

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development

DATE: February 23, 2016

Chairman Jenkins called the meeting to order at 12:00, noon. Representatives Jenkins, Victory, Pagel, Canfield, Hoadley, and Singh were present.

Representative Victory moved that the minutes of the February 16, 2016, meeting be approved; the motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

The subcommittee was given copies of the prior week's testimony from the Michigan Association of Fairs and Expositions.

The House Fiscal Agency gave an overview of the Governor's proposed FY 2016-17 budget for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). Copies of the HFA summary documents are included in the official minutes in the House Fiscal Agency files.

In response to a question from Representative Pagel, HFA discussed the use of the Rural Development Fund.

In response to a question from Representative Singh, HFA discussed the use of Agriculture Equine Industry Development Fund in the budget.

The subcommittee then heard testimony on the Farmland preservation program from Rich Harlow, program manager, and Matt Blakely, MDARD Governmental Affairs. The department provided the subcommittee a sheet summarizing the program and a spreadsheet showing the workload and staffing associated with the program. Copies of these documents are included in the official minutes in the House Fiscal Agency files.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Rebecca Park, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau, in support of the Farmland preservation program.

Chairman Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM.