

**MINUTES**  
**Approved by the Committee**  
**Invasive Species Working Group**  
**Friday, September 23, 2016**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**The Reserve at Bear Lake, Idaho - Clubhouse**

Co-chair Senator Rice called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.; a silent roll call was taken. Members present: Senators Heider, and Harris; Co-chair Representative Gestrin and Representatives Dayley, Hixon, and Erpelding; Legislative Services Office staff Katharine Gerrity, Ray Houston, and Jennifer Kish. Absent and excused: Senator Burgoyne.

Other attendees: Jim Mende, David Teuscher - Idaho Fish and Game; Jesse Taylor, David Cottle, Claudia Cottle - Bear Lake Watch; Scott Dalebout, Nathan Owens - Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; Jeffrey Pettingill - Bonneville County Weed Control; David Herter - Bannock County Weed Control; Lyla Dettmer, Chris Hatch - Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District; Nate Fisher - Fisher Public Policy; Lloyd Knight - Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture; Winston Hart, Roy Bunderson - Bloomington City; Rex Payne, Brad Jensen, Vaughn Rasmussen - Bear Lake County Commission; R. Scott Workman - Franklin County Commission; Amy Ferriter; Mitch Whitmill; Shannon McKay.

NOTE: presentations and handouts provided by the presenters/speakers are posted on the Idaho Legislature website: <http://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2016/interim/invasivespecies.htm>; and copies of those items are on file at the Legislative Services Office located in the State Capitol.

Co-chair Rice called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He called upon Claudia Cottle, representing the Bear Lake Watch management group. for her [presentation](#) on the history and current status of Bear Lake. She described how the dam was a natural formation and how the pumps had to be "sunk" into the ground to control the lake waters, rather than built as a raised dam, since the lake was not fed directly by a river. Ms. Cottle reported that the lake was home to four types of endemic fish (native only to Bear Lake). She commented that the fear of acquiring invasive mussels inspired the Bear Lake Watch and other community members to be diligent about preventive efforts. As reported by other communities, the mussels invade and disrupt the natural balance of water bodies, filter out nutrients necessary to the native species (calcium), riddle the beach with shell carcasses, and ruin boating and irrigation equipment by attaching themselves to propellers, intake valves, and pipes.

- Representative Hixon asked Ms. Cottle to identify the four endemic species that inhabit the lake. Ms. Cottle reported that there were sculpin, cisco, and two types of whitefish.
- Rep. Hixon asked whether the higher than normal calcium content produced any negative impact on the irrigation or dam systems. Ms. Cottle responded that it was not much of an adverse effect, but that Commissioner Rasmussen, who was also speaking for Rocky Mountain Power, could probably better answer the question.
- Co-chair Rice reminded the committee of the report at the previous meeting that Dreissena require dissolved calcium in their environment to establish themselves.

Co-chair Rice called upon Scott Workman, Franklin County Commissioner, for his comments regarding the threat of mussels in Bear Lake. Commissioner Workman explained how the many reservoirs of the area were important to the mainly agricultural community. He noted that the irrigation districts were very concerned about the possibility of these mussels being introduced into any of the surrounding water bodies; the fear was so great, that many of the reservoirs were closed or limited to boaters and boating activities the previous summer. This caused larger concentrations of recreationists on other reservoirs. He commented that most boaters professed a willingness to self-police themselves and to contribute funding toward the prevention efforts. Mr. Workman reported that the city and county had provided funds to operate the inspection stations toward the end of last year, and this year, both entities provided \$15,000 to fund the operation of inspection

stations at the Twin Lakes and Glendale Reservoirs (independently of the ISDA). He provided two handouts: [maps](#) of the area and [reports](#) from the local inspection stations.

- Senator Heider asked whether the commission trusted the quality of the inspections operated at the border of Utah and Idaho? Mr. Workman reported that the hours of operation for the stations had changed, and the community felt there were opportunities for people to dodge the inspections.
- Co-chair Rice asked Mr. Workman to identify the routes that led to Bear Lake from Utah. With the assistance of Ms. Lyla Dettmer, manager of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, the routes of the Westside Hwy., Hwy. 91, and State Street were identified as the main routes; however, there were many county roads that could be used to divert around those stations. Ms. Dettmer commented that the irrigation districts supported the ISDA's efforts; and were so concerned with the fewer stations that people often experienced double checks - one in Utah and one in Idaho - before being able to launch.
- Senator Harris asked about the economic impact to the surrounding communities by the closing or limited use of the reservoirs. Commissioner Workman submitted that, at first, the community vendors had no concerns; but by the end of the season, they realized how much it negatively affected their business He estimated that 1/3 less boat traffic stopped at convenience stores, restaurants, and gas stations than the previous year.
- Senator Heider asked if any fouled boats [term used for equipment found to be contaminated with invasive species] were identified this year at the inspections. Mr. Workman reported that none were found.
- Rep. Dayley inquired whether the commissioner had any recommendations on funding the inspection stations. Commissioner Workman felt the issue was a state problem - not the county's - because it reached from border to border, and it should be dealt with at the state level. He offered that funding could be sought much like snowmobilers who pay a fee to have trails maintained, and he reiterated his first-hand experience of boaters' willingness to have recreational fees increased in order to provide funding for prevention efforts.
- Rep. Dayley asked whether Mr. Workman felt that the fee increase should be applied to all watercraft or limited to certain types of watercraft; and to describe how the fees would best be distributed. Mr. Workman commented that he did not know what limit of watercraft should be inspected (though he didn't like the idea of inspecting float tubes); and he opined that it was best if one organization received and ran the inspection program for consistency (e.g., ISDA or Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation).
- Rep. Erpelding inquired whether it would be best to create a chokepoint where the inspection station would be located. Mr. Workman submitted that the launch ramps was the easiest point to identify.
- Co-chair Rice asked whether the irrigation industry would be more comfortable with inspection stations located at the additional entry routes or at the reservoirs. Commissioner Workman reported that the irrigation industry was more comfortable with the stations located at the reservoirs. Co-chair Rice inquired if having the three established stations open 24 hours a day would allay the fears. Ms. Dettmer agreed that it would make people more comfortable.
- Senator Heider inquired about the comparison cost of a state-run inspection station to a city/county-run inspection station. Ms. Dettmer explained that the city/county-run inspection station was operated with only one staff member (with permission from the ISDA, which operates with two staff for safety reasons) and so the operational cost was one-half that of the state-run station. She noted that the majority of the operational cost was for personnel. Mr. Workman commented that the irrigation districts were not in favor of contributing to funding for prevention since the districts felt it was the boating and recreational industry that was perpetuating the infestations, and also felt those users should be funding the prevention.

- Rep. Erpelding inquired how many ramps existed on the reservoirs that the irrigation districts operated. Ms. Dettmer reported that those reservoirs were limited to only one operating ramp and that no one could launch from a private dock.
- Rep. Erpelding queried whether the irrigation districts considered closing the boat ramps at certain hours. Ms. Dettmer reported that was the current policy but problems of getting people off the water in time to close gates was an issue; additionally, it was difficult to accommodate people who wanted to use the water at different times (fishermen early mornings and recreationists until sunset).
- Commissioner Workman commented that it was frustrating that an ordinance could not be enforced and was not a priority in the scheme of law enforcement.
- Rep. Hixon asked whether the irrigation community was willing to put any money toward the effort. Mr. Workman noted that the irrigation community was willing to assist this year, but not in the long-run. Ms. Dettmer reminded the committee that the purpose of reservoirs was to provide water for irrigation, not for recreation. Hence, the irrigation community was not as willing to fund the prevention. She also noted that over the past two years, a collaborative group had been established that included irrigators, county and city mayors, the Dept. of Agriculture, conservation districts, etc., who met once a month to report on the issue and keep each other informed.
- Senator Heider inquired as to the daily cost of the verification inspections performed at the lakes. Ms. Dettmer reported that the cost was approximately \$200-250/day for a 12-hour shift that operated seven days a week.
- Senator Harris asked what kind of individuals were hired to staff the stations. Ms. Dettmer reported that many were local community members.
- Co-chair Rice requested that Ms. Dettmer summarize the duties of those individuals and the operations of those verification stations, along with the total costs, and provide that information to the committee.
- Rep. Dayley requested that Ms. Dettmer outline the process used when individuals had to be returned to state inspection stations for inspection.

At 10:18 a.m., Co-chair Rice called Roy Bunderson, Councilman for Bloomington City, to the podium for his comments. Mr. Bunderson was very involved in community organizations as well as being a resident in the area most of his life; he is also the single largest water rights owner in the valley. He commented that recreation and agriculture were the most important activities to the community. He reported that the efforts of the city helped establish the St. Charles inspection station at the north end of the lake, and recognized that it was not in the most visible location. Mr. Bunderson promoted a more cooperative effort with the state of Utah in order to eliminate redundant inspections for those accessing Bear Lake and the local reservoirs.

- Rep. Dayley asked Mr. Bunderson to describe the city's role in the cooperative process, and how he would recommend the redistribution of funds, if collected at the state level. Mr. Bunderson admitted that the city did not have much of a budget to operate on, and certainly did not have funds to continually contribute to the prevention process; however, there were many concerned citizens who might contribute financially. He commented that the regional commission would encourage state law be adopted by both Idaho and Utah or even the creation of a MOU (memorandum of understanding), of a legal and financial nature, with both states to concentrate the funding and the efforts.
- Rep. Dayley asked whether the city could commit personnel. Councilman Bunderson stated that members would commit, and many were volunteering already.
- Rep. Hixon asked how the St. Charles station tracked the earlier noted "300+ drive-bys." Mr. Winston Hart, manager of the St. Charles inspection station, reported that part of the job responsibility was to manually tally any "drive-by" watercraft and to report such incidents to local

law enforcement dispatch. He regretted to report that he often received calls from local law enforcement to have the reports curtailed because they were busy with other issues.

- Senator Heider inquired whether some "drive-by" incidents could be attributed to the fact that the individual had been inspected at Garden City (south of St. Charles in Utah) and felt that they were clear to proceed to the lake and reservoirs. Mr. Hart admitted that it was a possibility and was part of the learning curve. Mr. Hart noted that in the verbal discussion with individuals being inspected, the inspectors were suspect of the Utah process and thoroughness.

At 11:05 a.m., Co-chair Rice called upon Ms. Amy Ferriter for her [presentation](#) on the history of invasive species in Idaho and how efforts have been organized to combat and prevent them. Ms. Ferriter explained that she had been involved in the invasive species program for over 25 years, had served as a senior environmental scientist for Florida's water management district for 14 years (focused in the Everglades), served seven years as Idaho's invasive species coordinator, and currently worked for Agrium, Inc. She noted that her opinions were her own and did not reflect the opinion of any of her current or previous employers. [Ms. Ferriter provided additional handouts previous to the meeting: [Idaho's Dreissenid Mussel Prevention Program](#), [Comparison of State Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Programs](#), and [Preventing the Spread of Zebra and Quagga Mussels: the Role of the Lacey Act](#).]

- Considering that both terrestrial and aquatic species were managed under one authority, Co-chair Gestrin inquired whether any other funding came into the effort, other than the invasive species watercraft sticker program. Ms. Ferriter replied that she was not aware of any others, but that possibly Mr. Lloyd Knight, Administrator of the Division of Plant Industries for the Dept. of Agriculture, could provide such information.
- Rep. Hixon asked why the federal government claimed it was unable to track and report long-time moored boats that were leaving infested waters. Ms. Ferriter noted that Congressman Simpson helped approve \$1 million dollars for the USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to address the issue by creating a notification system. She said that the program, however, was determined to be too difficult and efforts were abandoned.
- Rep. Erpelding asked Ms. Ferriter to explain the goal of the federal Safe Boating Act. Ms. Ferriter commented that it was worth pursuing the opportunity to use the act to justify listing Quagga mussels as a biological pollutant, and encouraged the committee to schedule a representative from the EPA to speak to the committee.
- Rep. Erpelding inquired whether federal level authorities were concerned about being held liable if watercraft should escape/evade an inspection station at federal waters and then contaminate another body of water. Ms. Ferriter agreed that such a fear was possible. She noted that the federal authorities did not want to police the waters but were willing to authorize states to perform the inspections. She encouraged those involved to engage in negotiations with the federal authorities on the issue.
- Rep. Dayley asked whether those entities that originally began in the cooperative efforts were still involved, and whether those entities were still contributing financially. Ms. Ferriter responded that she could not speak to current efforts but that the current invasive species coordinator may be able to respond to that question.
- Rep. Erpelding asked whether there were discussions about a pricing tier in respect to the size of watercraft for the invasive species sticker program, noting that a 12-foot paddleboard paid the same fee as a 20-foot motorized boat. Ms. Ferriter commented that there had not been much time to enact the rules of the program, and admitted that there were a lot of unknowns. She submitted that, in hindsight, it probably would have been an appropriate idea.
- Co-chair Rice inquired whether Ms. Ferriter was witnessing a decrease in the importance of the issue. Ms. Ferriter submitted that the interest level had been sustained, and had inspired other western states to act.

- Co-chair Rice asked whether the federal government had been resistant to all prevention efforts, or was it more cooperative with certain agencies. Ms. Ferriter opined that the federal entities were best at organizing meetings and creating plans, but were not very effective at implementation or action.
- Rep. Dayley queried how to affect action from the federal agencies. Ms. Ferriter admitted that she did not have the solution, but submitted that constant pressure from the states must be applied.
- Co-chair Rice sought Ms. Ferriter's opinion on the effectiveness of round-the-clock inspections. She commented that the ideal goal was to have the 24/7 inspection, but it was also important to occur at the source - the water body itself.
- Co-chair Rice asked whether Ms. Ferriter had suggestions of items, other than boats, that should be inspected. She stated that collateral prevention should occur at the inspection stations - not only for mussels - but also other invasive species. She noted that the construction barges would not have been considered, until the earlier incident in 2012, or firefighting equipment as addressed earlier. In short, she stated, everything should be considered suspect if it had come into contact with a water source.
- Rep. Hixon inquired what avenues should be identified for educational outreach. Ms. Ferriter noted the need to tailor the message to the audience/user, such as flyers included in utility bills. She offered her assistance in working with groups to develop such items. Rep. Hixon requested that she submit any ideas on further educational outreach to the committee members.

At 11:38 a.m., Ray Houston, LSO Principal Budget and Policy Analyst, was called to the podium for his [presentation](#) on the financial history of the invasive species program and related efforts. Mr. Houston's presentation focused on four areas: invasive species appropriation history (FY 2007 through 2018), analysis of fund balances (Form B12) for invasive species fund (FY 2009 to 2018 estimate), invasive species related expenditure report, and statistics from the ISDA roadside inspection stations. Highlights and additional information from the presentation:

- ERRF is the Economic Recovery Reserve Fund established by Governor Kempthorne, which consisted of \$35.4 million dollars from the general fund; \$4 million of which was tagged for Eurasian Water Milfoil eradication.
- Support for other invasive species, specifically aquatic nuisances, first occurred in 2008 for FY 2009.
- 2009 was first year that dedicated monies for the inspection stations occurred.
- 2017 request for FY 2018 is \$700,000 dedicated monies, with the expectation of \$1,000,000 from the federal level (WRRDA).
- Overview of funds derivation: 1st = general fund, 2nd = dedicated, and 3rd = federal level.
- 8-year average cost: \$22.00 per inspection, \$52,000 per fouled watercraft.
- Rep. Erpelding asked whether the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 was an on-going contribution of \$1 million beginning in 2017, or was it a one-time contribution. Mr. Houston responded that it was budgeted as a one-time contribution of \$1 million per state (ID, MT, WA, and OR; total of \$4 million collectively). He stated that it was not known if the funding would be on-going. Co-chair Rice reminded committee members that such funding was the Army Corps of Engineers program presented and discussed at the previous meeting, and as noted by Mr. Houston, the funds were not actually available yet.

Seeing no more questions, Co-chair Rice recessed the meeting for lunch.

At 1:00 p.m., Co-chair Rice called the meeting back to order, and requested a motion to approve the minutes of the August 30 meeting. Rep. Hixon made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Senator Heider provided a second to the motion; minutes were approved by a majority voice vote.

