

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 16, 2016

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives McMillan, Batt, Bell, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Pence, Erpelding

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Roger Batt, Grape and Wine Commission; Carolyn Watts, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission; Teri Murrison, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission; Shelley Bennett, Idaho Wine Commission

Vice Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, February 10, 2016 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 455: **Candi Fitch**, Apple Commission, stated the changes in the bill are to restructure the districts to assure the members can be chosen to give the best representation to the Apple Industry. She said there are also some technical changes which allow for clarification for present and future implementation. **Ms. Fitch** said these changes have met with the approval of the districts.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to send **H 455** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 456: **Roger Batt**, Idaho Grape and Wine Commission, explained the Legislation removes tax language that is inconsistent with and duplicative to the Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission's Administrative Rules that were adopted in 2010 by the Idaho Legislature. Changes should have been made following the 2010 Legislative Session to provide consistency with adoption to the Rules but have been unintentionally overlooked by industry until now. The legislation would allow grape juice purchased in the state of Idaho for the production of wine in Idaho to be taxed just like out of state grape juice purchased for the production of wine in Idaho is already taxed. Language changes have been made to allow for easier readability and clarity of the statute.

Rep. Batt invoked rule 38 stating a possible conflict of interest, but she would be voting on the legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to send **H 456** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Troy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

Teri Murrison, Executive Director, stated this was her fifth year presenting to the Ag Affairs Committee on behalf of the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission. She explained the three core functions of the Commission are to provide technical and other supportive services, manage conservation programs and administration. **Ms. Murrison** said there are 50 conservation districts in the state of Idaho. She reported the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP) provides low interest loans for projects that provide conservation benefits. In 2015 there were 85 outstanding loans, 48 inquiries, 20 applications received and 7 applications approved for a total of \$392,517. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREP) signed 155 contracts enrolling 16,533 acres, saving 66,132 acre feet of water which is the equivalent average use of water for 317,000 people. Through this program there was also 132,260 tons of soil erosion savings and 3 to 4 million pounds of fertilizer savings.

Ms. Murrison concluded by reviewing the *Whiskey Creek Project* which the commission took part in. They were able to restore a creek on the state's 303 (d) list of degraded waters to something that is beautiful and useful and no longer an eyesore.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary