

## MINUTES

### **HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development**

**DATE: March 9, 2017**

Chairman Victory called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Representatives Victory, Whiteford, Pagel, LaSata, Hoadley, and LaGrand were present.

Representative Hoadley moved to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2017 meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

The subcommittee heard testimony from Jim Nugent, a cherry grower from Sutton's Bay Michigan and chair of the Michigan Tree Fruit Commission. Mr. Nugent discussed the history of the Michigan Tree Fruit Commission and noted the need for funding of applied agriculture research. He noted that state funding, as well as revenue from a producer PA 232 check off program, would be used to make capital improvements at four MSU Extension research stations. Mr. Nugent provided members with a handout "Michigan Tree Fruit Commission 2016 Legislative Summary." A copy of the handout is in the official House Fiscal Agency subcommittee minutes file.

Representative Pagel indicated his preference for state funding to be shown as "ongoing" as opposed to "one-time" in the budget presentation. Representative Whiteford asked Mr. Nugent to provide the subcommittee with a work plan for the \$1.5 million budget request.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Amy Trotter, representing Michigan United Conservation Clubs. Ms. Trotter testified in support of providing additional funding for the indemnification line item and for broadening the line to include indemnification for animal disease depopulation – in addition to indemnification for depredation. She noted Chronic Wasting Disease cases near a captive cervids facility and the ongoing Bovine TB program. A copy of Ms. Trotter's testimony is in the official House Fiscal Agency subcommittee minutes file.

Chairman Victory adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM without objection.