

## MINUTES

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

**DATE: March 2, 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 February 23, 2017 meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

The subcommittee heard testimony from Steve Thelen, President, Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions. A copy of Mr. Thelen's handout is included in the official subcommittee minutes maintained by the House Fiscal Agency. Mr. Thelen spoke in support of the fair capital grant program. Mr. Thelen was joined by two members of the Michigan FFA Association, Darren Kulicamp and Karla Willcome – both from Coopersville, Michigan. The FFA students spoke in support of fairs and in favor a high school coursework in agriculture.

Subcommittee members agreed that each member's respective county fair was the best fair in the state.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Sue Bila and Chris Holman representing the Michigan Festivals and Events Association. Their testimony described participation in local fairs and expositions as a form of social equity. Copies of the handouts are included in the official minutes in the House Fiscal Agency files.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Rebecca Park, representing Michigan Farm Bureau. Ms. Park presented subcommittee members with a children's book on agriculture for Reading Month

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