

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development/Natural Resources

DATE: February 23, 2021

Chairman Allor called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Representatives Allor, Beson, Yaroch, Maddock, Borton, Hood, and C. Johnson were present.

Representative Borton moved to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting; the motion was approved without objection.

The House Fiscal Agency (HFA) provided an overview of the Governor's proposed FY 2021-22 budget for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).

The subcommittee then heard testimony from George Smith, PhD, Associate Director, MSU AgBioResearch; Associate Dean for Research, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Dr. Smith updated the subcommittee on the Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture research grant program and advocated for program funding. Dr. Smith's written testimony is included in the official HFA minutes and is posted to the [HFA website](#).

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Dan Moilanen, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD); Dr. Gerald Miller, Kent [County] Conservation District; and Elaine Brown, Clinton [County] Conservation District. The MACD described the history of local conservation districts including state budgetary support and advocated for restoration of state baseline funding. Members also received a copy of an HFA background memo on local conservation districts. Copies of the MACD presentation, and the HFA memo, are included in the official minutes available from HFA and posted to the [HFA website](#).

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Ben Schram and John Switzer of MDARD's Environmental Stewardship Division regarding MDARD programs in support of private forest land management. A copy of the MDARD presentation is included in the official minutes available from HFA and posted to the [HFA website](#).

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Jeff Stampfly, Chief of DNR's Forest Resources Division, State Forester, regarding Department of Natural Resources Forestry programs. Copies of the DNR presentation is included in the official HFA minutes and posted to the [HFA website](#).

Chair Allor adjourned the subcommittee, without objection, the time being 10:00 AM.