

Minutes of the State Agricultural and Bioeconomy Committee

Thursday, August 27, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Room 110 Farnum Building

- Chairman Van Woerkom called the Committee to order at 9:04 a.m.
- Members Present: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason and Whitmer.
- Senator Gilbert moved to approve the minutes from August, 12th, 2009. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and approved unanimously.
- Chairman Van Woerkom invited John Laurie, with the Michigan Association of Agriscience Educators, and his guests to testify on behalf of Agriscience.
- John Laurie discussed the background of Agriscience and emphasized the interest in Agriscience by the urban programs.
- John Laurie then asked his guest Patrick Henne from Springport Public Schools to testify. Patrick described the geography of Springport and the variety of classes that are offered.
- Patrick then turned to Robert Sollman of the Sanilac Career Center. Robert described that Sanilac Career Center is a county wide career tech center that includes maple syrup production, a green house and a fish facility.
- Robert then turned to Kyle Feibig from Montague Public Schools to testify. Kyle described the Montague Agriscience Program's non-traditional enrollment. He mentioned that only two of the students in the program come from a family farming background.
- Senator Gleason asked the presenters what collaboration the program had with Michigan State University.
- The presenters noted that MSU Extension has its own responsibilities to address.
- With no more business before the committee Senator Gleason motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.