

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 18, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 8:53 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan, chairman
Representative Ryan Bourriaque, vice chairman
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Brett F. Geymann

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tyler Bosworth, legislative analyst
Robin Stalder, attorney
Trinicia Bryant, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 by Representative White**

Representative White presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 70, which urges and requests the lieutenant governor, the secretary of state, the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, and local government associations to assist in the promotion and establishment of programs for the collection and recycling of campaign signs.

Mr. Trey Bishop, son of Representative Stuart Bishop, District 43, no card provided, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 70. He also presented a PowerPoint entitled "We Want You to Recycle Your Political Signs", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. R. Kyle Ardoin, Secretary of State, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 70.

Representative Mincey offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 4 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 88 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Resolution No. 88, which urges and requests the commissioner of conservation to adopt any necessary rules and regulations to limit the withdrawal of groundwater by commercial or industrial facilities to five million gallons of groundwater per day.

Mr. Andrew Jacoby, Green Army, 2222 Esplanade Avenue, Apt. A, New Orleans, Louisiana 70119, (847) 224-0386, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 88.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 88 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 88 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9, which approves the annual state integrated coastal protection plan for Fiscal Year 2022, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

Mr. Bren Haase, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, (225) 342-2179, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9. Mr. Haase provided the committee with a copy of the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Plan, Exhibit B, and presented a PowerPoint entitled "CPRA Fiscal Year 2022 Plan, Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana", Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Chip Kline, CPRA, 1051 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70820, (225) 342-4367, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

Mr. Nicholas Cali, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West, 7001 River Road, Marrero, Louisiana 70072, (504) 340-0318, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 favorably, to which Representative Cormier objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Cormier voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 2 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 28 by Senator Henry

On behalf of Senator Henry, Mr. Randy Haynie, board member of OGDEN Museum of Southern Art, 1465 Ted Dunham Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, (225) 336-4143, presented Senate Bill No. 28, which authorizes the transfer of certain state property in Orleans Parish.

Mr. Charles Urstadt, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, 925 Camp Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (305) 498-0077, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 28 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 28 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, DeVillier, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 122 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 122, which provides for monies collected from enforcement actions of coastal use permits.

Mr. Archie Chaisson, Lafourche Parish Government, 402 Green Street, Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301, (985) 637-5245, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 122.

Mr. John Carmouche, Coastal Parishes, 300 Highland Crossing, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810, (225) 907-8782, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 122.

Representative Kerner offered amendments to exclude monies collected or any other relief arising from any action or claim asserted on or before June 1, 2021. Representative Kerner offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative DeVillier objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Kerner, Landry, Riser, and Wheat voted yea. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Mincey, Orgeron, Romero, and Schamerhorn voted nay.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 122 favorably, to which Representative Kerner objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 122 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representatives Cormier, Kerner, and Landry voted nay. Representative Coussan abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 71 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 71, which urges and requests the administration of President Biden to end its pause on offshore oil and gas leasing.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 71 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 71 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Cheston Hill, Office of State Lands, no address provided, (225) 219-9454, spoke for information only on the approval of Site Code: 2-17-015, LDH site, Champion Office Complex at 4615 Government St., Baton Rouge, eight (8) acres, two buildings, both two stories, with a total of 59,189 square feet of gross building area, 242 parking spaces, appraised at \$4.255 million dollars as of January 24, 2019; reappraised at \$3.38 million as of April 30, 2021. Mr. Hill provided the committee with the Land Management Evaluation Report, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Les Rosso, Jr., Office of State Lands, no address provided, (225) 342-4602, spoke for information only on the approval of Site Code: 2-17-015, LDH site, Champion Office Complex at 4615 Government St., Baton Rouge, eight (8) acres, two buildings, both two stories, with a total of 59,189 square feet of gross building area, 242 parking spaces, appraised at \$4.255 million dollars as of January 24, 2019; reappraised at \$3.38 million as of April 30, 2021.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve Site Code: 2-17-015, LDH site, Champion Office Complex at 4615 Government St., Baton Rouge, eight (8) acres, two buildings, both two stories, with a total of 59,189 square feet of gross building area, 242 parking spaces, appraised at \$4.255 million dollars as of January 24, 2019; reappraised at \$3.38 million as of April 30, 2021. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Cormier offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jean-Paul P. Coussan
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: