

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 16, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Raymond, Representatives Boyle, Cannon, McCann, Ehlers, Gallagher, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Mathias, Nash (Coberly), Roberts

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Roberts

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 Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Chairman Andrus welcomed the commencement of the 2024 session of the Idaho House of Representatives. Reps. **Mathias** and **Gallagher** were entrusted with the task of reviewing the minutes, and Chairman Andrus acknowledged **Larell Chandler**, the committee page hailing from Weiser, Idaho.

Chairman Andrus turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Raymond**.

DOCKET NO. 02-0601-2301: **Lloyd Knight**, Deputy Director, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), explained the current fee structure is considered out of keeping with fee structures in surrounding state seed labs and private sector seed labs. A proposed fee structure has been put forward, which involves a 51% increase across all fees, along with additional increases for rush fees and beans.

Richard Winn, HM Claus, Seed Lab Advisory Board, **Roger Batt**, Idaho Eastern Oregon Seed Association (IEOSA), **Brad Smith**, President, IEOSA, **Jared Gebauer**, Chairman, IEOSA, spoke in support of the rule, saying the aim for the State Seed Lab is to thrive competitively, maximize its independence, and to be a fully functional, state-of-the-art seed lab.

In response to committee questions, **Chanel Tewalt**, Director, ISDA, explained ISDA is exploring a fee structure reflecting a commitment to services, and distinguishing between mandatory and voluntary services. Some fees are inherent in mandatory categories, while others, like lab fees, are selectively applied, deviating from rigid rules.

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to approve Docket No. 02-0601-2301. Motion carried by voice vote.

DOCKET NO. 02-0604-2301: **Andrea Thompson**, ISDA, addressed the production of pest-free plants and plant products. She detailed inspections and compliance procedures with phytosanitary regulations of other states and foreign countries. They incorporate provisions for the voluntary certification of nursery stock as virus-free for export. The rules establish a program for the registration and export of ginseng, aiming to safeguard American ginseng as an endangered species.

MOTION: **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to approve Docket No. 02-0604-2301. Motion carried by voice vote.

DOCKET NO. 02-0213-2301: **Jared Stuart**, ISDA, said these rules provide clarity on the licensing procedure, assessment collection and remittance, determination of claim value, maintenance of electronic records, utilization of electronic scales, and the Department's remedies for non-compliance.

MOTION: **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to **approve Docket No. 02-0213-2301. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0215-2301: **Jared Stuart**, ISDA, explained the rule clarifies procedures related to licensing, collection and remittance of assessments, determining claim value, maintaining electronic records, use of electronic scales, and remedies of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) for non-compliance.

MOTION: **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to **approve Docket No. 02-0215-2301. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0602-2301: **Andrea Thompson**, ISDA, said the rule comprises standardized definitions and standards employed by states for the regulation of commercial feed, commercial fertilizer, and soil and plant amendments. There are no modifications to the pending rule, and it is being adopted as initially proposed.

MOTION: **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to **approve Docket No. 02-0602-2301. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0214-2301: **Jared Stuart**, ISDA, explained the rules cover specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements for commercial weighing and measuring devices. There are no changes to the pending rule, and it is being adopted as originally proposed.

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to **approve Docket No. 02-0214-2301. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0633-2301: **Jared Stuart**, ISDA, noted the rule is crucial to keeping current with national regulations, and preserving the validity of organic certification for customers utilizing the agency's certification services. There are no changes to the pending rule, and it is being adopted as originally proposed.

MOTION: **Representative Gallagher** made a motion to **approve Docket No. 02-0633-2301. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0609-2301: **Lloyd Knight**, ISDA, stated the rule governs the control of invasive species, including designation, inspection, decontamination, and enforcement. It applies to the possession, importation, transportation, and control of invasive species. The rule identifies designated noxious weeds, designates articles capable of spreading them, mandates treatment to prevent dissemination, and allows the establishment of cooperative weed management areas. It also regulates the inspection, certification, and marking of noxious weed-free forage and straw for transportation and use.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to **approve Docket No. 02-0609-2301. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Raymond turned the gavel back over to **Chairman Andrus**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Representative Raymond
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary