

MINUTES
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 15, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Burtenshaw, Vice Chairman Bruner (Adams), Senators Guthrie, Den Hartog, Harris, Semmelroth, and Taylor

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Okuniewicz and Schroeder

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 1:32 p.m.

INTRODUCTION: **Chairman Burtenshaw** introduced Senate page, Zackary Holt. **Zackary** told the Committee about himself and some of his plans for the future.

INTRODUCTION: **Chairman Burtenshaw** introduced Darl Bruner, who was the substitute for Senator Adams. **Mr. Bruner** shared with the Committee some of his background, including that he worked at Northwest Nazarene University and served on the Nampa City Council.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Mathew Weaver of Boise, Idaho to Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources** for a term commencing August 10, 2023 and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. **Mr. Weaver** presented before the Committee and shared his background and vision for the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). He shared that he has a bachelors degree in civil engineering with an emphasis in water resources, and a graduate degree in hydrology. He stated he worked at IDWR for 16 years with ten years as Deputy Director. He reviewed his appointments for deputy directors and some of his priorities for IDWR, including addressing staffing, completing adjudication for water basins throughout Idaho, supply enhancement activities, and water infrastructure projects.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Den Hartog** shared concerns about local water use planning in her District and asked how IDWR could improve their connection to local water use planning. **Mr. Weaver** responded with some examples of IDWR's efforts around the Treasure Valley to bring together individual water users and planning and zoning committees to answer questions and address issues. He also shared that IDWR developed a document to clearly outline the duties and authorities of IDWR, as opposed to other agencies at the local, planning, and city levels, or federal agencies. **Senator Guthrie** asked how IDWR could lead negotiations related to water so that they were completed in a more timely fashion. **Mr. Weaver** responded that as Director, he intended to be present in negotiations between water users and involved in enforcing the legal standards and statutory obligations of IDWR.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business as this time, **Chairman Burtenshaw** adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Senator Burtenshaw
Chair

Shelly Johnson
Secretary