Co-chair Rice called upon Vaughn Rasmussen, Commissioner for Bear Lake County and Vice-chair of the Bear Lake Regional Commission, for his comments. Mr. Rasmussen compared the spread of the quagga and zebra mussels to the spread of the white-nosed bat syndrome. Since the syndrome was spread unknowingly by spelunkers, it illustrated the need to be diligent in inspecting all types of gear and equipment for invasive species. Case in point, he submitted a [checklist](#) (prepared by the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources) used by SCUBA divers for the prevention of spreading mussels. Mr. Rasmussen emphasized the need for inspections to occur at the source of take out/put in. He presented information on [Lake Tahoe's prevention efforts](#), which addressed local "Tahoe Only" traffic. Mr. Rasmussen felt it important that watercraft operators contribute to the expense of inspections and decontaminations, much like the Tahoe program outlined. The Tahoe program allowed for an annual pass and for a 7-day pass. He recognized that there were many parties involved in the plan to prevent a mussel infection, and all plans were worth pursuing. Mr. Rasmussen proposed the idea that technology be developed to track boats with a GPS-type locator that could report when a boat left a body of water and whether it had been through an inspection station.

- Rep. Dayley inquired who would be responsible for enforcement if a "Bear Lake Only" program, like Tahoe's, was implemented. Mr. Rasmussen proffered that the Bear Lake Regional Commission would be willing and would have the support and authority to enforce the program.

Mr. Rasmussen then reported on the issue of phragmites (a.k.a. common reed) becoming a problem along Bear Lake's shoreline. He noted that the misuse of the beaches and the demarcation line where private and public land met along the shore were items of contention. He noted that the commission would be meeting with the Idaho Dept. of Lands (IDL) to discuss the issue for preventing the spread of phragmites by possibly limiting all-terrain vehicle access to the shoreline.

- Co-chair Rice inquired whether phragmites existed in other locations of Idaho. Mr. Dave Cottle (Bear Lake Watch) reported that there existed two types of phragmites - native and non-native. He noted that other locations existed along the Bear River and within Cassia Valley. Mr. Cottle stated that phragmites most often was spread by redistributing the rhizome (root), but, if a colony had a diverse enough DNA, the plants could populate by seed.
- Senator Heider inquired why the phragmites along the Idaho shores of Bear Lake were not attacked/treated much like those along the Utah shores. Mr. Cottle reported that the state of Utah was better organized and had more man-power to attack the problem. He noted that attempts to schedule a contractor had not been successful due to the timing necessary for the treatment to be effective. Senator Heider commented that he was willing to lead volunteers to assist with the process.

Co-chair Rice invited Mr. Rasmussen to provide his comments on the mussel issue in his capacity as a representative of Rocky Mountain Power (RMP). Mr. Rasmussen noted that RMP had [internal protocols](#) for the prevention of invasive species during repairs and operations. For example, equipment used in a water body must be cleaned and inspected, or was limited in its use to a certain body of water, before it could be transported for use in another body of water. He also provided a brief overview of the [Lifton Pump operation](#) and the [Bear River hydroelectric project](#), which involve the waters of Bear Lake.

- Co-chair Rice requested Mr. Rasmussen speak to the scope of impact, from the perspective of a power company, that mussels would cause to the community and company. Mr. Rasmussen reported that the initial impact would be to the intake valves/screens, which would limit the amount of intake volume. Additionally, if the organisms bypass those parts, the mussels could accumulate in such numbers as to cause the turbines to seize. He noted that these issues



were the same concerns for the irrigators for their equipment. He could not comment to a value of the impact.

- Rep. Dayley inquired what level RMP was willing to be involved in the prevention process. Mr. Rasmussen commented that the company felt it was most efficient in the education aspect.
- Rep. Erpelding inquired why the Oneida Narrows reservoir had remained open to watercraft. Mr. Rasmussen explained that the company felt that the Franklin inspection station was efficient in catching and inspecting watercraft, and hence the decision was made to leave Oneida Narrows accessible.

