The Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee met on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 in Room 112, State Capitol. The following members were present:

Vickerman, Chair
Skoe, Vice Chair
Day
Dille
Hann
Johnson, D.E.
Koering
Lourey
Murphy
Nienow
Rest
Sams
Solon
Wergin

Senator Skoe called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. and called on Senator Skoglund for S.F. 2066. This bill defines a fighting dog and makes it a gross misdemeanor. "**SEE ATTACHMENT A.**"

Quorum present at 3:15 p.m.

Senator Murphy moved the A-3 amendment. AMENDMENT PASSED.

Senator Murphy moved S.F. 2066, as amended be passed and rereferred to Crime Prevention. BILL PASSED.

Senator Murphy presented S.F. 1991, a bill clarifying current law that provides a pay differential to state employees who, as members of the National Guard or other reserves, are ordered to active military service and incur an earnings decrease as a result.

Testifying in support were: **Marybeth Theisen, St. Cloud, "See Attachment B."** and **Joan Lehmkuhl, St. Cloud, "See Attachment C."** They commented when someone is deployed – their payments do not go away. Some have very little time to prepare and they were never advised by their employer about the pay differential.

Senator Murphy moved S.F. 1991, be passed and placed on the Consent Calendar. BILL PASSED.

Senator Dille presented S.F. 1218, his resolution for ending Minnesota's feedlot war. **"SEE ATTACHMENT F."** Senator Dille moved the A-2 amendment. Senator Skoe pointed out on Page 1, line 12, after "years" insert "that"
Senator Dille incorporated that into the A-2 amendment. AMENDMENT PASSED.

Senator Dille moved S.F. 1218 be passed as amended. BILL PASSED.

Senator Lourey moved to reconsider the vote on S.F. 2066. Senator Murphy moved that S.F. 2066 be rereferred to Judiciary Committee. BILL PASSED.

Senator Dille presented S.F. 1629, a bill relating to livestock loans and zoning. **"See Attachment G."**

Senator Dille moved that A10 amendment. AMENDMENT PASSED.

People testifying in support were:

Gene Speltz, Rollingstone, MN, stated we need to focus on the next generation of family farmers.
Bruce Schmoll, Former Township Sup., Ripley Township-"See Attachments H & I."
Bill Rowekamp, Co-owner Ripley Dairy, their project is stopped for at least a year.

Joe Swedberg, Hormel, support the bill.
Charlie Meyer, Rollingston, MN, need to look at economic analysis ordinance will have on local businesses.
Mark Moenning, Dodge County, stated he has spent a lot of time on this issue and outside influences have a lot of say over what they do.
Della Schmidt, Winona Area Chamber, support the small farmer.

Senator Dille passed out handout from Land Stewardship Project – "**See Attachment J.**"

People testifying with concerns or in opposition were:

Kent Sulem, MN Association of Townships, "See Attachment K." He said on Page 5, line 27, the name needs to be changed to "MN Association of Townships" and on Page 8, line 34, change to "462-357" and line 36, change to "1g" AMENDMENT PASSED. He stated they support the bill as originally introduced. They have concerns with the A10 amendment. He said they do not want to be back here next year defending themselves.

Harlan Madsen, President, AMC, not necessarily opposed – just have concerns with one section.
Carol Lovro, Association of MN Counties, concerned with the local road improvement program.

Attachment passed out from MN Association of Cooperatives – "**Attachment L.**"
Allene Moesler, League of Women Voters, "See Attachment M."
Thom Petersen, MN Farmers Union, support the loans and RFA provisions.
John Tuma, MN Env. Partnership, indicated certain provisions that would place more detours on local officials and they do not support that.
Paul Solbocincki, Land Stewardship Project, concerned with the fact it weakens local control, and public notices.
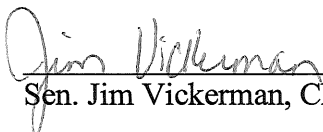
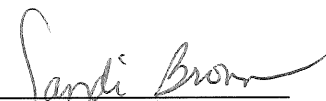Senator Lourey moved the A11 amendment. AMENDMENT PASSED.

Senator Lourey moved the A9 amendment. Senator Dille opposes this amendment. AMENDMENT DEFEATED.

Senator Dille moved S.F. 1629, as amended, be passed and sent to Environment and Natural Resources Committee. BILL PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting was taped.

_____   _____
Sen. Jim Vickerman, Chair   by/ Sandi Brown

Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

3:00 p.m. Room 112, Capitol

_**A G E N D A**_

S.F. 1991-Murphy: Active military service; state pay differential. _Passed, Consent Cal._

    Joan Lehmkuhl
    Marybeth Theisen

S.F. 2066-Skoglund: Bird and dog fighting; criminal penalties. _Amended, Passed Re-ref. to Judiciary_

    Keith Streff, Humane Agent, Animal Humane Society

S.F. 1218-Dille: Resolution; animal agriculture. _Amended, Passed_

    Gene Speltz, Rollingstone, MN
    Bruce Schmoll, Former Township Supervisor in Ripley Township
    Bill Rowekamp, Co-owner of proposed dairy in Ripley Township

S.F. 1629-Dille: Rural Finance Authority livestock loan program. _Amended Passed, Reref to Env._

    Joe Swedbert, Hormel
    Charlie Meyer, Quary Hill Dairy, Rollingstone, MN
    Mark Moenning, Family Farmer and Livestock Producer
    Troy Gilchrist, Attorney, MN Assoc. of Townships
    Kent Sulem

Opposed:
    Harlan Madsen, President, AMC
    Carol Lovro, AMC
    Allene Moesler, League of Women Voters
    Paul Sobocinski
    Alan Perish

Senate Committee Meeting Log

Committee Name: Ag., Vets & Gaming

Date: 4/6/5   Day: Wednesday   Start Time: 3:06

Agenda

3:15

Bill # (or Topic)	1991
Author	MURPHY
Short Descriptor	Active military service; state pay differential
Action(s)	~~passed and sent to consent calendar~~
	passed & sent to consent calendar

3:07

Bill # (or Topic)	2066
Author	Skogland
Short Descriptor	BIRD & DOG FIGHTING
Action(s)	passed and sent to crime prevention
	Judging

3:30

Bill # (or Topic)	1218
Author	Dille
Short Descriptor	RESOLUTION; ANIMAL AG.
Action(s)	passed and sent to the floor

4:00

Bill # (or Topic)	1629
Author	Dille
Short Descriptor	RURAL FINANCE / LIVESTOCK LOAN
Action(s)	as amended passed and sent to environment

Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	

Adjournment Time: _5:28_

Recorded by: _Krista Dworak_ Date: _4/6/5_

Received by: _____ Date: _____

Reformatted by: _____ Date: _____

Returned on (date): _____ Received by: _____