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Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section
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State of Louisiana Drinking Water Protection Program

October 2008

Office of Environmental Assessment

Issue 12



Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants Awarded through the Drinking Water Protection Program

Two additional 319-funded grants have been awarded for projects that provide watershed improvement initiatives and the reduction of nonpoint pollution for two drinking water supply sources.

Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality degradation in the United States and poses a substantial problem for the health of Louisiana's streams and rivers.

Big Creek, which is a source of drinking water for people in southern Grant Parish and northern Rapides Parish, is not meeting the fecal coliform standard necessary to support its designated use for primary contact recreation (swimming).

Reasons cited for this in DEQ's 2006 Integrated Report are livestock (grazing or feeding operations) and sewage discharges in unsewered areas. Because Big Creek is a drinking water source and an outstanding natural resource, it is in the public interest to determine what is contributing fecal coliform bacteria to the creek. Therefore, DEQ contracted with the University of Louisiana Monroe to conduct a sampling program to study the sources of the fecal coliform. The principal investigator for the project

will be Dr. Kevin Baer. The contract has been approved by EPA and work on the project is planned to begin shortly.

The Bayou Lafourche Sewage Project is currently in progress. Bayou Lafourche is a drinking water source for over 200,000 people but it is not meeting its primary contact recreation and fish and wildlife propagation designated use standards. Dissolved oxygen and total fecal coliform are problems. Further downstream where the bayou is not a drinking water source, it isn't meeting its fish and wildlife propagation standard, dissolved oxygen standard, or its oyster

propagation standard. The sampling results highlight a problem of sewage loading in the bayou. This results in higher amounts of chlorine needed for disinfection of the drinking water, which in conjunction with decaying organic material along the bayou, cause the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts then require additional treatment.

LDEQ is trying to address the fecal coliform issue in Bayou Lafourche by locating malfunctioning on site home sewage systems. A contract with Nicholls State University to perform sampling of

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Geologists Jesse Means and Tiffani Cravens perform surface water sampling on Bayou Lafourche following Hurricane Gustav in order to assess impacts of the storm on the bayou, a drinking water source.

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On the Radar Targeted Parishes for Drinking Water Protection Programs 2008

- Calcasieu
- Ouachita
- Vernon
- Beauregard

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Visit us at our website:
<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 Micaela Marchand Coner at Micaela.Coner@la.gov or at the following mailing address:

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Assessment
Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section
Post Office Box 4314
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314
225-219-3510

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION TEAM



The Drinking Water Protection Team is a part of the Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section in the Water quality Assessment Division. This Division falls under the Office of Environmental Assessment at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Drinking Water Protection Team members educate the public on the importance of protecting drinking water. 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 drinking 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!

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On the Radar: Drinking Water Programs for the upcoming year



There are four drinking water protection programs planned for this year: Calcasieu, Ouachita, Beauregard and Vernon Parishes.

Back in the Saddle, Calcasieu Parish

Drinking Water Protection staff began working in Calcasieu Parish in June 2008. They met with representatives from the fifteen water district and municipal water systems serving Calcasieu Parish as well as local officials to introduce them to the drinking water protection program and encourage them to participate. This is the second time that the Drinking Water Protection Team has started work in Calcasieu Parish. The first attempt was in 2005, but unfortunately, drinking water protection efforts were delayed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

A community meeting was held on August 14, 2008 in Lake Charles, LA. The meeting was advertised in local newspapers. Jesse Means, Drinking Water Protection team member, appeared on KPLC's morning news

show to invite the community to the meeting. Twenty-four people attended the meeting, which was opened by the Mayor of Lake Charles, Randy Roach. Twelve attendees volunteered to join the Drinking Water Protection Committee. More citizens are encouraged to participate. The first meeting of the Calcasieu Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee will be held in October, 2008.

Watch out for Ouachita Parish

The Drinking Water Protection staff is getting ready for a Drinking Water Protection Program in Ouachita Parish. Jesse Means and Micaela Coner of the Drinking Water Protection Team began meeting with water system and local government officials in August to explain the purpose of the Drinking Water Protection Program.

