

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Organizational Meeting
2016 First Extraordinary Session
March 1, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the organizational meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. in Room 4, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Jerry Gisclair
Representative John E. Guinn
Representative Christopher J. Leopold, vice chairman
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Jack Montoucet

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Su King, legislative analyst
Tyler S. McCloud, attorney
Karen Stephens, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Myrtis M. Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. OPENING REMARKS

Chairman

Representative Bishop welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Vice Chairman

Representative Leopold welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introduction of members and staff

Those members present at the beginning of the meeting introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their respective districts and legislative service. Members of staff, Karen Stephens, Tyler McCloud, and Su King, introduced themselves and welcomed the new and returning members to the committee.

IV. DISCUSSION OF ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Protocol and purpose of committee

Su King, committee analyst, went over a few housekeeping items, including the use of the microphone at each member's place on the dais and their audio sensitivity, and how the cameras in the room work. She reminded the members that frequently the witnesses at the table are not lobbyists, but someone's constituents, and that all witnesses should be treated with respect and kindness.

Ms. King explained that the committee hearing is the public's only access into the legislative process, and that the purpose of the committee is to screen and filter legislation for the House both through the development of subject matter expertise, and by stopping bad or unnecessary legislation.

Jurisdiction, rules, and procedures

Tyler McCloud, committee attorney, explained that the committee's jurisdiction, as outlined in House Rule No. 6.6(M)(1) - (20), includes all legislative instruments, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects: natural resources generally; conservation; environmental control and regulation generally; land pollution; pollution of air, water, and land and

environmental control generally; air quality; wildlife and fisheries; mines and minerals; hunting, fishing, and recreational boating; public lands; mineral resources of the public lands; public and geological surveys; laws regulating minerals and mining; tidelands; accretion, alluvion, and dereliction of public and private lands; owners of minerals and mineral lands; materials or substances which travel through pipelines; hazardous waste regulation; solid waste regulation; and laws regulating clean water, drinking water, and ground water.

Mr. McCloud explained the procedure followed by the committee when hearing legislative instruments and the motions that are typically made in committee. He listed the various departments over which the committee has oversight: Department of Natural Resources and the office of conservation within that department; Department of Environmental Quality; Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; State Police on occasion, in reference to the storage of hazardous materials.

Mr. McCloud stated that the sale of state lands was accomplished either through passage of a bill or approval of a public bid through the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), and explained the committee's role in the flow of proposed rules from the departments through the APA. He stated that coastal restoration efforts would comprise a large portion of the committee's time and attention.

Consideration and adoption of committee rules

Tyler McCloud, committee attorney, presented the committee rules and explained a few of them, particularly Rule VI, relative to the preparation of amendments.

Representative Leopold offered a motion to adopt the committee rules. Without an objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and zero nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Approval of 2015 Regular Session Meeting Minutes dated April 22, April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20, and May 27

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to certify the committee acknowledges the minutes were prepared in accordance with house rules. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

V. PRESENTATIONS

Consideration of certification as a national land conservation organization under the provisions of R.S. 31:149

Land Trust for Louisiana

Jim Devitt, Department of Natural Resources, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2614, spoke for information only on the Land Trust for Louisiana and the consideration of certification.

Dr. Jay Addison, Land Trust for Louisiana, P.O. Box 1636, Hammond, LA 70404, (504) 628-5245, spoke for information only on the organization and the consideration of certification.

Representative Leopold offered a motion to certify the Land Trust for Louisiana as a national land conservation organization. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Introduction of departments:

Department of Natural Resources

Tom Harris, Department of Natural Resources, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2710, spoke for information only.

Representative Leopold in the chair.

Office of Conservation

Richard Iyeoub, Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation, LaSalle Building, 9th Floor, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, LA, (225) 342-5500, introduced the staff members present: Gary Ross, Daniel Henry, Brent Campbell, and Steve Giambrone, and spoke for information only.

Representative Bishop in the chair.

Introduction of associated stakeholders:

Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA)

Chris John, LMOGA, 730 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3205, narrated a PowerPoint presentation and spoke for information only.

Representative Jim Morris in the chair.

Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA)

Don Briggs, LOGA, P.O. Box 4069, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 388-9825, spoke for information only.

Representative Bishop in the chair.

Discussion of effects of oil prices and regulation on small oil and gas operators

Representative Jim Morris took a seat at the witness table to offer testimony on the effects of oil prices and regulation on small oil and gas operators.

Michael Hale, Frank Hale Oil, 8475, LA Hwy. 170, Vivian, LA 71082, (318) 208-2898, spoke for information only.

James Kyser, 363 John Turner Road, Monroe, LA 71203, (318) 663-0665, spoke for information only.

Jimmy Dempsey, Dempsey Oil, 205 S. Spruce Street, Vivian, LA 71082, (318) 375-2375, spoke for information only.

Chris Allen, Allen Brothers, P.O. Box 248, Oil City, LA 71061, (318) 995-6621, spoke for information only.

Boe Caldwell, Caldwell Operators, Vivian, LA 71082, (318) 375-5135, spoke for information only.

Steve McLaurin, McLaurin Oil Company, 9696 Kendrick Road, Vivian, LA 71082, (318) 375-4974, spoke for information only.

Danny McCormick, M&M Oil Company, (no address provided), Oil City, LA, (318) 465-7689, spoke for information only.

Mark King, King Drilling Company, P.O. Box 369, Tullos, LA 71479, (318) 680-7837, spoke for information only.

Melba King, representing Sonny King, P.O. Box 368, Tullos, LA 71479, (318) 534-6165, spoke for information only.

Eugene DuCharme, Gemini Exploration, Inc., 2601 Centenary Boulevard, Shreveport, LA 71104, (318) 469-8198, spoke for information only.

Dirk Bentley, Bentley Gas Production, 10699 Shady Rest Road, Oil City, LA 71061, (318) 995-0607, spoke for information only.

John Adams, Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7889, spoke for information only.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 for information only. 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Bishop thanked all in attendance for their contribution to the meeting. There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: