

## **House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment**

Minutes of Meeting  
2016 Regular Session  
May 18, 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 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  
Representative Patrick Connick  
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan

**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. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 77 by Senator Thompson**

On behalf of Senator Thompson, Representative Chaney presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 77, which extends the sunset of the Lake Providence Watershed Council until December 31, 2018.

Representative Terry Brown offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 77 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 77 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, McFarland, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 388 by Senator Cortez**

Senator Cortez presented Senate Bill No. 388, which provides relative to agreements for drilling units.

Randall Songy, P.O. Drawer 3507, Lafayette, LA 70502, (337) 237-2660, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 388.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to:

- (1) Add authority to an owner who has drilled a well to notify all owners of the drilling and give the opportunity to those owners to elect to participate.
- (2) Add such notice include for wells drilled prior to the notice the actual cost, location, depth, and various data of the well.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry

Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

John Adams, Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-5540, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 388.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 388 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 388 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, 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.

**Senate Bill No. 427 by Senator Allain**

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 427, which provides for powers and duties of the commissioner of conservation.

Representative Jim Morris offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove requirement for the commissioner to make rules, regulations, and orders that are necessary to require the plugging of each dry or abandoned well and to perform site cleanup that were to include provisions for inactive wells classified as future utility.
- (2) Add exceptions from the reasonable bond with security requirement for wells exempt prior to September 1, 2015, that remain with the operator of record as of that date, wells utilizing plugging credits, and wells exempt pursuant to proposed law in House Bill 632 of the 2016 R.S.

Representative Jim Morris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 427 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 427 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, 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.

**Senate Bill No. 371 by Senator Allain**

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 371, which provides relative to the recovery of site restoration costs expended from the oilfield site restoration fund.

Kathy Wascom, Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN), 1255 Aberdeen, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-4313, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 371.

Don Briggs, Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA), P.O. Box 4069, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 388-9525, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 371.

Tyler Gray, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA), 730 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3205, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 371.

Representative Guinn offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 371 favorably, to which Representative Jim Morris objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed by a vote of 1 yeas and 14 nays. Representative Gisclair voted yea. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Foil, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, and White voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. 2 in support. 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 257 by Senator Walsworth**

Senator Walsworth presented Senate Bill No. 257, which provides relative to underground storage tanks and the Motor Fuels Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 257 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 257 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Lyons, McFarland, Montoucet, Jim Morris, and White voted yea.

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

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The committee adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: