

## Minutes of the State Agricultural and Bioeconomy Committee

Thursday, June 10, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Room 110 Farnum Building

- Chairman Van Woerkom called the Committee to order at 9:01 a.m.
- Members Present: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason and Whitmer.
- Senator Gilbert moved to approve the minutes from March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010. His motion was supported by Senator Gleason and approved unanimously.  
Chairman Van Woerkom briefly described Senate Resolution 158 and invited Senator Kuipers to explain the Resolution.
- Senator Kuipers explained that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrative rules classify milk as oil and require dairy farmers to have an oil spill prevention plan. He went on to add that this was an overreach by the EPA and SR 158 would urge the EPA to change their administrative rules.
- Chairman Van Woerkom invited dairy farmers Bob Kran, Frank Kowkel and Bill Stakenas to testify on SR 158.
- Mr. Kran, Kowkel & Stakenas reiterated Senator Kuipers comments in support of SR 158.
- Matt Smego with the Michigan Farm Bureau testified in support of SR 158 explaining that direct discharge of milk is currently addressed and the new EPA administrative rule is not necessary
- Gale Miller with the Sierra Club testified in opposition to SR 158. She explained that that milk in large enough quantities can do significant damage to the environment.
- Gary Trimner with the Michigan Milk Producers Association supported SR 158 and did not wish to speak.
- Senator Gilbert moved to adopt SR 158. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:  
Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, and Gleason  
Nays: Whitmer  
Pass: none
- Chairman Van Woerkom invited Larry Kohlenberg & Terry Kohlenberg to give a presentation on their company Iron Pro.
- The presentation consisted of explaining that Iron Pro can safely upgrade the quality of water without using chemicals. They also described that their system costs less to operate than traditional water purification systems.
- With no more business before the committee Senator Gilbert motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.