

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 3, 2024

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

Representative Joseph A. Orgeron, vice chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Brett F. Geymann, chairman  
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant  
Representative R. Dewith Carrier  
Representative Tehmi Jahi Chassion  
Representative Kimberly Landry Coates  
Representative Jason Brian Dewitt  
Representative Timothy P. Kerner  
Representative Jacob Jules Gabriel Landry  
Representative Shane Mack  
Representative Danny McCormick  
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron, vice chairman  
Representative Neil Riser  
Representative Jerome Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative C. Travis Johnson  
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe

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

Robin Stalder, attorney  
Benjamin Westra, attorney  
Lacy Slaughter, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 296 by Representative Geymann**

On behalf of Representative Geymann, Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 296, which re-creates the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Madison Sheehan, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 296.

Bryan McLinton, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 296.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 296 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 296 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Orgeron, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 802 by Representative Dewitt**

Representative Dewitt presented House Bill No. 802, which authorizes the use of dogs to retrieve mortally wounded deer.

Representative Orgeron offered amendments to:

- (1) Clarify that a hunter may dispatch a deer if the deer is found alive.
- (2) Remove language addressing a hunter pursuing a deer during and after legal hunting hours.
- (3) Clarify that a licensed hunter or tracker pursuing mortally wounded deer can use lights and a tracking dog, except in a wildlife management area.
- (4) Clarify that a mortally wounded deer discovered alive after legal hunting hours may be dispatched.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Orgeron, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Orgeron offered amendments to allow for a licensed hunter or tracker to pursue a mortally wounded deer onto private property only if they have received verbal or written permission from the landowner. Representative Orgeron offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

*Representative Geymann in the chair.*

Cole Garrett, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 802.

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to report House Bill No. 802 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 802 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 25 by Representative Bourriaque**

Representative Bourriaque presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 25, which approves the annual state integrated coastal protection plan for Fiscal Year 2025, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board (CPRA).

Gordon Dove, CPRA, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 25 and provided information on the CPRA.

Glenn Ledet, CPRA, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, no state or zip code provided, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 25, presented a PowerPoint entitled "Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Plan, Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana", and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records. He also provided information on the CPRA.

Janice Lansing, CPRA, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 25.

Representative Jacob Landry offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 25 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 25 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 22 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 29 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 29, which reaffirms support for the annual Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Mapping Cruise conducted by Louisiana State University and the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium and memorializes Congress to provide continued funding.

Doug Daigle, LA Hypoxia Working Group, Rm 1147 Energy, Coast, Env. LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 29.

Representative Coates offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 29 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 29 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

### **House Bill No. 847 by Representative Orgeron**

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 847, which provides for the creation and use of the Marine Finfish Stock Enhancement Fund.

Randy Pausina, RFRI, 1040 Jameson Place, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 847.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 847 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 847 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 by Representative Boyer**

Representative Boyer presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 4, which suspends requirements for record keeping regarding wild-caught freshwater fish.

Cole Garrett, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Representative Coates offered amendments to restrict the suspension of commercial receipts for freshwater fish geographically to the Atchafalaya Basin only. Representative Coates offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Zeringue objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Geymann, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Mack, and McCormick voted yea. Representatives Carrier, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted nay.

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 with amendments, to which Representative Zeringue objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas, 6 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Mack, and McCormick voted yea. Representatives Carrier, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay. Representative Geymann abstained.

**House Bill No. 660 by Representative Bayham**

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 660, which names the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier after President George W. Bush.

Representative Orgeron offered amendments to add language making proposed law supersede present law (R.S. 42:267) restricting the naming of a public building in honor of a living person or any other law to the contrary. Representative Orgeron offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 660 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 660 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

Gordon Dove, CPRA, provided information on the CPRA during his discussion on House Concurrent Resolution No. 25.

Glenn Ledet, CPRA, provided information on the CPRA during his discussion on House Concurrent Resolution No. 25.

Governor's Office of Coastal Activities (GOCA)

Gordon Dove, CPRA, provided information on the GOCA during his discussion on House Concurrent Resolution No. 25.

Glenn Ledet, CPRA, provided information on the GOCA during his discussion on House Concurrent No 25.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Jacob Landry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Brett F. Geymann  
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: