

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2020 Regular Session  
March 11, 2020

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

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The committee administrative assistant called the roll.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman  
Representative Roy Daryl Adams  
Representative Tony Bacala  
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter  
Representative R. Dewith Carrier  
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr., vice chairman  
Representative Raymond J. Crews  
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel  
Representative Mary DuBuisson  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman  
Representative John R. Illg, Jr.  
Representative Frederick Douglass Jones  
Representative Timothy P. Kerner  
Representative Rodney Lyons  
Representative Tanner D. Magee  
Representative C. Denise Marcelle  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Troy D. Romero  
Representative Francis C. Thompson  
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Lance Harris  
Representative Christopher Turner

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Katie Andress, committee administrative assistant  
Stephanie Little, attorney  
Amanda Trapp, legislative analyst

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms  
Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION****House Bill No. 105 by Representative Zeringue**

The following agencies contained in House Bill No. 105 were presented and discussed:

**Department of Natural Resources**

Mr. Chris Henry, budget analyst, House Fiscal Division (HFD), 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1394, presented and discussed the department's FY 20-21 budget.

Mr. Thomas Harris, secretary, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), 601 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-8844, presented and discussed a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Secretary Harris discussed the department's efforts to address the state's orphan wells issue and certain regulatory oversight issues with Representatives Gary Carter and DuBuisson. The secretary also discussed the bonding process for orphan wells with Representative Crews.

Ms. Beverly Hodges, undersecretary, DNR, 601 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-8844, answered Representative Crews regarding the possible consolidation of certain divisions within the agency.

Secretary Harris discussed the department's utilization of funds from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) with Representative DuBuisson.

Secretary Harris explained the department's role in protecting the Barataria-Terrbonne National Estuary with Representative Kerner.

Ms. Hodges and Secretary Harris justified the department's need for excess budget authority for FY 21 to Representatives Bacala and Jones.

Secretary Harris provided to Representative Illg a breakdown of the number of active oil wells in the state.

Secretary Harris also discussed the department's cost technology services provided by the Office of Technology Services and the management of mineral leases on state property with Representative Deshotel.

### **Department of Environmental Quality**

Ms. Christina Perrault, budget analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2412, presented an overview and discussed the department's FY 21 budget.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, secretary, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), P.O. Box 4301, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-3950, addressed the committee regarding the department's functions and employee demographics.

Dr. Brown discussed the department's efforts to manage the state's waste tire program and the implementation of certain enforcement policies with Representatives Carter, Marcelle, and Thompson.

Dr. Brown, Ms. Perrault, and Ms. Theresa Delafosse, financial services administrator, DEQ, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-3865, discussed the department's federal funds, fees and self-generated revenue, and certain statutory dedications with Representatives Marcelle and Thompson. Dr. Brown also discussed the department's excess budget authority in FY 20 with Representative Marcelle.

Dr. Brown discussed air quality issues in District 78 with Representative Illg.

### ***Representative Gary Carter in the chair.***

Dr. Brown discussed the possibility of local entities purchasing equipment to shred waste tires and the status of landfill contracts with Representative Carpenter.

Dr. Brown discussed the relationship between DEQ and the Louisiana Department of Health with Representative Wheat.

Dr. Brown also discussed potential felony penalties for dumping waste tires with Representative Crews and discussed the Waste Tire Management Fund with Representative Lyons.

Dr. Brown also discussed projections in the Motor Fuels Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund and potential uses for waste tires in coastal restoration projects with Representative Jones.

### **Louisiana Workforce Commission**

Ms. Christina Perrault, budget analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2412, presented an overview and discussed the commission's FY 21 budget.

#### ***Representative Zeringue in the chair.***

Ms. Ava Dejoie, secretary, Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), 1001 North 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 453-7249, addressed the committee regarding the commissioner's functions and services. The secretary also provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Secretary Dejoie discussed certain programs and services provided to train the state's workforce with Representative Gary Carter.

Secretary Dejoie and Mr. Benny Soulier, undersecretary, LWC, 1001 North 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3110, discussed the commission's unfilled vacancies, excess budget authority in FY 19, and statutory dedications with Representative Edmonds.

Secretary Dejoie and Mr. Soulier discussed funding for the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program and explained the services provided by the Randolph Sheppard Vending Facility Program with Representative DuBuisson.

Secretary Dejoie discussed funding for programs at the Delgado River City campus with Representative Lyons. The secretary also discussed the commission's Registered Apprenticeship program with Representative Carpenter.

Secretary Dejoie discussed implementing industry based training programs for high school students with Representative Illg.

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

Mr. Chris Keaton, deputy director, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8569, presented an overview and discussed the FY 21 budget for the department.

Mr. Jack Montoucet, secretary, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (DWF), 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-2800, addressed the committee regarding the impact of potential budget reductions in FY 21 and his plan for restructuring the department.

Mr. Bryan McClinton, undersecretary, DWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-5021, presented and discussed a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Secretary Montoucet discussed oil revenue collections in the department's Conservation Trust Fund, ways to generate more revenue into the fund, and management of Louisiana's black bear population with Representative Thompson.

Mr. McClinton discussed revenue trends in the Conservation Trust Fund and Secretary Montoucet discussed the effects of legacy lawsuits involving the oil and gas industry on the Conservation Trust Fund with Representative Miguez.

Secretary Montoucet and Mr. McClinton also discussed licensing fee trends and the promotion of hunting and fishing in the state's school system with Representative Miguez.

Mr. Randy Myers, assistant secretary, DWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-2805, discussed the time frame for a hunting season for the Louisiana black bear with Representative Miguez.

Mr. McClinton discussed creating an app for hunting and fishing in Louisiana with Representative Crews.

Secretary Montoucet discussed the annual cost of weed control and Mr. Myers discussed reducing the length of certain hunting seasons with Representative Wheat.

#### **IV. BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 23 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue  
House Committee on Appropriations