

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 07, 2018

TIME: 1:30pm or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representatives Moyle, Raybould, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Miller, Burtenshaw, Mendive, Youngblood, Kauffman, Giddings, Blanksma, Erpelding, Rubel, Gannon(5)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Boyle, Vander Woude, Youngblood, Blanksma, Rubel

GUESTS: None

Chairman Gibbs called the meeting to order at 1:31pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2018 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2018 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2018 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Roger Batt, Treasure Valley Water Users Association, stated there was significant flooding around the state as a result of the heavy snowfall last winter. In the Boise area alone, 1.8 million acre feet of water was released for flood control through the Treasure Valley. He introduced **Dan Steenson**, who will present the 2017 Flood Report and yielded the podium to him.

Dan Steenson, Flood Control District 10, stated they wanted to share how they responded to the flooding event that occurred last year, specifically in the Treasure Valley. He stated after last winter's record snow, warm springtime temperatures triggered snow melt resulting in excess water flowing through the river channels as well as sheet flow over agricultural and dairy fields, and other low areas. Water releases for flood control began in mid-February and continued for 101 days. To date, the three Boise River reservoirs are holding water at approximately 60% capacity as a result of last year's runoff.

Mr. Steenson explained flood management has three parts: risk reduction, response, and recovery. Risk reduction occurs before a flood event and includes river channel maintenance, obstruction removal, bank stabilization, and public information and outreach. Response during the flood event includes continued public information and outreach, mitigation to reduce damages, and removal of obstructions. The recovery phase after the flood event includes damage assessments, prioritization of repairs, and repair work.

Mr. Steenson stated **S 1141** provided emergency relief funding, administered through the Office of Emergency Management, to aid in the recovery efforts. But, eligible work with these funds only includes permanent repair or restoration of roads, bridges, and related structures. Work to repair channels and stream banks was only authorized under this funding if it was necessary to restore the structural integrity of an eligible road, culvert, or bridge. So, the challenges for Flood Control Districts to respond to flood events is they have very limited funding, since there is no state funding dedicated to river channel maintenance to reduce risk and recover from flooding. He stated Flood Control District 10 had some funds available which they used for recovery work including debris removal or piling and burning, gravel removal, and river bank repairs. He stated they hope to see legislation in the future that will provide Flood Control Districts with funding for flood control management, debris removal, and repair work.

Chairman Gibbs announced the scheduled committee work had been accomplished, so the committee will be subject to call of the chair.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16pm.

Representative Gibbs
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary