

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development

DATE: October 29, 2019

Chairman VanWoerkom called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Representatives VanWoerkom, Bollin, Albert, Green, Kennedy, and Sabo were present. Representative Brixie was excused from the meeting.

Representative Green moved that the minutes of the April 30, 2019 meeting be approved; the motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

The subcommittee heard a presentation by Heather Throne, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) on the Rural Development Fund and Rural Development Fund program. Questions and discussion followed. Copies of the department's PowerPoint presentation and other informational material are included in the official minutes maintained by the House Fiscal Agency.

The subcommittee then heard testimony by Matt Groen, representing the Michigan Cable Telecommunications Association, on programs to extend broadband service in Michigan. He discussed, in particular, a \$20.0 million grant program, Statewide Broadband, established in the DTMB budget, in Senate Bill 601 (2018), enacted as Public Act 618 of 2018. He described the program as the Connecting Michigan Grant Fund. Mr. Groen supported a single program in support of broadband expansion, rather than several competing or overlapping programs.

Questions and discussion followed.

Chair VanWoerkom announced the subcommittee meeting schedule for the following week.

Chair VanWoerkom adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM without objection.