

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 4, 2024

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

Representative Brett F. Geymann, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:13 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 C. Travis Johnson  
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 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  
Nancy Branch, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

Representative Geymann offered a motion to invoke the three-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 854 by Representative Geymann**

Representative Geymann presented House Bill No. 854, which provides for exemption to wildlife rehabilitation program rules.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to specify that proposed law supersedes any existing local ordinance, administrative rule, or any other provision of law to the contrary. Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to make a technical change. Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Letitia Labbie, Acadiana Wildlife, 502 Mermentau Road, Youngsville, LA 70592, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 854.

Tisha Raiford, Geaux Wild Rehab, 42440 S. Range Road, Hammond, LA 70403, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 854.

Julie Rablais, For The Birds Acadiana, 220 Cambridge Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 854.

Skye Arceneaux, Tails of Nature, 65633 Highway 1061, Kentwood, LA 70444, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 854.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report House Bill No. 854 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 854 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 854 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 516 by Representative Mack**

Representative Mack presented House Bill No. 516, which provides relative to carbon dioxide sequestration, and distributed handouts, Exhibit A, which are included in the committee records.

Representative Jacob Landry offered amendments to change the setback of storage facilities from municipalities, residences, schools, and health care facilities from two miles to 500 feet. Representative Jacob Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Coates objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Coates and Mack voted nay.

Blake Canfield, DENR, 617 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 516.

*Representative Riser in the chair.*

*Representative Geymann in the chair.*

Al Stirling, 12348 River Highlands, St. Amant, no state or zip code provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 516.

Dean Coates, Livingston Parish, 11958 River Highlands Drive, St. Amant, LA 70774, spoke in support of House Bill No. 513.

Eric Harrell, 19870 Highway 442, Walker, LA 70785, spoke in support of House Bill No. 516.

Lisa Cothern, 32011 Tiboe Plaza, Springfield, LA 70462, spoke in support of House Bill No. 516.

John Mangus, Livingston Parish District 6, 23065 Catahoula Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726, spoke in support of House Bill No. 516.

Erin Sandefur, Livingston Parish Council, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 516.

Bryan Hanks, Beta Land Services, LOGA, LABI, LMOGA, LCA, 114 King Walk, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 516.

Tommy Fauchaux, LMOGA, 730 North Street, Baton Rouge, no state or zip code provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 516.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 516 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 516 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 29 in support, 32 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 516 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 280 by Representative Coates**

Representative Coates presented House Bill No. 280, which prohibits the permitting of certain structures on Lake Maurepas and Lake Ponchartrain.

*Representative Riser in the chair.*

Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, no street provided, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

Erin Sandefur, Livingston Parish Council, Government Boulevard, Livingston, LA, no zip code provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

Dean Coates, Livingston Parish, 11958 River Highlands, St. Amant, LA 70774, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

Ricky Goff, 32774 Kirkwood Drive, Walker, LA 70785, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.  
Randy Posey, Save Our Lake, 26246 Black Lake Club Road, Maurepas, LA 70449, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

Al Stirling, 12348 River Highlands, St. Amant, no state or zip code provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

Josh Atwell, His Children, 9100 Redman Lake Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip code provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

John Albanese, The People of the Lake, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

Laurie G. Sagnibene, 32884 Cypress Drive, Springfield, LA 70462, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

Joseph Erdey, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

Caleb Atwell, 32695 Cypress Drive, Springfield, no state or zip code provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

John Mangus, Livingston Parish District 6, 23065 Catahoula Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

Tommy Faucheux, LMOGA, 730 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip code provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 280.

Mike Moncla, Louisiana Oil & Gas Association, 1331 Lakeridge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 280, and distributed a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Coates offered a motion to report House Bill No. 280 favorably, to which Representative Riser objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas, 7 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carrier, Coates, Mack, and McCormick voted yea. Representatives Bryant, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay. Representative Geymann abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 36 in support, 35 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 280 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

*Representative Geymann in the chair.*

### **House Bill No. 289 by Representative Mack**

Representative Mack presented House Bill No. 289, which prohibits Class VI injection wells in certain lakes with outstanding scenic and recreational significance to the state, and distributed handouts, Exhibit C, which are included in the committee records.

John Albanese, no street provided, Killian, LA, no zip code provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 289.

Ricky Goff, Livingston Parish, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 289.

Tommy Fauchaux, LMOGA, 730 North Street, Baton Rouge, no state or zip code provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 289.

Mike Moncla, Louisiana Oil & Gas Association, 1331 Lakeridge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 289.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 289 favorably, to which Representative Orgeron objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas, 7 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Coates, Mack, and McCormick voted yea. Representatives Carrier, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay. Representative Geymann abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 37 in support, 34 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 289 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 389 by Representative Mack**

Representative Mack presented House Bill No. 389, which places a moratorium on carbon dioxide sequestration below Lake Maurepas and the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

Cole Garrett, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 389.

Chris McLindon, LSU Center for Energy Studies, LSU Energy, Coast, Environment Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 389.

John Albanese, no street provided, Killian, LA, no zip code provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 389.

Lauren Hadden, LABI, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 389.

Tommy Fauchaux, LMOGA, 730 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 389.

Patrick Riley, Louisiana Chemical Association, 301 Main Street, Suite 2040, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 389.

Bryan Hanks, BETA Land Services; LOGA; LABI; LMOGA; LCA, 114 Kings Walk, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 389.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 389 favorably, to which Representative Jacob Landry objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas, 8 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Coates, Mack, and McCormick voted yea. Representatives Bryant, Carrier, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay. Representative Geymann abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 40 in support, 32 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 389 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

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

There was no other business.

#### **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 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: