

MINUTES

SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: March 22, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 433

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Schroeder, Vice Chairman Pearce, Senators Cameron, Burtenshaw, Williams, Brandt, Little, Stennett, Langhorst

MEMBERS ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Schroeder called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

He welcomed **Mr. Marc Brinkmeyer** from Laclede, Idaho who has been reappointed to the **Lake Pend Oreille Basin Commission**. His term is from July 24, 2005 and expiring July 24, 2008

**Mr. Brinkmeyer** is the owner of the Riley Creek Lumber Company, the largest lumber producer in Idaho. He has state of the art production facilities located in Laclede, Chilco, Moyie Springs, and Sandpoint. The annual capacity is 800 million board feet of dimension lumber sold throughout the United States. The Company also has a Land and Timber Division of approximately 52,000 acres of timberland in Washington, Idaho and Montana.

Some of Mr. Brinkmeyer's professional activities include: a member of the negotiating committee for Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports; advisory council for the School of Forestry of the University of Idaho; member of the Board of Trustees for Buena Vista University; past chairman of the Western Wood Products Association; a delegate to the European Softwood Conferences; and past president of the Intermountain Forest Industry Association.

He attended Buena Vista University and has a Bachelor Degree in Finance.

**Mr. Brinkmeyer** said he was glad to visit with the committee about what is going on in North Idaho. Some of the issues that are before the Commission is the Rock Creek Mine, milfoil, and the fishery on Lake Pend Oreille. He said it has been an interesting process and is pleased as to how the committee and his fellow commissioners have come together on the Rock Creek issue. One thing that he said he found that was interesting was a lot of talk about the Rock Creek Mine, but not much talk about the mine that is one-half mile away. The Mountain Ore Mine, not far from the Rock Creek Mine, is in the Kootenai drainage; however, they (the Commissioners) started looking into that mine as well. The two

mines are working together to solve their problems and how they relate to Idaho.

**Mr. Brinkmeyer** said that milfoil is a serious issue for Lake Pend Oreille. From a business point of view, it is pay now or pay later, and whatever they have to do to deal with it, he feels they should move as quickly as possible.

With respect to the fishery issue, he stated that everyone knows about the imbalance in Lake Pend Oreille. He said there is an economically viable fishing industry to support, as well as some commercial fishing. He wants the Commission to continue their focus on that as it is good for their economic base in North Idaho.

He said these three issues are what the Commission if focused on and they are continuing to getting organized. He also stated that it is a pleasure to serve and that he enjoys it and looks forward to serving another term.

**Senator Williams** inquired about the commercial fishing Mr. Brinkmeyer spoke of. **Mr. Brinkmeyer** said it has to do with the white fish, as that particular specie is commercially viable for restaurants.

**Chairman Schroeder** said there was a difference in the white fish caught in the lake as compared to those caught in trout streams. He asked Ms. Sharon Kiefer to explain the difference. **Ms. Kiefer** said the lake white fish is a native fish and quite bony. She also researched a question the Chairman asked a few days ago as to the oxygen and fish in Lake Pend Oreille. There is oxygen, white fish and lake trout at 1,000+ feet.

**Senator Little** asked Mr. Brinkmeyer if in his long term planning, does he foresee a significant demand through carbon credits on carbon sequestration.

**Mr. Brinkmeyer** said as they look at timber globally, there is a serious issue in Canada with the pine beetle. The epidemic there is in the millions of acres. They are finding the shelf life of timber that has been affected is much shorter than they thought. They thought it would be fifteen years, but are finding it is three to five years, and in some cases, seven. The wall of wood that they were concerned about on the Canadian side, because of this disease, that was going to come to the United States, isn't happening. The low grade component that is in this bug-killed timber is about 25-35%. Our low grade lumber in Idaho is from 3-7%. **Mr. Brinkmeyer** is concerned about the bugs coming to Idaho. He said it takes cold weather to hold them back. Fire is always an issue, with respect to the management of land. The state lands are the backbone of our forest products. Riley Creek has a strong presence in the state timber program in Idaho and Montana.

**Senator Burtenshaw** asked what the Commission is doing about milfoil and do they have a plan. **Mr. Brinkmeyer** said they are learning about it. They had a presentation about it by Bonner County and they are learning

the effective ways to eradicate it. The big concern right now is to keep it out of Priest Lake. There is some in Lake Pend Oreille and right up the road on the Clark Fork at Thompson Falls, above the dam, is a mat of milfoil that one can almost walk across. Mr. Brinkmeyer said it is just a matter of time before it starts to sluff off and go through the turbines. He stated that it is more than a Pend Oreille issue, it is the whole watershed.

**Chairman Schroeder** said there is a milfoil treatment program proposed in the Legislature and asked **Senator Keough** to respond about it.

