

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2017 Regular Session  
April 26, 2017

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman  
Representative Robert E. Billiot  
Representative Patrick Connick  
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan  
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier  
Representative Jerry Gisclair  
Representative John E. Guinn  
Representative Christopher J. Leopold, vice chairman  
Representative Rodney Lyons  
Representative Tanner D. Magee  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris  
Representative Malinda B. White  
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative James K. Armes, III  
Representative Terry R. Brown  
Representative Franklin J. Foil

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**House Bill No. 389 by Representative Carmody**

Representative Carmody presented House Bill No. 389, which authorizes the assistant secretary of the office of conservation of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to regulate pipeline utilities and facilities.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to provide that the bill authorizes the commissioner of conservation to enforce the Underground Utilities and Facilities Damage Prevention (OneCall) law as it applies to pipelines. Representative Bishop 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, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Mr. Steven Giambrone, Department of Natural Resources, no address provided, (225) 342-2989, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 389.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to increase the authorized civil penalties applicable to violations under the Natural Resources and Energy Act of 1973 from \$10,000 to \$200,000 for each day a violation exists and from \$500,000 to \$2 million for a maximum for any related series of violations. Representative Bishop 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, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to report House Bill No. 389 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 389 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 144 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 144, which provides for real property interests for integrated coastal restoration projects.

Mr. Reggie Dupre, Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, no address provided, Houma, LA, (985) 568-8523, spoke in support of House Bill No. 144.

Mr. Windell Curole, Coastal Louisiana Levee Consortium, P.O. Box 158, Cut Off, LA 70345, (985) 632-7554, spoke in support of House Bill No. 144.

Mr. Mitchell Marmonde, Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, 202 Chantilly Drive, Houma, LA 70360, (985) 655-3100, spoke in support of House Bill No. 144.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide that agreements to voluntarily agree to transfer property interest be by owners with at least 75% ownership in the property.
3. Provide that proposed law does not authorize acquisition of privately owned mineral interest and the reservation of mineral interest must be as provided in present law.
4. Prohibit the transfer of causes of action to the entity acquiring property interest without extinguishing the causes of action of the prior private landowner.

Representative Zeringue 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, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Magee, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Mr. Steven Rockweller, Louisiana Sportsmen's Coalition, 1011 Gassen Street, Luling, LA 70070, (504) 621-9440, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 144.

Mr. A.J. Landry, 8291 Shrimpers Row, Dulac, LA 70353, (985) 320-0285, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 144.

Mr. A.J. Holland, 27435 Gaylord Road, Walker, LA 70785, (225) 454-5826, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 144.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 144 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 144 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Magee, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 596 by Representative Leger**

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 596, which provides relative to the contracting authority of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Bishop 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, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Magee, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to authorize the authority to re-advertise the project if no contract has been executed within the allowed 60 days. Representative Bishop 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, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Secretary Johnny Bradberry, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, no address provided, (225) 342-7669, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 596 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 596 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 596 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

*Representative Leopold in the chair.*

**House Bill No. 98 by Representative Bishop**

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 98, which repeals the provision tying the Oil Field Site Restoration Fund fee to the payment of severance tax.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

1. Remove certain citations to other laws without repealing those provisions.
2. Specify that the full production rate fee is assessed on all production from oil and gas wells except for production from those that are identified as reduced rate production wells.

Representative Zeringue 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, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Miguez offered a motion to report House Bill No. 98 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 98 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue 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.

*Representative Bishop in the chair.*

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Introduction of newly formed LNG association – Louisiana Energy Export Council (LEEA)**

Mr. Jason French, Louisiana Energy Export Association / Tellurian, no address provided, spoke for information only on the newly formed LNG association, LEEA.

*Representative Leopold in the chair.*

**State-wide update on LNG projects**

Ms. Caitlin Cain, chief executive officer, World Trade Center, no address provided, spoke for information only on the World Trade Center projects and services.

Ms. Jessica Wicket, Venture Global LNG, no address provided, spoke for information only on Venture Global LNG projects.

Representative Leopold expressed his appreciation for Venture Global LNG's revitalization of Plaquemines Parish after Hurricane Rita.

Representative Reynolds expressed his appreciation for the LNG industry in Cameron Parish.

*Representative Bishop in the chair.*

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Representative Bishop welcomed a new member, Representative Tanner Magee, to the committee.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date approved: