

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development

DATE: March 19, 2019

Chairman VanWoerkom called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Representatives VanWoerkom, Bollin, Albert, Green, Kennedy, Sabo, and Brixie were present.

Representative Albert moved that the minutes of the March 12, 2019 meeting be approved; the motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

The House Fiscal Agency presented an overview of the Governor's proposed FY 2019-20 budget for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). Copies of the HFA documents are included in the official minutes in the House Fiscal Agency files.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Peter Anastor, Director of MDARD's Agriculture Development Division. Copies of the Mr. Anastor's presentation are included in the official minutes in the House Fiscal Agency files. Among other things, Mr. Anastor described the Food and Agriculture Investment Fund grant program and the Governor's proposed reduction in the appropriation for FY 2019-20.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Tim Slawinski and Terry Philbeck on MDARD's Dairy Quality Assurance program. Copies of the department presentation are included in the official minutes in the House Fiscal Agency files. Among other things, the presenters discussed challenges associated with plan reviews and certification of robotic milking machines, 24-hour milking operations, well as the dairy inspection IT applications. The use of the \$1.0 million dairy assistance appropriation in the current year budget was also discussed.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Brad Deacon, MDARD Emergency Management, on the department's emergency contaminant response coordination activities, including, but not limited to PFAS. Members enquired about total state spending on PFAS related response programs.

Chair VanWoerkom adjourned the meeting at 10:15 AM without objection.