I. Call to Order
Chair Jake Gillen called the Agriculture and Rural Development Advisory Committee to order at 10:00 AM. Members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced themselves. Commissioner Luke Johnson made a motion to adopt the minutes from December 6, 2015. Commissioner Tom Warmka seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

II. Rural Impact County Challenge (RICC)
Colleen Landkamer, USDA Rural Development State Director, informed committee members of the Rural Impact Challenge (RICC). The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the White House Rural Council have partnered on this national initiative to help advance counties’ efforts to reduce the number of rural children and families living in poverty. More information on the program may be found at this website: [http://www.naco.org/rural-impact-county-challenge-national-effort-combat-rural-child-poverty](http://www.naco.org/rural-impact-county-challenge-national-effort-combat-rural-child-poverty). Director Landkamer also gave an overview of USDA Rural Development and how its programs could benefit counties.
III. **Role of Counties Under the New Minnesota Buffer and Soil Erosion Statutes/Rules**
John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director, and Angie Becker Kudelka, BWSR Assistant Director, provided the committee with an update on changes to the MN Buffer law and the role of counties in enforcing the buffer law. They also briefly discussed plans to start rulemaking in the fall of 2016 to address excessive soil loss.

IV. **Discussion on platform recommendations to policy committees (if any)**
There was not enough time to discuss platform ideas or recommendations.

V. **Adjourn**
A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Agriculture and Rural Development Advisory Committee Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.