Sources of drinking water in Ouachita Parish are the Sparta and North Louisiana Terrace Aquifer, as well as the Ouachita River and Bayou Desiard. There are over 100 public supply water wells in the parish, and all but a few utilize the Sparta Aquifer. The wells

range in depth from 107 feet to 805 feet. The City of Monroe has surface water intakes in Bayou Desiard and the Ouachita River.

In addition to helping to protect drinking water, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Drinking Water Protection Team will work to address any water quality issues and their suspected sources as listed in the Water Quality Integrated Report. For more information, please refer to the website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/98/Default.aspx>. We also encourage citizens to attend the Drinking Water Protection Community Meeting, tentatively scheduled for October of 2008.

Beauregard and Vernon Parishes are Next in Line

Drinking Water Protection Programs for Beauregard and Vernon Parishes are targeted to begin in January 2009.

Please contact the Drinking Water Protection Team at 225-219-3510 for more information on our programs.

Nonpoint source pollution grants continued...

...continued from page 1

ditches that are receiving effluent from home sewage units has been developed. The quality control documents were approved by LDEQ and EPA on May 23, 2008. The draft quarterly report for this project covering the months of April, May, and June 2008 was received by LDEQ on July 10, 2008. This report stated that the contractor has begun purchasing equipment required for the contract completion and that approximately 80% of the sampling site selection was complete. It also stated that initial sampling of the sites that were selected had begun. The project is led by Dr. Marilyn Kilgen.

If there is a demonstration that on site decentralized sewage systems are a

major contributor to the Bayou Lafourche problem, the data will be used to convince citizens of the need of a source of funding to resolve the problem and to convince the local government to take a leadership role in protecting the welfare of its constituents. This includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of a local ordinance to give the local government the authority to inspect sewage systems and order the repair/replacement of malfunctioning/inoperable systems. Consideration will also be given to an attempt to have individual onsite sewage systems combined into a community type system to better control polluted discharges into the environment.

Funding priority for 319(h) grant funds has been given to projects designed and intended for addressing

water quality impairments caused by nonpoint source pollution on stream sub-segments listed on the 2006 Louisiana 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies or subsegments at risk of becoming impaired by nonpoint source pollution.

The grant funds are made available under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act, to state and local governments, non-government organizations, non-profit organizations, and federally recognized tribal groups within Louisiana to address nonpoint source pollution.

For more information on the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Nonpoint Source Program, please access the website at:

<http://nonpoint.deq.louisiana.gov>

Submitted by Micaela Coner

Pine Grove Water System
Pine Hill Water System
Pinehill Water System
City of Pineville
Pioneer-Darnell Water System
Pitkin Water System
Plain Dealing
Plaisance Water System
City of Plaquemine
Town of Plaquemine
Point Blue Water System
Pointe Coupee Area Water
Pointe Coupee WW Dist. #1
Pointe Coupee WW Dist. #2-Batchelor
Pointe Coupee WW Dist. #2-Hwy 10
Town of Pollock
Pollock Area Water System
City of Port Allen
Town of Port Barre
Town of Port Barre
Village of Powhatan
Prairie Ronde Water System
Provencal Water System
Rapides Parish Waterworks Dist. #3
City of Rayne
Town of Rayville
Red Chute Utilities
Red Oak Water Co., Inc.
Red River Water System
Robeline-Marthaville Water System
City of Ruston
Town of St. Francisville
St. Helena Waterworks Dist. #2
St. Helena Waterworks Dist. #2, Phase 3
Town of St. Joseph
St. Landry Consolidated #2
St. Landry WW Dist. #2

St. Mary's Water System
Sandy Lake Water System
Savoy-Swords Water System Inc.
Schriever WTP Service Area
Town of Sibley
Village of Sicily Island
Sieper Area Water System
Town of Simmesport
Village of Simpson
Town of Slaughter
City of Slidell
South Bonne Idee Water System
South Bossier Water System
South DeSoto Water System
South Grant Water System
South Oakdale Water System
South Rayne Water Corp.
S.E. Hodge Water System
Southeast WW Dist. #2
Southwest Allen Parish Water District
Southwest Allen Parish WW Dist. #2
Southwest Avoyelles WW District
Southwest Ouachita Waterworks, Inc.
Sterlington Water Supply
City of Sulphur
Town of Sunset
City of Tallulah (Peoples Water Serv.)
Tangipahoa Parish Water System
City of Thibodaux
Torbert-Frisco Service
Tunica Water System
Union Springs Water System
United Water System
Town of Urania
Varnado Rural Waterworks
Vermilion Parish WW Dist. #1
Vermilion Parish WW Dist. #1 Esther

Village Water System
Town of Vinton
Walnut Bayou Water Association
Ward One Water System
Ward Two Water District
Ward Four Water District
Ward Six Water Association
Town of Washington
Waterloo Water Service
Town of Waterproof
Waterworks District #7
Town of Welsh
West Allen Parish Water District
West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utilities
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #1
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #2
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #4- Section
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #4- Holiday Inn
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #4- Crocodile
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #4- Arbroth
West Feliciana WW Dist. #2
West Feliciana WW Dist. #13
West Grant Water Association
City of Westlake
West Monroe Water System
West Winnsboro Water System
Weston Water System
Town of White Castle
Village of Wilson
City of Winnfield
Town of Winnsboro
Town of Wisner
Town of Woodworth
Town of Youngsville
City of Zachary
Zone Two Water System

CONGRATULATIONS! THE DRINKING WATER TEAM SALUTES!

Municipalities that have enacted a Drinking Water Protection Ordinance by Parish-



Acadia Parish– Town of Church Point, City of Crowley, Town of Iota, City of Rayne
Avoyelles Parish– City of Marksville, Town of Mansura, Town of Moreauville, Town of Simmesport
Bossier Parish– Town of Houghton, Town of Plain Dealing
East Feliciana Parish– Village of Norwood, Town of Wilson
Grant Parish– Town of Pollock
Jefferson Davis Parish– Town of Welsh, Town of Lake Arthur, City of Jennings
Lafayette Parish– City of Youngsville, Town of Duson, City of Carencro
Natchitoches Parish– Village of Goldonna
Rapides Parish– Town of Lecompte, Town of Cheneyville
St. Landry Parish– City of Eunice, Town of Melville, City of Opelousas, Town of Washington
Vermilion Parish– City of Abbeville, Town of Delcambre, Town of Erath, Town of Gueydan, Town of Kaplan, Town of Maurice
West Baton Rouge Parish– Town of Addis
West Feliciana Parish– Town of St. Francisville
Washington Parish– Town of Angie

Parishes that have enacted a Drinking Water Protection Ordinance –

Acadia Parish Police Jury, Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, Bossier Parish Police Jury, Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury, St. Landry Parish Council, Vermilion Parish Police Jury

WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAMS/CONTINGENCY PLANS APPROVED

