

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development

DATE: February 16, 2016

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

Representative Canfield moved that the minutes of the March 24, 2015 meeting be approved; the motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

Subcommittee heard a presentation by Jamie Clover Adams, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), on the proposed FY 2016-17 budget. A copy of the presentation is included in the official minutes in the House Fiscal Agency files.

In response to a question from Representative Jenkins, the director discussed the department's plan to assist producers with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMSA) compliance.

In response to questions from Representative Pagel, the director discussed the backlog in processing farmland preservation applications, as well as the use of tree fruit research grants.

In response to questions from Representative Singh, the director discussed long term capital needs at the Geagley laboratory.

In response to a question from Representative Hoadley, the director discussed the different focus of the rural development grant program and the value-added grant program.

In response to a question from Representative Canfield, the director discussed the number of non-compliant motor fuel quality samples and performance goals of the motor fuel testing program.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Lisa Reift and Steve Thelen, representing the Michigan Association of Fairs. They requested that the county fair grant line be restored to the FY 2016-17 budget. In response to a question from Representative Hoadley, Ms. Reift indicated that she would send the subcommittee a list of grant-funded projects. [The project list and a written copy of the testimony was subsequently delivered to the clerk and is included in the official HFA meeting file.]

Chairman Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM.