

MINUTES
SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 05, 2019

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Den Hartog, Senators Patrick, Harris, Mortimer, Lent, Bayer, Jordan, and Nelson

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Guthrie** called the meeting of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

PRESENTATION: Budget Briefing on Ag Extension Service. **Janet Jessup**, Budget Analyst, Budget and Policy Analysis Division, Legislative Services Office (LSO), began her presentation going over the Agricultural Research and Extension Service (ARES), along with its operating budget. **Ms. Jessup** briefly explained that appropriated funding provides base support for agricultural research and extension programming, and also provides leverage for additional grant and contract funding for ongoing program needs. **Ms. Jessup** also explained the ARES agency profile, detailing its four Extension Districts, 42 County Extension Offices, nine ARES centers, and 10 buildings on the University of Idaho Campus. **Ms. Jessup** briefly talked about the ARES comparative summary, explaining the agency request, full-time positions, both the general and total appropriations for fiscal year (FY) 2019, as well as the Governor's request budget. **Ms. Jessup** further explained the capital outlay of ARES, with its accompanying costs and maintenance of tools, equipment, and other items. **Ms. Jessup** also explained the various line items from FY 2019 and FY 2020, along with the benefit costs, inflationary adjustments, replacement items, 4-H Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Education, and occupancy costs.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Guthrie** asked Ms. Jessup to explain the disparity between the agency request and the Governor's recommendation on the Rock Creek Cattle Research line item. **Ms. Jessup** explained the difference between the agency request and Governor's recommendation is that the Governor's recommendation did not include the request for capital outlay and cut back a portion of the requests for operating expenditures from \$90,000 to \$45,000.

Senator Jordan asked Ms. Jessup why the actual capital outlay for FY 2018 was \$1,000,000 more than the total amount appropriated for that year. **Ms. Jessup** answered that she did not have that information, but would provide it to the Committee via email.

Senator Jordan asked Ms. Jessup how the ongoing \$500,000 per year relates as a percentage of the long-term plan for capital needs. **Ms. Jessup** answered that a long-term capital outlay plan or needs assessment has not been requested, but that she would follow up to see if that information is available.

Senator Patrick asked Ms. Jessup to explain the 1991 Case 7140 Tractor, which appeared to be purchased in 2002 for \$159,000, and how it relates to FY 2020. **Ms. Jessup** answered that \$159,000 is actually needed to replace that Case Tractor.

Chairman Guthrie asked Ms. Jessup if there is any salvage value to the older equipment. **Ms. Jessup** answered that there is trade-in value to some of the items, and that it is reflected in some of the documents that the ARES is provided.

PRESENTATION: Invasive Species Program, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA).

Celia Gould, Director, ISDA, explained that last year the ISDA capped off its tenth year of water craft inspections for the State of Idaho. In that time the ISDA has conducted more than 600,000 watercraft inspections across the state. In 2018 alone, the Invasive Species Program (ISP) inspected 110,000 watercrafts, which was a 75 percent increase from just three years prior. **Director Gould** also explained that the ISDA and ISP have had excellent partnerships over the years, from local conservation districts to county superintendents and local law enforcement. **Director Gould** stated that private citizens are essential at being the first line of defense against invasive species, and in particular, the quagga zebra mussel.

Nicolas Zurfluh, Section Manager, ISP, ISDA, explained the organization of the ISP, with its four staff members in Boise and seven staff members across the State of Idaho. **Mr. Zurfluh** stated that prior to 2018, the ISP operated on a \$1.4 million annual budget, which was funded through the ISP Sticker. The sticker is required on all watercraft used on public waters and are sold through the Idaho State Parks and Recreation. **Mr. Zurfluh** also explained the 2018 ISP funding, stating that there is \$3.1 million from the General Fund, \$1 million from a one-time federal fund, and a \$1.4 million one-time spending authority from the Invasive Species Fund. **Mr. Zurfluh** explained the Water Resource Development Act, which provides funding for the Pacific Northwest Columbia River Basin states for prevention efforts. The ISP also engages in regional cooperation and coordination efforts with organizations such as the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) and the Columbia River Basin (CRB). **Mr. Zurfluh** also explained that most of their work goes into prevention efforts where they place strategic inspection stations to inspect watercraft as they come into Idaho.

DISCUSSION: Senator Patrick asked Mr. Zurfluh how ISP is able to inspect watercraft that are shrink wrapped. **Mr. Zurfluh** answered that they are not able to remove the shrink wrap from watercraft, but they can inspect parts of the watercraft which aren't covered.

Chairman Guthrie asked Mr. Zurfluh if the majority of the inspections done are done at the port of entries. **Mr. Zurfluh** answered in the affirmative.

Senator Lent asked Mr. Zurfluh if the ISDA has created a risk analysis based on the probability that mussels could reach Idaho's waters some time in the future. **Mr. Zurfluh** answered that the ISDA has created a risk assessment wherein the probability of mussels infesting Idaho's waters could very easily happen.

Senator Lent asked what the weakest link was in the current process of preventing mussels from infesting Idaho's waters. **Mr. Zurfluh** answered that the ISDA needs more information as to what is going on in the states around Idaho, and the prevention efforts in those areas.

Senator Lent asked Mr. Zurfluh how he would address the question and concern of internal ballasts. **Mr. Zurfluh** answered that the ISDA does a standing water inspection and decontamination by hot washing the watercrafts.

Senator Lent expressed his concern that hot washing watercrafts has no effect on internal ballasts and that there is no answer for how to solve that issue. **Mr. Zurfluh** answered that the ISDA performs a standing water inspection. **Senator Lent** once again expressed his concern that there is no way to do a standing water test on a ballast tank.

Senator Bayer asked if there are any fees for performing water inspections. **Mr. Zurfluh** answered that the inspections are cost-free to watercraft owners.

Senator Mortimer asked if the ISDA can, and is currently, inspecting every single one of the watercrafts that have internal ballasts. **Mr. Zurfluh** answered that the ISDA asks the owners to turn on their pumps in order to discharge the water from the ballasts so that they can test the water for contamination. **Mr. Zurfluh** also stated that the mussels can be killed with hot water once they are attached to the watercrafts.

PRESENTATION: Performance Evaluation Measures. **Rakesh Mohan**, Director, Office of Performance Evaluation (OPE), Idaho Legislature, stated that good government is not possible without an effective accountability system. Citizens need performance reporting to hold their government accountable. **Mr. Mohan** explained that report cards, results, and benchmarks are all part of performance reporting. Performance information can be used by lawmakers in making policy and budget decisions, by program officials to monitor government programs in a systematic way, and evaluators to assess efficiency and effectiveness of government policies and programs.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

Senator Guthrie
Chair

Jacob Garner
Secretary