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| City of Abbeville | City of Crowley | Joint Readiness Training Center& Fort Polk |
| City of Alexandria | Cypress Black Bayou (CBB) Water System | Town of Jonesboro |
| Village of Angie | Darbonne Hills Water Supply | City of Kaplan |
| Town of Arnaudville | Darlington Waterworks Assoc. | Kiroli Shady Oaks |
| Assumption Parish Waterworks Dist. #1 | Town of Delcambre | Kolin-Ruby Wise W.D. 11A |
| Atlanta Water System | Town of Delhi | Town of Krotz Springs |
| Avoyelles Waterworks District #1 | Village of Delta | City of Lafayette |
| Avoyelles Ward 3 Waterworks Dist. | City of Denham Springs | Lafayette Parish WW Dist. North |
| City of Baker | Dennis Mills Water System | Lafourche Parish Water Dist. No. 1 |
| City of Bastrop (Peoples Water Service) | City of DeQuincy | Town of Lake Arthur |
| Baton Rouge Water Co. | Town of DeRidder | City of Lake Charles |
| Bayou Bonne Idee Water System, Inc. | Village of Dry Prong | LaSalle Waterworks Dist. #1 |
| Bayou Des Cannes Water System | Town of Duson | LAWCO (Lecompte) |
| Bayou Liberty Water Association | East Allen Water District | Lawtell |
| Beauregard Waterworks Dist. #2 | East Columbia Water District | Town of Leesville |
| Beekman Water System | East Feliciana Rural Water Assoc. | Leland Water System |
| Bellevue Water System | East Feliciana Rural-Reeves-Morgan | Lena Water System |
| Belmont Water System | Egan Water Corporation | Town of Leonville |
| Town of Bernice | Village of Epps | Lewisburg-Bellevue Water System |
| Bodcau Waterworks | Town of Erath | Liddeville Water System |
| City of Bogalusa | Village of Estherwood | Town of Livonia |
| Bogue-Lusa Waterworks District | City of Eunice (LAWCO) | Louisiana State Penitentiary |
| Village of Bonita | Town of Evergreen | Louisiana Tech University |
| Bossier City Water System | False River Water Co. | M&S Water Supply |
| Town of Boyce | Town of Farmerville | Magnolia Plantation Water System |
| City of Breaux Bridge | Village of Fenton | Town of Mamou |
| Brouillette Water System | Fifth Ward Water System | Mamou Road Water System, Inc. |
| Town of Broussard | Village of Fordoche | Mandeville Water Supply |
| Brownville Water Supply | Town of Forest Hill | Town of Mangham |
| Buckeye Water District #50 | Town of Franklinton | City of Mansfield |
| City of Bunkie | Franklinton Rural Water Corp. | Town of Marksville |
| Cadeville Water District | Gardner Community Water System | Village of Maurice |
| Calcasieu Parish W.D. #1 (Moss Bluff) | Village of Georgetown | Village of McNary |
| Calcasieu Parish W.D. #2 (Mossville) | Village of Gilbert | Town of Melville |
| Calcasieu Parish W.D. #4 | Town of Glenmora | Village of Mer Rouge |
| Calcasieu Parish W.D. #5 | Village of Goldonna | Village of Mermentau |
| Calcasieu Parish W.D. #7 | Town of Grand Couteau | Midway Water System |
| Calcasieu Parish W.D. #8 | Grand Prairie Water System | Milton Water System |
| Calcasieu Parish W.D. #9 (Carlyss) | Village of Grayson | City of Minden |
| Cameron Parish WWD #2 | Greenbriar-Prairie Basse Water System | Mire Branch Water Corp. |
| Cameron Waterworks #7 | Town of Greensburg | Town of Montgomery |
| Cameron Waterworks #11 | Greenwood Water System | Monticello Water System |
| Cameron Water & Sewer Dist. #1 | Town of Gueydan | Town of Montpelier |
| Town of Campti | Hagewood Water System | Town of Moreauville |
| Village of Cankton | City of Hammond | Morehouse Consolidated W.D. #2 |
| City of Carencro | Town of Houghton | Village of Morganza |
| Central Grant | Hayes Water System | Morrow Water System |
| Chataignier Water System, Inc. | Hebert Water System | Village of Morse |
| Chee Chee Bay Water System | Hermitage Community | Mt. Hermon Water Districty |
| Town of Cheneyville | Village of Hessmer | City of Natchitoches |
| Chestnut-Readhimer Water System | Highway 80 Water System | Natchitoches Parish WW Dist. #2 |
| Village of Choudrant | Hineston Water System, Inc. | N-E-W Carroll Water Dist. |
| Town of Church Point | Houma Water TP Service Area | City of New Iberia (LAWCO) |
| Clarence Water System | Huntington Park Water Supply | City of New Roads |
| Village of Clarks | Innis Water Corp. | North Crowley Water Corp. |
| Town of Clinton | Town of Iota | North Franklin Water System |
| Town of Colfax | Town of Iowa | Village of North Hodge |
| Town of Columbia | Town of Jackson | Village of Norwood |
| Columbia Heights Water District | Town of Jena | Old River Water #1 |
| Coteau Water System | City of Jeanerette | Town of Olla |
| Town of Cottonport | Jeff Davis Central Waterworks Dist. | City of Opelousas |
| Town of Coushatta | Jeff Davis Water & Sewer Comm. #1 | Village of Palmetto |
| Creston Water System | