MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions/Approval of Minutes
Chair Gillen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests to the Agriculture and Rural Development Advisory Committee Meeting. The pledge of allegiance was recited and members and guests introduced themselves. Commissioner Tom Warmka made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on March 5, 2015. Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg seconded the motion and it was approved by the committee.

II. Avian Influenza Update
Board of Animal Health Assistant Director, Dr. Beth Thompson, provided the committee with an update on the past, current and future outlook of the avian influenza virus in Minnesota and impacts to counties and local communities.
III. WOTUS Update
NACo Legislative Director, Deborah Cox, gave an update on the new EPA/Army Corps rule on Waters of the U.S. Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt also offered comments on the WOTUS rule on behalf of NACo, based on her work with the Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee. Ms. Cox stressed the need for counties to work with the local/regional Army Corps of Engineers to learn how they plan to implement the new rule.

IV. Implementing the New Minnesota Buffer Law
John Jaschke, Executive Director of BWSR, and Sarah Strommen, DNR Assistant Commissioner, provided an overview of the new Minnesota buffer law and how it will be implemented. Many questions were asked about the mapping process and how the new buffer law will correlate with current shoreland rules.

V. Discussion on platform recommendations to policy committees (if any)
The advisory committee ran out of time for a discussion on potential platform recommendations to policy committees, but members were encouraged to share any potential ideas with committee staff Jennifer Berquam, AMC Policy Analyst.

VI. Adjourn
Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and Commissioner Luke Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.