

## MINUTES

### HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development

**DATE: April 16, 2019**

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

Representative Bollin moved that the minutes of the April 9, 2019 meeting be approved; the motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from representatives of the Michigan Association of Fairs and Expositions. Specifically, Ian Kempf, Manager, Eastern Michigan State Fair (Lapeer County/Imlay City), and Saree Miller, Executive Director, Allegan County Fair, testified in support of County fairs and expositions grant funding. Audrey Schapman (FFA) and Amber Spudowski (FFA) testified about their experience showing animals at fairs. A copy of the association's handout is included in the official HFA minutes.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Crystal Terrell, representing the Michigan Harness Horsemen Association, a certified horsemen's organization representing Standardbred horsemen. Ms. Terrell described challenges to Michigan horseracing, including lost wagering revenue through the widespread use of devices that allow internet wagering. Ms. Terrell supported lifting legal restrictions on advanced deposit wagering. Ms. Terrell also expressed concern over the Michigan Gaming Control Board's regulatory cost. Ms. Terrell supported the current year boilerplate directive regarding uses of the Agriculture Equine Industry Development Fund. A copy of Ms. Terrell's handout is included in the official HFA minutes.

The subcommittee's House Fiscal Agency analyst provided members with a 2017 publication, Horse Racing in Michigan – A Primer, and gave a brief overview. The House Fiscal Agency also provided a memo on the Double Up Food Bucks program,

Chair VanWoerkom adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM without objection.