At 1:55 p.m., Bob Kibler, Idaho AIS Coordinator for U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFW), was contacted by phone for his presentation [Quagga and Zebra Mussels, Bear Lake Basin, USFWS Efforts and Perspectives](#). Highlights and additional information from the presentation:

- (slide #13) U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Services is working to establish a consensus on procedures among all states.
- (slide #18) Reported that any funds returned were redistributed to other states; requested that the funds not be returned but used to show the need for the funds.
- Rep. Dayley asked how Idaho could better assist with reciprocity between Region 1 (ID, WA, OR) and Region 6 (MT, WY, UT, CO, ND, SD, NB, KS) to address the problem. Mr. Kibler requested that the committee and entities involved in the issue provide feedback to USFWS through the invasive species council. He suggested that a joint proposal or grant could be created to address the issues in Region 6 that were affecting Region 1.
- Rep. Dayley inquired whether Idaho could cater the use of USFWS monies to better accommodate Idaho's desired prevention process. Mr. Kibler noted that there was no requirement that the monies had to be spent within the state, and so encouraged the committee to consider a use outside of the state that would be beneficial to Idaho. He proffered the ideas of redirecting the money for inspections at the federal boat ramps in infected reservoirs or the use of educational outreach, such as billboards.
- Co-chair Rice asked whether the idea of redirecting the money for the cleaning of boats would be acceptable. Mr. Kibler stated that it would.
- Rep. Dayley requested a report on the evaluation of the Invasive Species Rapid Response training held in Jackson, WY (May 2016). Mr. Kibler noted that he did not currently have such report, but that he could have it submitted to the committee by email.
- Co-chair Gestrin inquired whether USFWS could assist in encouraging the National Park Service to mandate a clean, drain, and dry program at the federal water bodies. Mr. Kibler explained that while his department could encourage such ideas through council discussions, the department was not permitted to lobby other federal agencies to adopt strategies.

At 2:35 p.m., Co-chair Rice called upon Nate Owens, AIS Coordinator for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and Lt. Scott Dalebout, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources officer, for their [presentation](#) and comments on Utah's prevention efforts. Highlights and additional information from the presentation:

- Observed that prevention efforts were constantly evolving and adapting, and that the Bear Lake program was one of several unique situations that existed within the state.
- Cautioned that efforts for awareness of the issue should not over-saturate the public or the message may be ignored.
- Noted that Deer Creek Reservoir tested positive for a presence of veligers in 2014, yet subsequent testing has been negative for a presence. He noted that, per protocol, they must continue testing for 18 additional months before it may be declared non-infested.

- Reported the use of a colored tagging system when watercraft was inspected upon leaving a body of water, along with a dated receipt for the owner.
  - Reported use of electronic data collection application, developed by the state of Colorado, where data (bow number, date inspected, location inspected, what was done at inspection) was relayed to a cloud server and was accessible to users. Program has provided real-time information that had led to prosecution.
  - Approached National Park Service about operating nighttime inspections; cooperative efforts with the Night Skies program to access special lighting to operate at night.
  - Reported that Utah inspections operate March through November for 13 to 17 hours per day.
- Senator Harris inquired whether Utah had an enforceable fine. Lt. Dalebout reported that Utah has a specific AIS inspection infraction that is fined at a couple hundred dollars.
  - Co-chair Rice inquired whether an individual assessed such a fine would also be returned to the inspection station. Lt. Dalebout noted that they would.
  - Rep. Hixon asked whether the electronic data system for tracking watercraft was able to record or report the watercraft's destination. Mr. Owens reported that it could.
  - Rep. Hixon inquired the cost to acquire the data collection program. Mr. Owens commented that the state of Colorado had developed it with a grant from Fish and Wildlife, and had offered the program to the state of Utah free of charge. He noted that Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and the NPS were all using the program (Wyoming considering). Rep. Hixon requested that information about the program be forwarded to the committee for review.
  - Rep. Erpelding inquired about the estimated cost of Utah's 55 mobile inspection units. Mr. Owens submitted that each unit cost between \$13,000 and \$26,000 to establish and approximately \$550 per year to maintain.
  - Rep. Erpelding asked whether the units were relocated due to holiday use or special events. Mr. Owens responded that the units were generally stationary and assigned to regional waters. He noted that the department did have extra mobile units available to add for special events or in the event one was inoperable.
  - Rep. Erpelding inquired how Utah organized the enforcement of inspections. Lt. Dalebout explained that Utah used game wardens for inspections, which have full law enforcement duties in Utah (specialize in wildlife issues but respond to all types of calls), and also involved state park rangers to coordinate efforts.
  - Rep. Dayley asked how Idaho could help coordinate efforts with Utah. Mr. Owens requested that the states address the redundancy of inspections, continue coordinating work with Tom Woolf (Idaho's AIS Coordinator), and assist efforts for Idaho to acquire the shared electronic data tracking application. Lt. Dalebout commented that training inspectors in a variety of situations for interacting with the public was an important factor for the success of the program.
  - Rep. Dayley requested Mr. Owens to discuss any policy or structural changes to the program. Mr. Owens explained that there was a realization that law enforcement had to play a larger role in the program, because they were continually being contacted for related issues. He said the training received by law enforcement officers lends itself seamlessly into the process to ward off contentious situations. He commented that Utah was proposing to separate the boating law enforcement from the prevention efforts, and were developing a 5-year plan to address the immediate issues and the unforeseen future issues. The department was also proposing more frequent sampling surveys, rather than waiting for an annual sampling survey.
  - Rep. Dayley inquired whether the department had any draft language of the proposed policy changes. Mr. Owens reported that there wasn't at the time, but that he would forward it to the committee when it was available.



- Co-chair Rice encouraged more direct communication between Utah and Idaho and among Idaho's own program participants.

At 3:22 p.m., Representative Lee Perry, member of Utah's State Legislature, approached the podium for comments to the committee. Rep. Perry noted that he was Chair of the Natural Resources, Agricultural, and Environment Committee. He reported that the Utah Department of Natural Resources was comprised of eight divisions, which allowed for communication and coordination of efforts on issues like invasive species. Rep. Perry supported the idea of more informational and educational outreach. Noting the popularity of Bear Lake, he submitted that approximately 1/3 of Utah legislators had property in the valley. He supported the creation of a MOU between the states for prevention efforts. And finally, he reported that an additional fee had been added to boater registration for the dedicated purpose of invasive species prevention efforts; which was done with the support of the boating community.

- Rep. Dayley asked whether the UDNR was receiving any coordination with officials at Lake Mead for reporting the travel destinations of the watercraft. Mr. Owens reported that the department was receiving notifications about where watercraft was intending to go from officials with the state of Nevada, not the NPS.
- Rep. Erpelding asked Rep. Perry to explain Utah's justification in using general fund money for the prevention efforts. Rep. Perry commented that the justification was rooted in the fact that the infestation could impact a community in a variety of ways, it was not limited to just boaters but also store owners, state agencies, and irrigators.
- Co-chair Rice asked whether Rep. Perry had any advice in getting the agencies to cooperate with each other. Rep. Perry noted that since the agencies were primarily unified under UDNR it was easier; but it was still difficult to have the departments understand each other's perspectives and workloads. He noted that the Dept. of Agriculture deals with invasive species, the Dept. of Natural Resources deals with enforcement, and the Dept. of Environmental Quality focuses on safety issues. He noted that after meeting, it was easier to identify any duplication of funding and efforts among the departments.

Co-chair Rice asked if there was anyone who wished to provide public testimony.

Mr. David Cottle, Bear Lake Watch, commented that he hoped the committee continued/created a fund, such as the Eurasian Water Milfoil, for the prevention/eradication of the Dreissena mussels. He noted that the mussels were known to filter the water, consuming phytoplankton and zooplankton, which would adversely affect the endemic cisco that feed on those organisms, as well as affect the trademark color of the water. He submitted that the community and Bear Lake Watch were very committed to assisting Utah in its prevention efforts and encouraged Idaho to be more aggressive in its efforts.

Mr. Mitch Whitmill, who works within the invasive species program for Jefferson County, spoke on his own behalf as a landowner. He commented that history repeats itself, as he was part of efforts in the '90s to organize many environmental groups to cooperate on problems. He encouraged the committee to continue their efforts and to make use of established and proven protocols.

With no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.