

Minutes of the State Agricultural and Bioeconomy Committee

Thursday, February 11, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Room 110 Farnum Building

- Chairman Van Woerkom called the Committee to order at 9:03 a.m.
- Members Present: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason and Whitmer.
- Senator Gilbert moved to approve the minutes from February 11, 2010. His motion was supported by Senator Whitmer and approved unanimously.
- Chairman Van Woerkom invited Sen. Brown to explain SB 1030.
- Sen. Brown explained that this legislation is to amend the Renaissance Zone Act at the request of Next Diesel due to the diversification of their industry.
- Sen. Brown turned to Terry Nosan, CEO of Next Diesel, to further explain his company's request. His explanation included the use of Biodiesel other than for fuel.
- Jim McBryde with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation testified on behalf of SB 1030.
- James Clift with the Michigan Environmental Council testified in support of the concept behind SB 1030. James explained that he fully supports what Next Diesel is trying to do, but he doesn't know if this should be designated as a renewable energy facility.
- Maggie Cox with the Michigan Forest Products Council supported SB 1030 but did not wish to speak.
- Tonia Ritter from Michigan Farm Bureau supported SB 1030 but did not wish to speak.
- Senator Birkholz moved to report SB 1030 with recommendation. Her motion was supported by Senator Gleason and was approved by the following vote:
Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason & Whitmer
Neas: none
Pass: none
- Senator Birkholz moved to give SB 1030 immediate effect. Her motion was supported by Sen. Gleason and was approved by the following vote:
Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason & Whitmer
Neas: none
Pass: none
- Chairman Van Woerkom introduced Tom Coon, Director of the Michigan State University Extension.
- Mr. Coon thanked the Chair and members of the committee. He explained that MSU Extension is stepping back and looking at programs to better serve the state.
- Mr. Coon focused his presentation on measuring success by a few economic sectors: agriculture & agribusiness, health nutrition, green economy and citizen planning programs.
- With no more business before the committee Senator Birkholz motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.