

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
IAC District 5 Meeting**

January 31, 2023

**Riverside Hotel – Delamar Room  
2900 Chinden Ave., Boise, Idaho**

**Attendees:**

<b><u>Bannock</u></b> Jeff Hough Ernie Moser John Crowder Jason Dixon Jennifer Clark Anita Hymas Tony Manu Alex Hamilton Braeden Clayson	<b><u>Bingham County</u></b> Mark Bair Donavan Harrington Eric Jackson Jeff Gardner Pam Eckherdt  <b><u>Caribou</u></b> Jill Stoor Marty McCullough Bryce Somsen	<b><u>Oneida</u></b> Cody Brower Leigh Love Kathleen Atkinson Brian Jeppsen Lon Colton Bill Lewis Ken Eliason  <b><u>Power</u></b> Sharee Sprague Bill Lasley	<b><u>Other</u></b> Rep. Rick Cheatum Rep. Josh Wheeler Rep. Nate Roberts Senator Mark Harris Senator James Ruchti Senator Jim Guthrie Rep. Dustin Manwaring
---	--	--	---

**Pledge of Allegiance** –Pledge of Allegiance.

**Business -**

1. **Presentation of the minutes** – the November 22, 2022 minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve minutes was made and carried.
2. **Nomination of Chairman and Vice-Chairman-** Commissioner Jeff Hough was nominated and unanimously approved as the Chairman. Commissioner Delane Anderson was nominated and unanimously approved as Vice-Chairman.
3. **Introduction of Newly Elected Officials-** Newly elected officials – both state and local – were introduced to the group.
4. **Legislative update by Senator Mark Harris –**
  - Property tax relief is a big issue this year. Senator Groves and Rep Monks both have proposed ideas to make this happen.
  - JFAC wants to divide vote between Senate and House.
  - EMS services are struggling in Idaho. Funding is difficult to come by and estimates are that 7/10 EMS workers are volunteer status. Hoping to work with Health and Welfare to declare EMS essential to the State of Idaho because of critical nature of the work. Medicaid Expansion is under review this year. 145,000 participants are currently enrolled...COVID skewed numbers so results are split and are going to be difficult to determine. If Medicaid is unwound the State is looking at approximately \$78 million in costs.

5. **Legislative update by Representative Dustin Manwaring –**
  - House is positioned to vote separate on JFAC debate. JFAC has no rules in place and have not adopted rules in the interim as it is stated. Working to resolve this issue currently.
  - HB 24 Idaho Launch grant to meet this morning. Designed to direct HS kids to career, learning paths, etc. Helps identify skillset. Education is a top priority for Representative Manwaring. Education reform is major focus throughout the legislature.
  - HB 18 removal of sunset clause on workers comp for first responders. More to come under Senator Ruchti in his update.
  - Working on language that would change the burden of proof for the Board of Equalization process regarding property assessments.
  
6. **Legislative update by Senator James Ruchti –**
  - Stressing the importance of public education and the crossroads that the state faces. In 2002, \$9,000 per student. In 2020, \$6,800 per student. Currently \$9,800 per student. Difficulty hiring qualified teachers. Gov. Little was able to persuade legislature to upgrade spending and benefits for the education system. \$72 million to promote literacy. Public education in Idaho is already balanced and needs to continue to have oversight and quality checks and balances regarding public education. State is running the risk of the budget for public schools being rendered as out of control.
  
7. **Legislative update by Senator Jim Guthrie –**
  - Education has not moved the needle on the going rates for many years. It has stayed constant at around 38-40 percent. Critical juncture on education right now at the state level.
  - Abortion is major issue at state level now. People are dug in regarding its status.
  - Gun issues are big in state affairs, including the ability to carry on college campuses.
  - Water rights are critical right now and the state is not involved on the agreements on the water...again.
  
8. **Setting next meeting date –** The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 20, 2023.

**Adjourned** at 8:00 a.m.