**Senator Keough** said the milfoil proposal has been developed by the Department of Agriculture with input from across the state and it takes several different approaches to eradication and control. The biggest problems are in Lake Pend Oreille, Hayden Lake, but also potential problems across the state.

**Chairman Schroeder** thanked Mr. Brinkmeyer for appearing before the committee and said that committee consideration would be considered at the next meeting.

He then said that he would entertain a motion regarding Mr. Brent Baker's appointment. Mr. Baker appeared before the committee on Monday.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Williams** made the motion to accept the appointment of Brent Baker to the Lake Pend Oreille Basin Commission and to send it to the floor with a do pass recommendation. **Senator Brandt** seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. **Senator Keough** will be the floor sponsor.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**Chairman Schroeder** said that he wanted to make an announcement regarding next Monday's meeting; however, it is subject to change. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. in the Gold Room. There are several House bills to be heard, with H 800 to be heard last.

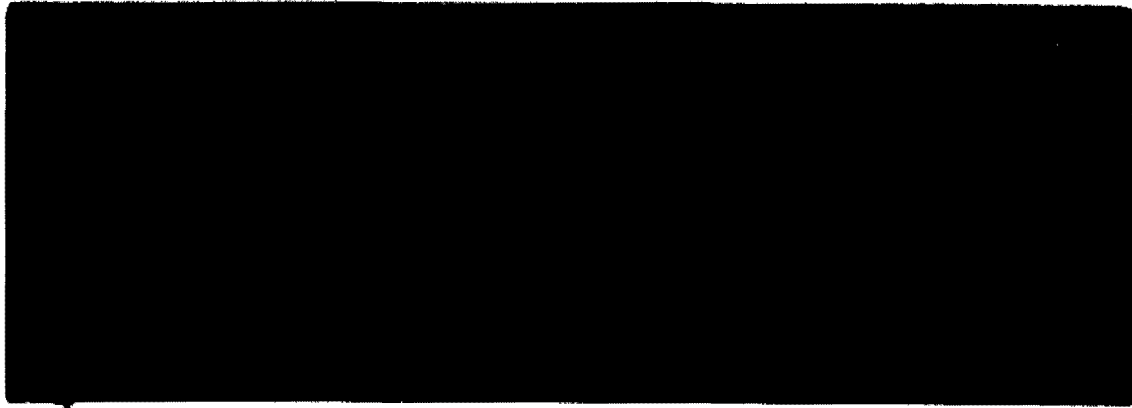
**PAGE PRESENTATION AND RECOGNITION:**

**Chairman Schroeder** asked the Committee Page, Kyle Raese, to come forward. He then presented him with a letter of recommendation and recognition, signed by all the Senators on the Committee. He also presented him with a Senate watch, then asked him to tell the committee about his future plans.

**Kyle** said that he has been accepted at Tulane University in New Orleans, has not declared a major as yet, but is looking forward to college. He has enjoyed being a Page and especially enjoyed the interaction with the Legislators and other Pages.

**REQUEST:**

**Senator Burtenshaw** said that in talking with a friend in Fish and Game, they would like for the committee to consider H 523 (point system for controlled hunts). **Chairman Schroeder** said the bill was presented and discussed at the committee meeting on Monday, March 20 and no motions were made, so the bill is still before the committee. **Senator Stennett** requested that voting be withheld until all members of the committee are present. **Chairman Schroeder** instructed the Page to locate the missing committee members.




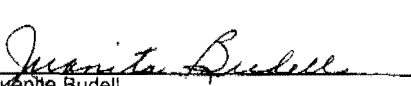
give them guidance - leaving the bill hanging does not give them guidance. She said that staff and the Commission have put a considerable amount of time in on this issue. They have a timeline for bonus point implementation. Because they are looking at contracting this out, they are hoping to have the rule set and estimated cost by July.

**Senator Cameron** had several questions regarding bonus points, but due to time constraints, all his questions were not answered and therefore, no action was taken on H 523.

**ADJOURN-  
MENT:**

**Chairman Schroeder** adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.

  
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Senator Gary Schroeder  
Chairman

  
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Juanita Budell  
Secretary

Name PLEASE PRINT	Occupation	Representing Company/Organization	Legislation Interested In	Testify Yes/No	Pro	Con
Norm Semanko	Exec. Dir.	Iowa Water Users Assoc.				
Tracey Trent	Bureau Chief	Iowa Dept F&G				
Sharon Kiefer	Leg Liaison	IDFG				
Jim Casswell	Admin	OSC				
Phil Homer	Leg. Adv.	IASA				
Marc Brinkmeyer	Riley Creek	Riley Creek	Lakes Comm			
Lynn Tomlinson	Ex. Dir.	IOWA		No		