

Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee Minutes

Representative Samantha Vang, Chair of the Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on March 21, 2024, in the Basement Hearing Room of the State Office Building.

The Committee Legislative Assistant noted the roll.

Members Present

VANG, Samantha, Chair
PURSELL, Kristi, Vice Chair
ANDERSON, Paul, Republican Lead
BURKEL, John
CHA, Ethan
FREDERICK, Luke
HANSEN, Rick
HARDER, Bobbie
JACOB, Steven
NELSON, Nathan
SENCER-MURA, Samantha
TABKE, Brad

Members Excused

REHM, Lucy

A quorum was present.

Representative Pursell moved that the minutes from March 19, 2024, be approved. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Presentation from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Presenting:

- Daniel Lofthus, State Statistician, Upper Midwest Region – MN, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

Presentation from Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

Presenting:

- Patrice Bailey, Assistant Commissioner, MDA

HF4323 (Vang) Minnesota Rural Finance Authority provisions modified.

Chair Vang moved that HF4323 be recommended to pass and re-referred to the General Register.

Chair Vang presented HF4323.

Chair Vang renewed the motion that HF4323 be recommended to pass and re-referred to the General Register. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Representative Pursell assumed the gavel at 1:48 PM.

HF4908 (Vang) Limited-resource farmer defined, farm down payment assistance grants reporting requirements modified, beginning farmer tax credit and certain grants eligibility and priority modified, and social equity applicants definition modified for purposes of cannabis licensing.

Chair Vang moved that HF4908 be laid over for consideration in an Agriculture omnibus bill.

Chair Vang moved the H4908A3 amendment. THE MOTION PREVAILED. THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

Chair Vang presented HF4908 as amended.

Testifying on HF4908 as amended:

- Levi Welbourn, member, Latino Economic Development Center, and emerging farmer
- Sean Carroll, Policy Director, Land Stewardship Project
- KaZoua Berry, Farm Director, Big River Farms
- Farhio Khalif, Executive Director, Somali American Farmers Institute
- Michael Chaney, Founder and Director, Project Sweetie Pie
- Julius Cochran, emerging farmer, Black Farmers Association

HF4908 as amended was laid over.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 PM.

Representative Samantha Vang, Chair

Jared Margolis, Committee Legislative Assistant