

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 04, 2019

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Amador, Representatives Anderson, Anderst, Horman, Moon, Scott, Ehardt, Armstrong, Furniss, Hartgen, Lickley, Raybould, Young, Smith, Chew, Ellis, Mason

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Anderson, Anderst, Young, Furniss

GUESTS: Jay Larsen, Idaho Technology Council

Chairman Vander Woude called the meeting to order at 2:55 p.m.

MOTION: **Chairman Vander Woude** made a **motion** to approve the minutes of February 20, 2019. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Jay Larsen, President, CEO, Idaho Technology Council paid tribute to the great seal of Idaho and the designer of the seal, **Emma Edwards Green** who wanted to create a seal that was representative of the State of Idaho and the natural resources in Idaho. Mr. Larsen brought about the notion that the seal could take on a new design in the next 20 years proposing a thought of how the seal looks now and may look in the future.

Mr. Larsen gave a brief history of cell phone trends, past, present and future technology leading to today's smartphones as one example of the disruption of technology, analog to digital. Mr. Larsen shared the 2018 Idaho Knowledge Report available on the Idaho Technology Council's website. Idaho's core competencies are Power/Energy, Agriculture/Biosciences, New Materials/Nanotechnology, and Imaging. Idaho's GDP (in current dollars) has increased from 1997 to 2017. Mr. Larsen reported on Silicon Valley's Entrepreneurial Record from the 1950's to 2010. Idaho has had significant technology growth from 2000 to 2018. Mr. Larsen pointed to a few key findings of the 2018 Idaho Knowledge Report and Silicon Valley's waves of innovation and spoke to Idaho's innovative talent joining the ranks of Ford, Edison and Tesla. Idaho, since 1990 has seen growth in the technology jobs, the urban growth is increasing. In 2018, nine of the 15 top jobs in Idaho are in the healthcare sector. Mr. Larsen pointed out that 56 % of the technology jobs exist in the Treasure Valley. Idaho has six regions that have unique resources and opportunity for continued economic growth and jobs.

In response to committee questions about jobs, retention of college and technical graduates staying in Idaho, Mr. Larsen encouraged the legislature to make academic institutions mandate foundational computer science courses and incorporate the opportunity to learn about new technologies. Companies look at the education system and academic opportunities along with infrastructure and growth opportunities.

Trevor Schultz, Electrical Engineer, Idaho Power Company, Electrification was the greatest engineering achievement of the 20th Century. Mr. Schultz reviewed the mapping of electrical transmission using the highway analogy. Mr. Schultz illustrated the cycle of the power plant transmission. A recent change in this process is customer generated power through home solar panels. Power lines run up and down streets with distribution voltage of 12,500 volts (12.5 kV). Hydro power electric projects play an important role in generating power for Idaho. Idaho Power is involved in state and regional planning for transmission systems. The transmission system is broken into regions in Idaho. Oversight of the transmission system is through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC), and the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

Curtis Westhoff, Assistant Planning Engineer, Idaho Power Company, the Southern Idaho transmission System and Connections. The Western interconnection grid includes the Northwest states. Hells Canyon was originally built in the 1950's -1960's to export power. The Idaho Northwest pathway's are used heavily to meet Summer demand. Mr. Westhoff pointed out the Northwest Interconnections, Nevada and Utah Interconnections, Wyoming Interconnections and Idaho Hydropower. The state of Idaho benefits from regional diversity. Inherently there is the benefit of resource storage. IRP and Transmission planning, the Boardman and Hemingway substation line will increase input power to Southern Idaho, target and service date is 2026. In summary, powerlines have different uses and peak demand times.

In response to committee questions about transmission lines, and Idaho Power generating their own power, Mr. Westhoff stated there is bi-directional flow of power, the Boardman to Hemingway substation is part of the portfolio which gives Idaho Power flexibility with the flow of electricity.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Kristen Weitz
Secretary