

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Kauffman, Vice Chairman Andrus, Representatives Boyle, Kerby, Giddings, Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon, von Ehlinger, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Bob Naerebout, Idaho Dairyman's Association; Marv Patten, Milk Producers of Idaho; Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League

Chairman Kauffman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes from February 12, 2021. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0801-2000F: **Naomi LeGere- Gordon**, Executive Director of Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board, explained this Omnibus fee rule adopts and republishes existing rule chapter previously reviewed by the Idaho Legislature. She said there are no changes to the pending rule and it is being adopted as originally proposed. This rule does not change or increase a fee.

MOTION: **Rep. Nichols** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0801-2000F. Motion carried by voice vote.**

David Doeringsfeld, Manager of Lewiston Port, explained the port operates in 3 areas; Transportation, Economic Development and International trade but today he would address mostly transportation. He said the Lewis Clark Terminal is independently owned and operated. He said 10% of all US wheat exports moves by barge on the Snake River, explaining Camas Prairie and Palouse have the best dry land farming in the US, which is perfect for growing wheat. He said total commodities shipped on the Snake River have remained fairly constant over the past decade averaging approximately 3.8 million tons per year.

In response to a committee question about the economic impact to the community if the dams were to be breached, **Mr. Doeringsfeld** said it would be financially devastating. He commented on the infrastructure that would need to be in place to replace the barges.

In response to a committee question concerning the difference in cost shipping grain by train or truck as compared to barges, **Mr. Doeringsfeld** said it would be anywhere from a 50 to 100% increase in cost.

H 64: **Tim Frost**, Regulatory Affairs Manager for the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses, stated the Board of Veterinary Medicine has the primary responsibility of licensure and regulation of Veterinarians, Certified Veterinary Technicians, Certified Euthanasia Technician, and Certified Euthanasia Agencies (animal shelter, humane society shelter). He said this legislation updates the veterinary medicine practice act to simplify the licensing requirements within it. By streamlining the licensure process the bill removes the previous limitations of the Board only issuing licensing in January and June to now allow the Board to issue a licensure immediately upon receiving an application. Licenses will now be issued at the time of application completion. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund as a result of this bill, and a minor reduction to the agency's dedicated fund in the average amount of \$4,800 as a result of the elimination of the temporary permit. Overall, he stated, the proposed changes seek to simplify the veterinary medicine practice act and the licensing requirements within it. He reported this bill is supported by the Idaho Veterinary Medical Association.

MOTION: **Rep. Moon** made a motion to send **H 64** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 51: **Bob Naerebout**, Idaho Dairyman's said this legislation allows dairy producers to continue monitoring land application of dairy nutrients according to methods now allowed by ISDA and selected by the producer - phosphorus threshold standard or phosphorus indexing standard. He explained the dual standard has been in place since 2017. Without this legislative change the phosphorus threshold standard would sunset on July 1, 2023.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to send **H 51** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League, spoke against the legislation stating they were involved five years ago in the rule making process regarding dairy byproducts from threshold to indexing using best available science. He said phosphorus index is up in the water aquifers making it less safe and not in keeping with water quality goals.

In response to a committee question concerning why this is necessary now, **Mr. Naerebout** explained there are many smaller dairy farms, particularly in eastern Idaho, who are well below the phosphorus threshold limit of 40 ppm, who do not want to be forced to switch over to a more complex and costly phosphorus indexing option.

In response to a committee question asking if they considered carving out the smaller dairies but holding the larger dairies to the higher standard, **Mr. Naerebout** said Idaho is one of only a few states that already has requirements higher than what is required by the federal government.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Kauffman** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 51** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Ruchti and Mathias** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Andrus** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Representative Kauffman
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary