

STOCK WATER WORKING GROUP

Monday, January 11, 2010

9:00 am

Conference Rooms A, B, and C
John A. Cherberg Building

The meeting was called to order at 9:14 am by Senator Rockefeller.

The Working Group began the meeting by reviewing the minutes from the December 2, 2009 meeting of the Stock Water Working Group meeting.

Chris Cheney moved to approve the meeting minutes from the December meeting. There was unanimous approval of the minutes.

Representative McCoy is introducing a new bill this session on stock water. The bill has been pre-filed. It establishes a limit of 5000 gallons a day for new users. For the existing users, those already in operation, the Department of Agriculture must establish by rule the average daily water use of livestock in Washington. From that information current users will take a head count of the animals they have and determine the amount of stock water that is being used on their operation. As such, current users establish the baseline. Representative McCoy did not choose to define 'stock water' in the bill.

The Working Group then discussed the Draft Report of the Stock Water Working Group. It was moved by Representative Chandler and seconded that the report be adopted and released. The motion was adopted.

Senator Rockefeller discussed his plans to prepare legislation that captures the ideas he presented at the October 2, 2009 meeting. He also distributed a memo that discussed his thoughts on the Working group's progress and the need for legislation in the 2010 session.

Representative Chandler recommended that the Working Group continue to meet after session and through the interim to discuss this issue.

Representative McCoy discussed a television special that is bringing to light the shortage of water in the west. He said that the public is becoming aware of the water shortage issue.

The livestock community expressed concern that if changes are made to water law that the industry has relied on, it will create a huge stumbling block for people making a living off livestock.

There was discussion about the water banking bill from last session.

The meeting was adjourned by Senator Rockefeller at 9:37 am.

AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS NOT AVAILABLE.