

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 24, 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 9:32 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Brett F. Geymann, chairman  
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 Marcus Anthony Bryant  
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 Concurrent Resolution No. 49 by Representative Thompson**

Representative Geymann announced that action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 49, which commends and expresses support for the cooperative conservation and management work being carried out by agricultural conservation partnerships in the state, was voluntarily deferred.

**Senate Bill No. 247 by Senator Cathey**

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 247, which provides for the Motor Fuels Underground Storage Tank Trust Dedicated Fund Account.

Theresa Delafosse, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 247.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 247 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 247 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.

**Senate Bill No. 285 by Senator Cathey**

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 285, which provides relative to brine.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 285 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 285 was reported favorably 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: 9 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

**House Bill No. 474 by Representative Coates**

Representative Coates presented House Bill No. 474, which prohibits the use of natural wetlands as tertiary treatment in waste water assimilation projects.

Representative Dewitt offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Remove prohibition against tertiary treatment of wastewater in wetlands of the state.
- (3) Add a requirement that wetland assimilation project permit holders post warning signs regarding treated wastewater discharge.
- (4) Require signs to state "Warning: Treated Wastewater Discharge".

Representative Dewitt 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, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Blake Canfield, DENR, 617 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 474.

Kimberly Cortis, DEQ, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 474.

Matthew Allen, Northshore Riverwatch, 13058 Major Lane, Folsom, LA 70437, spoke in support of House Bill No. 474.

Paulette Bailey Wilson, LMA, 10191 Patriot Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 474.

Walter Comeaux, City of Broussard, P.O. Box 452, Broussard, LA 70518, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 474.

Lacy Landrum, City of Hammond, 43 Pine Square, Hammond, LA 70401, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 474.

Representative Kerner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 474 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 474 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 7 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. 474 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

#### IV. OTHER BUSINESS

**Consideration and approval of Site Code 7-08-002 – LDH site, Bossier City, Bossier Parish: 37.921 acre tract of vacant land (formerly part of Northwest Support & Services Center), appraised at \$1,950,000 as of 3.14.2024**

Cheston Hill, DOA/OSL, 121 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Site Code 7-08-002 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to approve Site Code 7-08-002. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yeas.

**Consideration and approval of Site Code 6-58-008 – LDH site, Leesville, Vernon Parish: 9.7 acre tract of land with a 60,575 square foot special purpose building (formerly Leesville Residential & Employment Services), appraised at \$705,000 as of 6.12.2020**

Cheston Hill, DOA/OSL, 121 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Site Code 6-58-008 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to approve Site Code 6-58-008. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yeas.

**Consideration and approval of Site Code 7-60-017 – LDWF site, Doyline, Webster Parish: 2.5 acre tract of land with a 2,940 square foot building (formerly Bistineau Fisheries Laboratory), appraised at \$115,000 as of 4.11.2024**

Cheston Hill, DOA/OSL, 121 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Site Code 7-60-017 and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to approve Site Code 7-60-017. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yeas.

## **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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: