

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
May 17, 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 10:03 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 Terry R. Brown
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 Franklin J. Foil

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Addison Nick, clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 535 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 535, which designates and provides for critical areas of ground water concern.

Representative Bishop offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 535 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 535 was reported by substitute by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only, 8 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 52 by Representative Thibaut

Representative Thibaut presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 52, which re-establishes the False River Water Council and extends its existence until June 30, 2018.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

1. Extend rather than re-establish the council.
2. Change the termination date of the council from June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2020.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Guinn offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 52 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 52 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Leopold in the chair.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 62 by Representative Bishop

Representative Bishop presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 62, which urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Louisiana Feral Hog Management Advisory Task Force to study the use of Kaput feral hog bait.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to:

1. Change evaluation from the hog toxicant Kaput to any hog toxicant.
2. Remove the Louisiana Feral Hog Management Advisory Task Force.
3. Add that both departments should seek opportunities to cooperate for the betterment of agricultural interests and the health and diversity of wild habitats.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative White offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 62 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 62 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Representative Bishop in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 119 by Senator Ward

On behalf of Senator Ward, Mr. Kevin Hayes, Louisiana Landowners Association and Williams, Inc., 412 N. Fourth Street, Suite 328, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 268-2725, presented Senate Bill No. 119, which authorizes a surface lease between Williams, Inc. and the state land office.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 119 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 119 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, 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 Leopold in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 103 by Senator Riser

On behalf of Senator Riser, Representative Bishop presented Senate Bill No. 103, which provides for approval of rules and regulations of a game and fish commission.

Representative Leopold offered amendments to:

1. Require a public hearing prior to adoption of a rule by a game and fish commission.
2. Require the game and fish commission to publish in the Louisiana Register any rule that has not been adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and submit any such rule to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources for legislative oversight review.

Representative Leopold offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Terry Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 103 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 103 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 77 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 77, which allows the use of gill nets for taking of shad as bait fish with certain limitations.

Representative Guinn offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 77 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 77 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billiot, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 125 by Senator Thompson

On behalf of Senator Thompson, Representative Bishop presented Senate Bill No. 125, which authorizes the sale of certain property in Tensas Parish.

Mr. Hampton Grunewald, LSU AgCenter, no address provided, (225) 978-6167, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 125.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 125 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 125 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billiot, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Representative Bishop in the chair.

The committee recessed at 10:24 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Representative Zeringue in the chair.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 by Representative Ivey

On behalf of Representative Ivey, Representative Bishop presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 67, which requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the possibility of state reciprocity in the issuance of hunting and fishing licenses for certain former members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Representative White offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 132 by Senator White

Senator White presented Senate Bill No. 132, which provides an exception for portions of the Comite River, Pearl River, Tchefuncte River, Bogue Falaya River, Abita River, Amite River, and Bayou Manchac from provisions of the natural and scenic rivers program.

Representative Billiot offered amendments to:

1. Correct the name of the river in the Scenic Rivers program from the Pearl River to the West Pearl River.
2. Limit the exemption to operations conducted or contracted for by a political subdivision, the state, or the federal government.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Miguez, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Jim Morris in the chair.

Mr. Christopher Knotts, Department of Transportation and Development - Public Works and Water Resources, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Room N514, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 379-3010, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 132.

Representative Bishop in the chair.

Mr. Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 132.

Mr. Kyle Balkum, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 132.

Mr. Charles Demis, 1524 Charmaine Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70816 (225) 923-0422, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 132.

Mr. Daniel Kroes, U.S. Geological Survey, 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 253-0693, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 132.

Mr. David Brunet, 230 Queen Anne Drive, Slidell, LA 70460, (985) 768-9418, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 132.

Mr. John Lopez, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, 2045 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 70148, (504) 421-7348, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 132.

Mr. Charles Callout, Bayou Manchac Group, 39124 Camp Drive, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 366-2638, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 132.

Representative Leopold in the chair.

Ms. Karen Gautreau, The Nature Conservancy, P.O. Box 4125, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 250-6982, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 132.

Representative Bishop in the chair.

Ms. Margie Vicknair-Pray, Sierra Club and residents of St. Tammany Parish, 27400 John Lane, Lacombe, LA 70445, (985) 373-7097, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 132.

Ms. Kristi Trail, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, P.O. Box 6965, Metairie, LA 70009, (504) 836-2215, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 132.

Ms. Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, 337 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 344-6707, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 132.

Mr. Matthew Allen, Little Tchefuncte River Association, 13058 Major Lane, Folsom, LA 70437, (985) 590-1385 spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 132.

Ms. Suzanne Cohen, 70094 Nancy Road, Mandeville, LA 70471, (985) 871-8836, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 132.

Mr. James Hartwell, Gulf Restoration Network, 330 Carondelet Street, Third Floor, New Orleans, LA 70136, (504) 525-1528, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 132.

Representative Terry Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 132 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 132 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, Reynolds, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 11 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Bishop recognized former state representative Jack Montoucet, now secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and congratulated him on receiving France's Legion of Honor medal, one of the country's most prestigious awards.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date approved: