

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
April 20, 2023

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 9:34 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 Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Scott McKnight
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Ryan Bourriaque, vice chairman
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Troy D. Romero

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robin Stalder, attorney
Benjamin Westra, attorney
Lacy Slaughter, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 332 by Representative Robby Carter**

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 332, which provides for the transfer of certain state property in Tangipahoa Parish.

Mr. Cheston Hill, Office of State Lands, division of administration, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip code provided, (225) 219-9454, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 332.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report House Bill No. 332 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 332 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 124 by Representative Bourriague

On behalf of Representative Bourriague, Representative Coussan presented House Bill No. 124, which authorizes the sale or exchange of sixteenth section state lands by the Cameron Parish School Board.

Mr. Cheston Hill, Office of State Lands, division of administration, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip code provided, (225) 219-9454, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 124.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 124 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 124 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 350 by Representative Geymann

On behalf of Representative Geymann, Representative Coussan presented House Bill No. 350, which authorizes the exchange of certain state property in Calcasieu Parish.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to:

- (1) Add authorization for the commissioner of administration and the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development to transfer property in St. Tammany Parish to the St. Tammany Parish Government.
- (2) Provide a property description.
- (3) Make technical changes.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 350 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 350 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not wish to speak are as follows: 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 591 by Representative Fisher

Representative Fisher presented House Bill No. 591, which provides relative to fee exemptions for certain solar power generation facilities.

Mr. Eric Stocker, The AES Corporation, 14525 Abbey Lane, Bath, MI 48808, (303) 862-2147, spoke in support of House Bill No. 591.

Representative Wheat offered a motion to report House Bill No. 591 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 591 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 535 by Representative Coussan

Representative Coussan presented House Bill No. 535, which provides relative to use of monies in the Waste Tire Management Dedicated Fund Account.

Ms. Theresa Delafosse, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 N. 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip provided, (225) 219-3322, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Lewis Donlon, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 N. 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip provided, (225) 219-3388, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 535.

Ms. Courtney Burdette, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 N. 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip provided, (225) 219-3985, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 535.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report House Bill No. 535 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 535 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Hilferty, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 3, which exempts users of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge from the requirement of completion of a self-clearing permit.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Hilferty, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

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

The committee stood at ease at 10:07 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

House Bill No. 571 by Representative Schexnayder

Representative Schexnayder presented House Bill No. 571, which provides relative to carbon capture and sequestration.

Mr. Cole Garrett, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, 70808, no phone number provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 571.

Mr. Blake Canfield, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, 617 N. 3rd Street, 12th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2710, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 571.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to:

- (1) Require that notice be provided to parish "governing authorities" rather than parish "chief executive officers".
- (2) Specify particular parish officials that may be sent notice by electronic mail.
- (3) Add an overarching provision regarding notice to affected parishes by providing that any time notice is required under the Louisiana Geologic Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide Act, notice must also be provided to affected parishes.
- (4) Restores a provision of present law which states that the state does not assume liability for a completed storage facility by assuming ownership following the issuance of a certificate of completion.
- (5) Make technical changes.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Hilferty, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Speaker Pro Tempore Magee in the chair.

Chairman Coussan in the chair.

Representative Mincey offered amendments to:

- (1) Add a new section of law that requires applicants for Class VI injection wells to submit an environmental analysis for the purpose of satisfying the public trustee requirements of Article IX, Section 1 of the Louisiana Constitution.
- (2) Add a new section of law that requires quarterly reporting of certain data by owners and operators of Class VI injection wells, reporting within twenty-four hours of certain triggers, and record keeping per administrative regulation.
- (3) Make technical changes.

Representative Mincey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Fisher, Hilferty, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to:

- (1) Add exceptions to the application of liability release provisions for owners and operators that are issued a certificate of completion of injection for contractual obligations, criminal liability, where an operator is responsible for fluid migration that endangers an underground source of drinking water, and where an operator provides deficient or erroneous information material to a decision on site closure or the issuance of a certificate of completion.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Fisher, Hilferty, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Jacob Dillehay, Allen Parish Police Jury, no address provided, no phone number provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 571.

Representative Kerner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 571 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 571 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Fisher, Hilferty, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 2 in opposition. 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: 1 in opposition, and 2 in which stance is undetermined. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration and approval of Site Code 4-23-018 – LDWF site, New Iberia, Iberia Parish: 3.2 acre tract with an office building and work shop (Wildlife and Fisheries Field Office), \$525,000 appraised 12.6.2018

Mr. Cheston Hill, Office of State Lands, division of administration, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip code provided, (225) 219-9454, spoke for information only on Site Code 4-23-018 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Butler offered a motion to approve Site Code 4-23-018. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Consideration and approval of Site Code 2-63-001 – DCRT site, Laurel Hill, West Feliciana Parish: 1.088 acre tract with a 2,140 square foot special purpose building (tourist information center), \$100,000 appraised 8.18.2022

Mr. Cheston Hill, Office of State Lands, division of administration, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip code provided, (225) 219-9454, spoke for information only on Site Code 2-63-001 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Butler offered a motion to approve Site Code 2-63-001. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Consideration and approval of Site Code 6-05-026 – DCRT site, Marksville, Avoyelles Parish: 1.506 acre tract with a 1,504 square foot residential building (local park manager residence), \$65,000 appraised 4.27.2017

Mr. Cheston Hill, Office of State Lands, division of administration, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip code provided, (225) 219-9454, spoke for information only on Site Code 6-05-026 and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Butler offered a motion to approve Site Code 6-05-026. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Consideration and approval of Site Code 4-20-004 – DCRT site, Ville Platte, Evangeline Parish: 1.3 acre tract with a 2,060 square foot residential building (local park manager residence), \$250,000 appraised 3.8.2023

Mr. Cheston Hill, Office of State Lands, division of administration, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip code provided, (225) 219-9454, spoke for information only on Site Code 4-20-004 and provided a handout, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Butler offered a motion to approve Site Code 4-20-004. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, McKnight, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Fisher, Hilferty, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: