

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development/Natural Resources

DATE: March 1, 2022

Chair Allor called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Representatives Allor, Beson, Borton, Maddock, Hood and Johnson were present; Representative Marino was excused.

Representative Maddock moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting; the motion was approved without objection.

The subcommittee heard testimony from Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director, Gary McDowell, on the Office of Rural Development. Director McDowell discussed the \$10.0 million one-time grant funding request made in the proposed FY 2022-23 MDARD budget. The director was joined by Sylvia Renteria, MDARD Director of Finance & Budget.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Ben Schram, MDARD Forestry Assistance Program Coordinator. Mr. Schram discussed MDARD forestry assistance programs, including the \$5.4 million USDA Reforestation Grant recognized in the Governor's proposed FY 2022-23 MDARD budget.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Jason Stephens, Assistant Chief Forest Resources Division, and Scott Whitcomb, Director Office of Public Lands, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR presenters discussed DNR programs focused on management of state-own forest lands and commercial forests. They also discussed a pilot program of reforestation and carbon capture, including the sale of carbon credits, in the Pigeon River State Forest.

The MDARD and DNR presentations are included in the official minutes and are posted to the House Fiscal Agency website.

Chair Allor adjourned the subcommittee, without objection, the time being 10:30 AM.