



State of Louisiana Drinking Water Protection Program

October 2012

LDEQ

Issue 16



City of Baker Earns Awards for Water Conservation

In August 2012, the City of Baker received the Louisiana Municipal Association's Best in Show Award for exceptional merit in community improvements for 2011 followed by the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission's 2012 Leo Bankston Ground Water Conservation Award. The awards were the result of the installation of the first residential water meters in the city. Mayor Harold Rideau, with approval from the City Council, submitted an application and subsequently the city was awarded \$3.3 million through LDEQ and LDHH as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This funding was used to install 5,800 new radio-reporting meters at homes and businesses. Since the completion of this project, users are being charged for actual water use rather than a monthly flat rate of \$14.



The new metering system has reduced groundwater pumpage by 21.4 million gallons per month at a savings of more than \$32,000 per month.

The city's mayor, city council, engineers and advisors launched a public education and community involvement campaign in order to publicize the benefits of the project. Residents are seeing lower city-parish sewer usage charges now that water usage can be measured. An added benefit is

that consumers are able to determine if they have a water leak. Detailed water use data is transmitted from individual meters to a central location; therefore spikes in water use that may be attributed to leaks are easily detected. Mayor Rideau noted that this is a timely project as conservation efforts are needed due to salt water intrusion in south Baton Rouge.

(Sources: The Advocate 8/10/12, Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission Newsletter Summer 2012)

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On the Radar

Targeted parishes for drinking water protection programs in 2013

- Franklin
- Livingston
- Richland

Drinking Water Protection Programs 2011-2012

The Drinking Water Protection Team recently completed protection programs in Morehouse, Webster and Tangipahoa parishes. They worked with water systems to develop contingency plans and introduced the model ordinance to protect public water wells to municipal officials.

Morehouse. Work in Morehouse parish began in July 2011 and continued for about one year. Morehouse parish has 15 active public community water systems. A community meeting was held in Bastrop on September 1, 2011. A committee made up of local citizens and officials met and worked with LDEQ on drinking water protection activities. These activities included: educating farmers on how to mitigate the potential for groundwater contamination from using irrigation wells or public water systems in everyday agricultural operations, educating the public on where to recycle used oil and batteries, and educating more than 70 local businesses/facilities on how to protect water sources in Morehouse parish. The committee invited guest speakers to

give presentations on several topics of interest, including backflow prevention and cross connection control, what to expect during sanitary surveys, oil/gas well regulations, agricultural activities and drinking water protection, and the geology of sink holes. LDEQ would like to thank local citizens, who were a valuable asset to the overall drinking water protection effort, and especially Randy Beaver with Peoples Water Service Company of Bastrop for his assistance with organizing committee meetings and perpetuating an interest in participation.

Webster. Work in Webster Parish was initiated in November 2011 and continued into the summer of 2012. Webster parish has 33 public community water systems. A very successful community meeting with a total of 27 people from various backgrounds was held in February 2012 after which a committee was formed. Educational visits to owners and operators of potential sources of contamination were completed by committee members, LDEQ and the Louisiana Rural Water Association for a total of 138 educational visits to facilities. In addition to LDEQ's work, drinking water protection was already in progress in

Webster Parish prior to the beginning of the DWPP. The Webster Parish Police Jury and the City of Minden had previously adopted ordinances to protect public water wells in their jurisdiction, and the parish was already holding household hazardous materials collection days. LDEQ is pleased with the proactive stance that local governing bodies and citizens of Webster Parish have taken to protect their water sources.

Tangipahoa. Work in Tangipahoa parish began in June 2011. Tangipahoa parish has 38 active public community water systems. A community meeting to introduce the program to the public and solicit volunteers to form a committee was held on June 23, 2011 in Hammond. Several attendees volunteered to participate on the Tangipahoa Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee to work with LDEQ on projects to protect their drinking water. Committee members and LDEQ staff visited 180 business owners and operators providing information on how to protect their drinking water. In addition, the DWP staff gave drinking water protection presentations to the City of Hammond Kiwanis Club, and the Town of Ponchatoula Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs.



Morehouse Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee December 2011 Meeting

(Front Row, left to right: Danny Courson, Rhonda Little, David Stephens, Margaret Stokes, Tiffani Cravens (DEQ), Deryl Johnson. Back row, left to right: Jesse Griggs, Jesse Means (DEQ), Jim Conley, Donald Boyd, Jack Scroggins, Todd Jones)

Updating Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Data

Source Water Assessments were completed for all public water supply systems between 2000 and 2003. The assessment data are updated regularly as new data become available; however, there was no mechanism in place to update the assessments and produce new SWAP reports – until now! Geographic Information System (GIS) personnel have developed a process for GIS functions/services that allow for a streamlined and automated process for collecting and uploading new Source Water Assessment data and producing updated Source Water Assessment reports.

During this year, LDEQ’s GIS staff has finalized the groundwater risk assessment program also known as the **SWAP Calculator®**. The program has fully automated the generation of SWAP reports for groundwater systems and the report format has been updated. Work is currently in progress on the surface water por-

tion of the program and should be completed by the end of this year. The GIS staff is also working on a mobile mapping application which will be used to streamline collection of new field data.



Did You Know?

If only one in every 10 homes in the U.S. were to install WaterSense labeled faucets in their bathrooms, it could save six billion gallons of water per year, and more than \$50 million in the energy costs to supply, heat, and treat that water.

(Source: EPA)

Drinking Water Watch Database Launched



The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals has published a Drinking Water Watch database for public viewing on their website

at:

www.dhh.louisiana.gov/drinkingwaterwatch.

You can access information about public water systems statewide such as points of contact, water sources, and analytical, compliance and enforcement data. In addition, all current Consumer Confidence Reports and a map where you can locate the systems in your parish are available online at:

www.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1259.

Contingency Plans Received/ Wellhead Protection Programs Approved September 2011 – September 2012

Town of Newellton	Town of Kentwood	Pleasant Valley W.S.	Town of Cullen
Village of Tickfaw	Westview W.S.	Midway W.S.	Town of Cotton Valley
Village of Tangipahoa	Eastern Heights W.S.	McIntyre W.S.	Blocker W.S.
Town of Independence	Town of Amite	Camp Minden W.S.	Bistineau W.S.
Village of Doyline	Dorcheat Acres W.S.	Leton W.S.	Jones McGinty W.S.
State Line W.S.	St. James W.S.	Horse Shoe Road W.S.	Morehouse Ward 3 Water Association
Village of Shongaloo	Gil-Gal W.S.	Village of Heflin	Village of Oak Ridge
Palmetto Waterworks (Webster Parish)	Union Grove W.S.	Gilark W.S.	Morehouse Central W.S.
Central W.S. (Webster Parish)	Thomasville W.S.	Germantown W.S.	Village of Collinston
City of Ponchatoula	City of Springhill	Village of Dubberly	Tangipahoa W.D. #2
Manchac W.S.	Village of Sarepta	Dixie Overland W.S.	Fluker Chapel W.S.
	Salt Works W.S.	Village of Dixie Inn	



The Drinking Water Protection Team Salutes Municipalities and Parish Governments Who Have Adopted a Ground Water Protection Ordinance:

