

## MINUTES

### **HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development/Natural Resources**

**DATE: March 23, 2021**

Vice Chair Beson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM; Chair Allor had been excused from the meeting. Representatives Beson, Yaroch, Maddock, Borton, and Hood were present/in person; Representative Johnson was in attendance through video conferencing.

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

The subcommittee then heard testimony on state support for county fairs from the following presenters: Cinda Karlik, Financial Specialist, MDARD Executive Office; Doug Burtch, representing the Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions; and Jacob DeDecker, Ph.D., State Leader, Michigan 4-H Youth Development. Copies of the MDARD PowerPoint presentation, and written testimony from presenters, are included in the official minutes maintained by the House Fiscal Agency and posted to the [House Fiscal Agency website](#).

The subcommittee then heard testimony on the Double Up Food Bucks program from Kate Krauss, Executive Director & COO, Fair Food Network. Ms. Krauss requested additional program funding to, in part, match federal grant funds awarded for the program.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Brent Wirth, CEO, Easterseals, on a program to support farmers with physical disabilities, *Agribility*. Mr. Wirth was joined by Ned Stoller, also of Easterseals. Mr. Wirth requested funding for programs in support of psychological services for farmers. Copies of the Easterseals presentation are included in the official minutes maintained by the House Fiscal Agency and posted to the [House Fiscal Agency website](#).

Rep. Beson adjourned the subcommittee, without objection, the time being 10:00 AM.