

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development

DATE: March 3, 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 25, 2020 meeting be approved; the motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from representatives of the Michigan Association of Fairs and Expositions. Specifically, Steve Thelen, Director-At-Large and Secretary, testified in support of the state grant program for fairs. He was joined by two members of the Mason FFA, Emma Barnum and Ethan Mogyoros, who testified on the importance of county fairs.

Members also received a memo from the House Fiscal Agency on state support for county fairs. A copy of the HFA memo is included in the official HFA minutes and is posted to the HFA website.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Elaine Brown, from the Clinton [County] Conservation District, and Dr. Gerald Miller, Kent [County] Conservation District, representing the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts. Ms. Brown gave a presentation on the history and activities of local conservation districts. A copy of the presentation is included in the official minutes at the House Fiscal Agency and is posted to the HFA website.

The subcommittee also heard testimony from Steven Law, Vice Chair, of the Jackson County Conservation District in support of state funding for conservation districts. A copy of Mr. Law's written testimony is included in the official minutes at the House Fiscal Agency and is posted to the HFA website. Members also received a memo from the House Fiscal Agency on state support for local conservation districts. A copy of the HFA memo is included in the official HFA minutes and is posted to the HFA website.

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