<p><u>Acadia Parish</u> Acadia Parish Police Jury Town of Church Point City of Crowley Town of Iota City of Rayne</p>	<p><u>Concordia</u> Town of Clayton Concordia Parish Police Jury</p>	<p><u>Lincoln Parish</u> City of Grambling Lincoln Parish Police Jury</p>	<p><u>Tensas</u> Town of St. Joseph</p>
<p><u>Avoyelles Parish</u> Avoyelles Parish Police Jury City of Marksville Town of Mansura Town of Moreauville Town of Simmesport</p>	<p><u>East Feliciana Parish</u> Village of Norwood Town of Wilson</p>	<p><u>Livingston Parish</u> City of Denham Springs</p>	<p><u>Vermilion Parish</u> City of Abbeville Town of Delcambre Town of Erath Town of Gueydan Town of Kaplan Town of Maurice Vermilion Parish Police Jury</p>
<p><u>Beauregard Parish</u> City of DeRidder Town of Merryville</p>	<p><u>Grant Parish</u> Town of Pollock</p>	<p><u>Morehouse Parish</u> City of Bastrop Village of Bonita</p>	<p><u>Vernon Parish</u> Village of Anacoco Town of Hornbeck Vernon Parish Police Jury City of Leesville Town of Rosepine Village of Simpson</p>
<p><u>Bossier Parish</u> Town of Haughton Town of Plain Dealing Bossier Parish Police Jury</p>	<p><u>Iberia Parish</u> Village of Loreauville</p>	<p><u>Natchitoches Parish</u> Village of Goldonna</p>	<p><u>Washington Parish</u> Town of Angie</p>
<p><u>Calcasieu Parish</u> City of Westlake City of DeQuincy Town of Vinton</p>	<p><u>Iberville Parish</u> Town of Maringouin Village of Rosedale White Castle</p>	<p><u>Ouachita Parish</u> City of West Monroe</p>	<p><u>Webster Parish</u> Webster Parish Police Jury City of Minden Town of Sibley Town of Cullen City of Springhill</p>
<p><u>Caddo</u> Village of Rodessa Town of Vivian Village of Ida</p>	<p><u>Jefferson Davis Parish</u> Jeff. Davis Parish Police Jury Town of Welsh Town of Lake Arthur City of Jennings</p>	<p><u>Rapides Parish</u> Town of Lecompte Village of Cheneyville Village of McNary Town of Glenmora Town of Woodworth</p>	<p><u>West Baton Rouge Parish</u> Town of Addis</p>
<p><u>LaSalle Parish</u> Town of Jena Town of Olla</p>	<p><u>Lafayette Parish</u> City of Youngsville Town of Duson City of Carencro</p>	<p><u>St. Landry Parish</u> City of Eunice Town of Melville City of Opelousas St. Landry Parish Council Town of Washington</p>	<p><u>West Feliciana Parish</u> Town of St. Francisville</p>
<p></p>	<p></p>	<p><u>Tangipahoa</u> Village of Tickfaw City of Ponchatoula Town of Amite Town of Kentwood</p>	<p></p>

Program Highlights

SPSOC Visits

Mike Dunaway, water operator for the City of Springhill in Webster parish, conducts an educational visit to the operator of a convenience store in Springhill, LA. Committee members visit businesses identified as potential sources of contamination near public water supply wells to educate them on best management practices and enlist them as "Drinking Water Protection Partners" to keep the water supply safe.



Community Meetings

Minden Civic Center marquis announces the Webster Parish Drinking Water Protection Community Meeting.



Wetland Watchers

DWPP staff participated in the annual LaBranch Wetland Watchers field day on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain at the Bonnet Carre' Spillway near Norco, Louisiana on April 24, 2012. Over 1600 students, volunteers and educators attended this educational event. Students were guided through booths, presentations, and hands-on activities relating to the environment.





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P.O. Box 4301
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<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/aeps>



**GOT NEWS?
IDEAS?**

If you have any news or ideas that you would like to share with other communities in next year's issue of the newsletter, please submit them to deqdwpteam@la.gov or to the following mailing address:

Louisiana Department of
Environmental Quality
Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Unit
Post Office Box 4301
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301
225-219-3510

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION TEAM



Drinking Water Protection Team Members (left to right): Tiffani Cravens, Jesse Means, and Mary Gentry

The Drinking Water Protection Team is a part of the Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Unit within the Business Community Outreach and Incentives Division. This Division is under the Office of the Secretary at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Drinking Water Protection Team members educate the public on the importance of protecting drinking water sources. The team plays a vital role in working with Louisiana communities to establish local drinking water protection programs. The team is available to give presentations on water protection issues to your school or organization. Please call 225-219-3510 for more information.

**We look forward to helping you protect
your community's drinking water!**

This newsletter and all previous issues are available online at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/aepsnews>
Please visit this site regularly for future newsletter delivery options.

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