

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development

DATE: February 25, 2020

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 February 18, 2020 meeting be approved; the motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

The subcommittee heard a presentation by Joel Johnson of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Services Agency (FAS), and Kelly Losey, USDA Conservation Specialist on USDA conservation programs. Michigan FAS Executive Director Johnson also testified regarding the market facilitation program. Copies of the USDA presentation are included in the official subcommittee meeting file and are posted on the House Fiscal Agency website.

The subcommittee then heard testimony by Jim Johnson and John Switzer of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), Environmental Stewardship Division (ESD) describing the MAEAP and CREP programs. Copies of the MDARD presentation are included in the official subcommittee meeting file and are posted on the House Fiscal Agency website.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Dr. Ron Bates, Michigan State University Extension, who described the university's partnership with the department and producers in research, education, and outreach with respect to conservation programs.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Joe Kelpinski, MDARD, ESD, MAEAP Program manager describing the history MAEAP. Copies of the MDARD presentation are included in the official subcommittee meeting file and are posted on the House Fiscal Agency website.

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