

Minnesota State Senate

Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
3:00 PM, 1150 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

Minutes

Present: Senator Aric Putnam - **Chair**, Senator Robert J. Kupec - **Vice Chair**, Senator Torrey N. Westrom - **Ranking Minority Member**, Senator Bruce D. Anderson, Senator Gary H. Dahms, Senator Gene Dornink, Senator Heather Gustafson, Senator Mary K. Kunesh, Senator Judy Seeberger

Absent: No Members Absent

Senator Aric Putnam called the meeting to order at 3:11pm

Call to Order

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Update on Nitrates in Southeast MN Water

Testifiers: Thom Petersen – Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Margaret Wagner – Fertilizer Non-Point Section Manager, MDA

S.F. 303: Senator Lang: Minnesota-made fertilizer grant program establishment and appropriation.

Testifiers: Rany Tersteeg – Beaver Creek Transport and Trojan Nutrients, LLC, Thom Petersen – Commissioner, MDA

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 303, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 882: Senator Gustafson: Soil health financial assistance program appropriation.

Testifiers: Dana Allen-Tully – Chair, Minnesota Corn Growers Association Board, Carolyn Olson – Vice President, Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, Peter Schwagerl – Prairie Point Farm, Minnesota Farmers Union, Rhyan Schicker – District Manager, Lac Qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District, Peder Kjeseth – Assistant Commissioner, MDA

Senator Gustafson moves A-1 amendment, amendment is adopted.

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 882, as amended, laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1840: Senator Kupec: Grant program appropriation to promote certain nutrient management practices.

Testifiers: Lee Helgen – Executive Director, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers, Peder Kjeseth – Assistant Commissioner, MDA

Senator Kupec makes the motion, the A-1 amendment is adopted.

Senator Kunesh moved that S.F. 1840, as amended, recommended to pass and re-referred to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1575: Senator Kupec: Biofertilizer water preservation program establishment and appropriation.

Testifiers: Cameron Henning – Commercial Agronomist, Pivot Bio

Senator Kupec moves A-2 amendment, amendment is adopted.

Senator Westrom moves A-4 Amendment, amendment is adopted.

Senator Gustafson moved that S.F. 1575, as amended, recommended to pass and re-referred to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Adjournment

*** SF 1894 has been removed from today's agenda. It will be heard on Monday, 3/10 instead***

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01pm



Senator Aric Putnam, Chair

Keely Spens, Legislative Assistant