

APPROVED DECEMBER 15, 2016

EXHIBIT B2

MINUTES

**SENATE AND HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Meeting Jointly**

**Batesville Livestock and Forestry Research Station, 70 Experiment Station Drive
Batesville, Arkansas**

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

The Senate and House Interim Committees on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development met Wednesday, September 21, 2016, at 12:00 p.m., Batesville Livestock and Forestry Research Station, 70 Experiment Station Drive, Batesville, Arkansas.

Committee members present: Representatives Dan Douglas, Co-Chair, Charles Armstrong, David Branscum, David Hillman, Mark McElroy, Ron McNair, and James Ratliff.

Other legislator present: Senator Eddie Joe Williams.

Representative Douglas called the meeting to order.

The committee was welcomed by **Mr. Bruce Holland, Executive Director, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC), Dr. Mark Cochran, Vice President, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and Mr. Donald Hubbell, Resident Director, Batesville Livestock and Forestry Research Station.**

Mr. Brad Watkins, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture was recognized. [PowerPoint Presentation #1 – “Impact of the August 2016 Rains and Floods on Arkansas Crop Production”] and [Handout #1 – Impact of August 2016 Floods on Arkansas Crop Production]. Mr. Watkins stated many of the crops that were damaged were in or near harvest when the flooding occurred in the northeast section of the state. A large number of fields were submerged by the flooding for an extended period of time and caused an estimated \$45-\$50 million in total damages.

Mr. Rodney Luther, District Director, Cleburne County Farm Service Agency, was recognized. [PowerPoint Presentation #2 – “Disaster Programs”] and [Handout #2 – Various United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Programs]. Mr. Luther provided a detailed overview of the USDA’s disaster programs.

Representative Ratliff made motion that the committee draft a resolution to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and the Arkansas Congressional Delegation urging action is taken to provide assistance to the emergency disaster program in Arkansas. The motion was seconded by Representative McNair, and without objection, the motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Following the committee meeting, legislators participated in a bus tour of the Research Station Forestry Programs and the Batesville Wastewater Treatment Plant.