

MINUTES
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 13, 2023

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Burtenshaw, Senators Guthrie, Den Hartog, Harris, Okuniewicz, Schroeder, Semmelroth, and Taylor

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Vice Chairman Adams

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 Burtenshaw** called the meeting of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) to order at 1:02 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Schroeder** moved to approve the Minutes of February 15, 2023. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to approve the Minutes of February 20, 2023. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Guthrie** moved to approve the Minutes of February 22, 2023. **Senator Okuniewicz** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Marc Brinkmeyer of Sandpoint, Idaho to the Lake Pend Oreille Basin Commission** to serve a term commencing July 24, 2020 and expiring July 24, 2023. **Mr. Brinkmeyer** presented before the Committee via video. He shared that he was born and raised in Iowa and still farmed there. He had been a member of the Lake Pend Oreille Basin Commission early in its inception. He was the owner and CEO of Idaho Forest Group, which was the eighth largest producer of lumber in the United States. He had been in the forest products business in North Idaho for the last 40 years. He supported many organizations committed to education and conservation.

DISCUSSION: In response to a question from Senator Okuniewicz, **Mr. Brinkmeyer** stated he was from a small town called Hubbard in Iowa, which was just north of Des Moines, and he graduated from Buena Vista University. **Senator Okuniewicz** then asked Mr. Brinkmeyer for his opinion on the Priest Lake siphon. **Mr. Brinkmeyer** responded he understood why people were upset. He stated that the science of the project needed some expert evaluation and opinion, and if the science determined that the project was acceptable, the architecture and construction of the siphon would have to be carefully evaluated. He thought it was unfortunate that the project had become so controversial. In response to a request by Chairman Burtenshaw, **Mr. Brinkmeyer** shared more about his company, Idaho Forest Group, including about the company's use of satellite technology to understand forests and their interest in forest health.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Amy Manning of Pocatello, Idaho to the Parks and Recreation Board** to serve a term commencing February 16, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2028. **Ms. Manning** presented before the Committee and shared she was a fifth generation Idahoan. She grew up on her family's farm and ranch in Power County. She served on the American Falls City Council for ten years and as Mayor of the City of American Falls for eight years. In her years working for the city, she learned about all of the things that go along with running and managing a city, including about issues related to parks and recreation. She worked closely with the Bureau of Reclamation because of their marina and with concessionaires developing RV parks. She saw how critical it was for citizens, especially youth, to have access to clean and maintained public areas and affordable recreation opportunities.

DISCUSSION: In response to questions from Senator Schroeder, **Ms. Manning** shared that her husband was a retired Idaho State policeman.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Hugh Cooke of Moscow, Idaho to the Parks and Recreation Board** to serve a term commencing February 16, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2026. **Mr. Cooke** presented before the Committee and shared he had bachelor's degrees in business administration and parks and recreation management, and a master's degree in recreation management, all from the University of Idaho. His work history included teaching graduate classes at the University of Idaho, working as recreation director for the City of McCall, working for the United States Ski Association, and working as a licensed whitewater rafting guide. He was a third generation Idahoan.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Semmelroth** asked Mr. Cooke's opinion on recent legislation proposed in Utah that would adjust the amount of campsites that could be reserved to 80 percent with the remaining 20 percent available for drive up. **Mr. Cooke** responded that he would advocate for a good reservation system that was user friendly, but when he left his house for camp, he would like to be sure he had a reservation.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Charles Roady of Bonners Ferry, Idaho to the Parks and Recreation Board** to serve a term commencing February 16, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2028. **Mr. Roady** presented before the Committee and shared he lived at the very northern tip of Idaho. He attended the University of Idaho and had a degree in natural resource management. He spent 45 years in the forest products industry in Idaho and Montana until he retired a year ago. He was proud of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation's response to the large numbers of people wanting to recreate in Northern Idaho during the COVID-19 shutdown. He thought Idaho's recreation was a tremendous asset, which needed good governance.

DISCUSSION: In response to a concern from Senator Okuniewicz, **Mr. Roady** stated he had spent most of his career trying to get people to understand there could be a good balance between managing all our resources, including the trees and the wildlife.

Senator Den Hartog commented that the expertise represented by the appointees in the room was impressive and she appreciated their willingness to continue to serve the State in this way.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business as this time, **Chairman Burtenshaw** adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

Senator Burtenshaw
Chair

Shelly Johnson
Secretary