

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
IAC District 5 Meeting**

April 20, 2023

**Hess Pumice**

**100 Hess Drive, Malad City, Idaho**

**Attendees:**

**Bannock**  
John Crowder  
Jason Dixon  
Jennifer Clark  
Anita Hymas  
Emma Iannacone  
Kristi Davenport

**Bear Lake**  
Rex Payne

**Bingham County**  
Eric Jackson

**Oneida**  
Kathleen Atkinson  
Brian Jeppsen  
Lon Colton  
Bill Lewis

**Power**  
Sharee Sprague  
Delane Anderson

**Other**  
Rep. Rick Cheatum  
Rep. Nate Roberts  
Senator Jim Guthrie  
Rep. Dustin Manwaring  
Renee Richardson  
Amanda Steinmetz  
Josh Sorenson

**Business -**

1. **Presentation of the minutes** – the January 31, 2023 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve minutes was made and carried.
2. **Roll Call was taken**
3. **Presentation of the Treasurer’s Report** - Treasurer Jennifer Clark presented the budget. She commented that it is good that we are bringing dues as the breakfast at the January meeting would have put us in the red if we were not collecting dues. A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Atkinson; the motion carried.
4. **Presentation by Hess Pumice** - Jake Hess gave a brief presentation of the history of Hess Pumice, products that they created in the beginning, as well as, how they have changed with the times. They ship internationally and provide between 80 and 150 jobs depending on if construction is good or not.
5. **Legislative updates–**
  - Representative Manwaring, District 29, relayed that much had happened during the last session. He spoke about a portion of sales tax being directed to Property Tax Relief, school district facilities fund, and wording left out of a bill removed the primary from the May election; among other items.
  - Senator Guthrie, District 28, stated that this is his 11<sup>th</sup> year in the Senate, and previously he spent 2 years in the House. He talked about HB273 which was an initiative to overturn county/city budgets and Environmental Social Governance – ESG – and how dangerous it is for the state/people. He spoke of HB295 which details credit card companies that are tracking firearm purchases. They amended it to protect credit unions.

- Representative Rick Cheatum, District 28 House Seat A – working on how to solve issues such as what happened in Pocatello last summer when 3 city council members resigned and the code made appointing new members difficult, they are working to solve this issue. Through PERSI, they passed a bill that allows law enforcement personnel to retire with the rule of 80 and 30 days later, be rehired and continue to serve and still make PERSI donations, etc.
- Representative Nate Roberts, District 29 House Seat B - spoke to infrastructure with the freeways, broadband and how school funding that the legislature made changes to will go a long way to helping lessen the burden of property taxes because it will reduce the need for bonds and levies for schools.
- Renee Richardson, representative for Senator Risch – commented on upcoming Farm Bill per a request from Commissioner Hough. This bill will re-authorize agricultural programs for the next 5 years. The Farm Bill includes federal nutrition, conservation programs, rural development, energy, world market access, forestry, specialty crops, trade programs and more. Senator Risch is not a member of the Agricultural Committee, but still has the ability to influence the bill as extracted through amendments on the Senate floor. He will work to maintain important safety net programs that the Farm Bureau provides for Idaho farmers. He is advocating for re-authorization and improvements for the forest management programs. It is crucial for Idaho agricultural stakeholders to provide input on what federal farm policies are working and which policies need fine tuning.
- Josh Sorenson, representative for Congressman Simpson – encouraged attendees to reach out to their office if there is ever an issue with a federal entity. While they can't change the outcome, but they do have avenues to help the process along so it isn't quite so painful. Josh spoke to the issue of Waters of the United States – particularly navigable waters – becomes a very serious issue for agriculture because of how they define water. If you have a little pit next to your pivot that you insert some green tea or other product in it to help your crop, suddenly you have to obey the clean water even though you couldn't put a kayak in it and float across. The president is trying to define it as navigable. The Idaho State Attorney General is fighting against it. It is before the Supreme Court right now. Congressman Simpson is planning on pushing through the Farm Work Modernization Act through the House. Seeking a pathway to helping immigrants to come here legally without crippling our economy.

Questions were fielded by the Senators and Representatives.

6. **Randy Wheatley -**

Provided an update on water issues in Southeast Idaho. Mr. Wheatley then fielded questions by the attendees.

7. **General Discussion –**

- Power County needs IT support. Custer County and Power County may share an IT Director.
- Power County also needs a Human Resource Director. They have spoken to Bannock County about receiving some support from their HR Director. The idea of having a Regional Human Resources Director was floated among some of the counties. Oneida County ended up outsourcing a Human Resources hotline called AmeriBen. Sharee mentioned that ICRMP was doing supervisor training on April 26<sup>th</sup> and encouraged folks to attend.
- Emma Iannacone provided an update pertaining to the Eastern Idaho Forensic Pathology Center and the progress toward that effort.

- Nominations for the H. Sydney Duncombe Award were taken. Sharee Sprague nominated Commissioner Ron Funk of Power County. After providing some supporting information, the motion passed. Sharee will start the process of filling out the application.
8. **Setting next meeting date** – The next meeting will be held Thursday, July 27, 2023. The location of the new Bear Lake Courthouse was floated. The group will be updated.

**Adjourned** at 3:26 p.m.