

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2018-2019 Interim  
September 26, 2018

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

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman  
Representative James K. Armes, III  
Representative Robert E. Billiot  
Representative Terry R. Brown  
Representative Patrick Connick  
Representative Christopher J. Leopold, vice chairman  
Representative Rodney Lyons  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan  
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier  
Representative Franklin J. Foil  
Representative Jerry Gisclair  
Representative John E. Guinn  
Representative Tanner D. Magee  
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris  
Representative Malinda B. White

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tyler S. McCloud, attorney  
Karen Stephens, secretary

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Representative Cameron Henry  
Representative Kirk Talbot

**III. BUSINESS**

**Status report on the Jefferson Parish Landfill operations and odor concerns**

Representative Bishop thanked everyone for coming. He stated that Representatives Henry and Talbot, although not members of the committee, were in attendance because they represented the area.

Mr. Michael Yenni, Jefferson Parish president, 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Jefferson, LA 70123, (504) 736-6406, spoke for information only. Representative Billiot thanked him for attending. Mr. Yenni, Representatives Billiot, Connick, Talbot, and Henry, Mr. Lockwood, and Mr. Conley discussed the recent history of the landfill operators.

Mr. Michael Lockwood, Jefferson Parish, 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Jefferson, LA 70123, (504) 731-4644, spoke for information only.

Mr. Keith Conley, Jefferson Parish, 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Jefferson, LA 70123, (504) 736-6403, spoke for information only.

*Representative Leopold in the chair.*

A lengthy discussion of problems at the landfill continued between Representatives Connick, Billiot, Henry, and Talbot, Mr. Conley, Mr. Lockwood, and Mr. Yenni.

Representatives Armes asked when the landfill was started and how many acres did it contain. Mr. Lockwood stated that the landfill started out as a dump before there were DEQ regulations in place, perhaps in the 1970s, and the whole site contained well over 400 acres.

*Representative Bishop in the chair.*

Representative Lyons asked for details about the operation of the previous contractor. Mr. Lockwood stated that the previous contractor had left the existing cells in poor condition and the litigation by the parish against the contractor had been settled. He also stated that a new contractor had been hired to manage the new cells but did not want to take responsibility for the maintenance of the existing cells. Representative Lyons submitted a folder containing copies of emails he had received from constituents who complained about the landfill odors, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Zeringue asked if this was the only landfill in the area. Mr. Yenni stated that it was the only landfill owned by the parish but that there were several other landfills in the area.

Jeremy Dwyer, Jefferson Parish Attorney's Office, 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Suite 701, Jefferson, LA 70123, (504) 736-6300, spoke for information only. As the parish attorney, he and Representative Henry discussed the procedure necessary to close the landfill.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), P.O. Box 4301, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-3950, spoke for information only and gave a Power Point presentation entitled "Harahan/River Ridge/Waggaman LDEQ Odor Investigation Activity", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Mike Algero, DEQ, no address provided, (985) 264-7451, spoke for information only and assisted Dr. Brown with the presentation.

*Representative Zeringue in the chair.*

Dr. Brown talked about the DEQ response to the landfill issues and stated his belief that they had identified and were on track to fix the problem. Dr. Brown and Representatives Zeringue, Talbot, and Billiot discussed DEQ's response.

*Representative Bishop in the chair.*

Representative Bishop made a formal request to Dr. Brown for copies of the 2013 reports to which Dr. Brown readily agreed.

*Representative Leopold in the chair.*

Dr. Brown, Representatives Connick, Talbot, and Billiot, and Mr. Algero discussed air monitoring for the area.

*Representative Bishop in the chair.*

Representative Bishop thanked Dr. Brown and Mr. Yenni and announced that testimony from members of the public would begin.

Mr. Gerald Herbert, Harahan / River Ridge Air Quality Facebook Group, 8351 Murelsan Avenue, Harahan, LA 70123, (202) 365-4382, spoke for information only. He provided the committee with a binder of pages detailing the landfill odor complaints from April 25, 2018, to August 17, 2018, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Lisa Karlin, 282 Orchard Street, River Ridge, LA 70123, (504) 905-7540, spoke for information only.

Ms. Hermene Anderson, representing residents of River Ridge, Harahan, and Waggaman, 124 Coventry Court, River Ridge, LA 70123, (504) 258-1966, spoke for information only.

Ms. Katherine Walker, 167 Magnolia Boulevard, Harahan, LA 70123, (504) 231-7642, spoke for information only. She provided a copy of her remarks and those of Ms. Stacie Kessler, Ms. Louise Cozad, and Ms. Debbie Warbeshale (none in attendance), Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Tim Baudier, 184 Oakland Avenue, Harahan, LA 70123, (504) 343-7762, spoke for information only.

Mr. John Riehm, representing residents of Harahan, 3 Ren Pass Avenue, Harahan, LA 70123, (504) 421-2143, spoke for information only.

Mr. John Nicholson, 117 Elaine Avenue, Harahan, LA 70123, (504) 251-7239, spoke for information only.

Mr. Paul Johnston, Jefferson Parish Councilman / District Two, Jefferson Parish, 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Jefferson, LA 70123, (225) 736-6607, spoke for information only.

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

Subsequent to this meeting: Ms. Denise Bennett, DEQ deputy secretary, emailed the 2013 reports to staff. The reports, Exhibit E, are included in the committee records.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: