

## MINUTES

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

**DATE: March 1, 2018**

Chairman Victory called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Representatives Victory, Whiteford, Pagel, LaSata, Hoadley, and LaGrand were present.

Representative Whiteford moved to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2018 meeting. The motion carried by voice vote without objection.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from representatives of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, on the state's dairy industry and the department's dairy inspection and quality assurance program. The presentation was made by Jim Bowes, Acting Director, Food and Dairy Division; and Terry Philibeck, Deputy Director. They were joined by Barb Koeltzow, Dairy Section Manager. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is included in the official minutes at the House Fiscal Agency.

In response to questions from members, the presenters discussed labor issues affecting the dairy industry. Representative Whiteford asked whether dairy inspection fees covered the cost of the program.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Stephen Smith, representing Fairlife, LLC, a specialty milk processor and marketer; and Steve Cooper, representing Continental Select Milk – a dairy co-op. They discussed the importance of MDARD dairy program in marketing milk – milk could be unsalable and dumped without a timely MDARD inspection.

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