

**MINUTES**  
**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON**  
**Agriculture and Rural Development/Natural Resources**  
**DATE: March 22, 2022**

Chair Allor called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Representatives Allor, Beson, Maddock, Borton, Hood (remote) and Johnson were present. Representative Marino was absent and excused from the meeting. Representative Hood moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 meeting; the motion was approved without objection.

The subcommittee heard testimony from a coalition supporting improvements to the water withdrawal permitting process including monitoring tools and related aquifer mapping. Testimony was provided by Ms. Kelly Turner, Executive Director, Michigan Potato Industry Commission and manager of the Potato Growers of Michigan Inc. The coalition was requesting \$25.0 million to establish 500 monitoring wells and three years of data collection. Ms. Turner's testimony was supported by remote testimony from Jason Walther (Walther Farms) and Travis Horkey (Horkey Brothers Farms).

Testimony cards in support of the coalition proposal were submitted by Gregory Bird, Michigan Vegetable Council; Janna Fritz, Michigan Soybean Association; John McGhee, Michigan Valley Irrigation; Doug Nedham, Michigan Aggregates Association; and Dennis Iott, Iott Seed Farms.

The coalition provided boilerplate for inclusion in the budget. The boilerplate and a copy of Ms. Turner's presentation are included in the official HFA minutes and posted to the HFA website.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from MDARD, Agriculture Development Division Director, Jamie Zmitko-Somers on budget support for the food and agriculture industries. She spoke specifically on the governor's budget proposal for the Economic Development for Food and Agriculture Industries grant program and the Community Support Agriculture Program.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Brad Deacon, MDARD Office of Legal Affairs and Emergency Management Director on the MDARD emergency management program and the governor's budget proposal with respect to that program.

Both Ms. Zmitko-Somers and Mr. Deacon were joined by Sylvia Renteria, MDARD Director of Finance, who responded to budget-specific questions. MDARD testimony is included in the official HFA minutes 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 spoke in support of program funding. Ms. Krauss testimony is included in the official HFA minutes and posted to the House Fiscal Agency website.

Chair Allor adjourned the subcommittee, without objection, the time being 10:25 AM.

Minutes taken by William E. Hamilton, House Fiscal Agency  
Approved: April 12, 2022