

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2017-2018 Interim  
November 8, 2017

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

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman  
Representative Terry R. Brown  
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier  
Representative Franklin J. Foil  
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 H. Eugene Reynolds

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative James K. Armes, III  
Representative Robert E. Billiot  
Representative Patrick Connick  
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan  
Representative Jerry Gisclair  
Representative Tanner D. Magee  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Danny Leming, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION**

**Oversight over the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved rule that would add a non-native species of sturgeon to the approved Domesticated Aquatic Organisms list thereby allowing an aquaculture operation for non-native sturgeon in Louisiana.**

Ms. Su King, legislative analyst, gave the members an overview of the Administrative Procedure Act and outlined the committee's responsibility for oversight.

Mr. Bobby Reed, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (337) 765-2331, spoke for information only on the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved rule and gave a PowerPoint presentation on native sturgeon.

Mr. Patrick Banks, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225) 765-2370, spoke for information only on the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved rule.

Mr. Michael St. Martin, sterlet sturgeon permit issuance, 3495 Bayou Black Drive, Houma, LA 70360, (985) 860-8181, spoke in support of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved rule.

Ms. Elizabeth Knecht, Ledet's Louisiana Seafood, LLC, 1814 Williams Avenue, Natchitoches, LA 71457, (318) 332-6096, spoke for information only on the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved rule.

Ms. Karen Gautreaux, The Nature Conservancy, P.O. Box 4125, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 250-6982, spoke in opposition to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved rule.

Ms. Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, 337 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 344-6707, spoke in opposition to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved rule.

Ms. King read a letter addressed to Mr. Chad Courville, chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, requesting that the commission postpone implementation of rules adding Sterlet Sturgeon to the approved list of "Domesticated Aquatic Organisms" and postpone implementing "Rules and Regulations on Importation, Culture, Disposal and Sale of Sterlet Sturgeon in Louisiana", which Representative Bishop wrote on behalf of the committee. The letter and attachments are included as Exhibit A in the committee records.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to approve the letter to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Without objection, the motion to approve the letter passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Terry Brown, DeVillier, Foil, Guinn, Leopold, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, and Reynolds voted yea.

*Representative Leopold in the chair.*

**Briefing on the impacts and extent of the problems caused by Giant Salvinia throughout the state.**

Mr. Bobby Reed, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (337) 765-2331, spoke for information only.

Mr. Patrick Banks, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225) 765-2370, spoke for information only.

**Briefing on the impacts and extent of the die-back of Roseau cane in the coastal areas of the state.**

Mr. Daniel Todd Baker, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (337) 765-2814, spoke for information only and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the die-back of Roseau cane in the coastal areas.

Dr. Rodrigo Diaz, LSU AgCenter, 402 Life Sciences Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, (225) 570-1835 spoke for information only on the die-back of Roseau cane in the coastal areas.

Representative Leopold read a statement relating to the die-back of roseau cane and the spread of giant salvinia, which is included as Exhibit B in the committee records.

Mr. Hampton Grunewald, LSU AgCenter, (no address provided), (225) 978-6167, spoke for information only on the die-back of Roseau cane in the coastal areas.

Mr. Robert Perez, Port Falls Fishing Refuge, 313 Safety Road, Houma, LA 70363, (985) 857-9275, spoke for information only on the die-back of Roseau cane in the coastal areas.

Captain Mike Miller, Associated Branch Pilots, (no address provided), Pilottown, LA, spoke for information only on the die-back of Roseau cane in the coastal areas.

Mr. Sean Duffy, Big River Coalition, 5600 Janice Avenue, Kenner, LA 70065, (504) 338-3165, spoke for information only on the die-back of Roseau cane in the coastal areas.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: