senator Hart if he had discussed with the University of Idaho Department of Agriculture any of the issues.

Senator Hart answered he had not discussed the questions with the University of Idaho Department of Agriculture, this was the purpose of the Committee.

MOTION: **Senator Foreman** motioned to approve **RS 30295**. **Vice Chair Nichols** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Hartgen** adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Senator Hartgen
Chair

Melissa Price
Secretary