

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

Minutes of Joint Meeting
2020 First Extraordinary Session
June 10, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

HOUSE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan, chairman
Representative Ryan Joseph Bourriaque, vice chairman
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

HOUSE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Rodney Lyons

SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Joseph Bouie, Jr.
Senator Patrick Connick
Senator Michael "Big Mike" Fesi
Senator Bob Hensgens
Senator Sharon Hewitt
Senator Eddie J. Lambert

SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator R. L. Bret Allain, II

HOUSE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tyler Bosworth, legislative analyst
Trinicia Bryant, committee administrative assistant

SENATE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tyler S. McCloud, attorney
Kelsey R. Rome, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, House sergeant at arms
Blaine Sylvester, House sergeant at arms
James Bullock, Senate sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION

Scott Kirkpatrick, Coast Builders Coalition, 4318 Broussard Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 929-7033, spoke for information only. Mr. Kirkpatrick spoke about coastal restoration, CPRA restoration plans, job creation, innovation, availability of resources, and the economic impact on the state of Louisiana. He provided a handout to the committee entitled "Coast Builders Coalition", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Senator Lambert inquired about the number of jobs and the economic impact of the coastal restoration field. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated he would provide the committee with requested information. Senator Lambert then stated there needs to be assurance that these matters are covered in capital outlay.

Senator Hewitt encouraged Mr. Kirkpatrick to continue to help bring jobs and build expertise in Louisiana with regard to coastal restoration work.

Representative Bourriaque stated he was proud that Louisiana had the first parish in the nation to bond out Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act funds and showed that the funds could be put into protection. He asked Mr. Kirkpatrick to assist the committee by providing any information that would be helpful in engaging the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to ensure they have the needed support from the state legislature.

Oversight of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposed rule providing for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 resident game hunting seasons; 2020-21 general and Wildlife Management Area (WMA) hunting seasons, rules, and regulations; 2021 general and WMA turkey hunting seasons, rules, and regulations; and the 2020-21 migratory bird hunting season, rules, and regulations

Representative Coussan pointed out that the committees would specifically be dealing with the part of the rule that prohibits the use of lead shot on the WMA shooting ranges.

Cole Garrett, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on the Oversight of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposed rule providing for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 resident game hunting seasons; 2020-21 general and Wildlife Management Area (WMA) hunting seasons, rules, and regulations; 2021 general and WMA turkey hunting seasons, rules, and regulations; and the 2020-21 migratory bird hunting season, rules, and regulations.

Mr. Garret provided the committee with a copy of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries summary report letter dated May 20, 2020, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Randy Myers, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-3200, spoke for information only on the commission's proposed rule.

Kenny Ribbeck, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-2942, spoke for information only on the commission's proposed rule.

Representative Zeringue, District 52, 423 Goode Street, Houma, LA 70360, (985) 876-8823, spoke in opposition to the commissions proposed rule. Representative Zeringue addressed the committee on behalf of the Congressional Sportsman's Foundation and as a member of the National Association of Sportsman's Caucuses.

Representative Riser offered a motion to vote to find the ban on the use of lead shot at the WMA shooting ranges unacceptable. The administrative assistant called the roll. The motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Deshotel, Kerner, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Senator Hengens offered a motion to vote to find the ban on the use of lead shot at the WMA shooting ranges unacceptable. The administrative assistant called the roll. The motion passed by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 yeas. Senators Hengens, Bouie, Fesi, Hewitt, and Lambert voted yea.

Representative Coussan stated that staff would prepare a letter to the commission to inform them of the committee's disapproval of the proposed rule.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 0 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 0 in support, 3 in opposition, and 0 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Presentation on plans for utilization of \$73 million in federal funding to help the state's fishing industry rebound from the severe financial losses caused by the 2019 freshwater flooding event and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic

Patrick Banks, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-2370, spoke for information only on the plans for utilization of \$73 million in federal funding to help the state's fishing industry rebound from the severe financial losses caused by the 2019 freshwater flooding event and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Banks provided the committee with the following handouts:

1. Draft copy of the Fisheries Disaster Funding - Louisiana White Paper, dated June 9, 2020, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.
2. Draft copy of the CARES Act Fisheries Funding - Louisiana White Paper, dated June 8, 2020, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Jason Froeba, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-0123, spoke for information only on the plans for utilization of \$73 million in federal funding to help the state's fishing industry rebound from the severe financial losses caused by the 2019 freshwater flooding event and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jean-Paul P. Coussan
Joint Committee on Joint Natural Resources

Date adopted: