

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
March 23, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in Room 4, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Patrick Connick
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Franklin J. Foil
Representative Jerry Gisclair
Representative John E. Guinn
Representative Christopher J. Leopold, vice chairman
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Jack Montoucet
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative James K. Armes III

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Su King, legislative analyst
Tyler S. McCloud, attorney
Karen Stephens, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Larry Warino, clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. PRESENTATIONS

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Charlie Melancon, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only, gave an overview of the department, and introduced staff.

Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only and presented a video about the department. He provided a booklet, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

The Nature Conservancy, Louisiana Chapter

Keith Ouchley, The Nature Conservancy, P.O. Box 4125, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 938-8298, spoke for information only and gave an overview of the conservancy. He provided a booklet, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 278 by Representative Bagley

Representative Bishop announced that action on House Bill No. 278, which provides for the taking of outlaw quadrupeds, is voluntarily deferred.

Audubon Louisiana

Dr. Douglas Meffert, National Audubon Society, 5615 Corporate Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (504) 319-3438, spoke for information only and gave an overview of Audubon Louisiana. He provided a booklet, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, 337 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 362-9007, spoke for information only and gave an overview of the federation.

Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission

Anthony Duplechin, Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission, 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 137, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 293-7370, spoke for information only and gave an overview of the commission. He provided a booklet, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

IV. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 by Representative Thibaut

Representative Thibaut presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 9, which creates the Feral Hog Management Advisory Task Force.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide that the commissioner of agriculture appoint the member nominated by the La. Forestry Association.
- (2) Add a member as follows: One member appointed by the commissioner of agriculture from three nominations submitted by the La. Farm Bureau Federation.
- (3) Require the task force to submit an annual report by Feb. 1st of each year.
- (4) Sunset the task force on Jan. 1, 2020.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Add members as follows:

One member appointed by the governor's executive assistant on coastal activities from the staff of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

One member appointed by the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries from three nominations submitted by the Association of Levee Boards of La.

- (2) Adjust the quorum to reflect a majority of the commission members.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, 337 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 362-9007, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 at a later point in the meeting. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

House Bill No. 199 by Representative Thibaut

Representative Thibaut presented House Bill No. 199, which provides for a feral hog management program at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 199 and urged the committee not impose the proposed additional \$2 fee at this time.

Representative Connick offered an amendment to sunset the \$2 fee on or after January 1, 2020. Representative Connick offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, 337 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 362-9007, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 199.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 199 at a later point in the meeting. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 199.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 by Representative Thibaut

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 from earlier in the meeting. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to reconsider the vote by which House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 was adopted. Without objection, the motion to reconsider the vote was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered an amendment to direct the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to adequately fund the feral hog management program. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered an amendment to remove the provision specifying funding the task force from the Feral Hog Management Account. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered an amendment to direct the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, from monies appropriated to the department, to provide an additional \$360,000 to fund activities related to feral hog management, education, research, and control during FY 2016 over and above the amount expended during FY 2015. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 199 by Representative Thibaut

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 199 from earlier in the meeting. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 199.

Representative Miguez offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 199. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 199 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Chaney in the chair.

House Bill No. 178 by Representative Bishop

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 178, which recreates the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 178.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 178 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 178 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Bishop in the chair.

House Bill No. 179 by Representative White

Representative White presented House Bill No. 179, which adds "blaze pink" as an alternative to the hunter orange requirements.

Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 179.

Representative Jim Morris offered a motion to report House Bill No. 179 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 179 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: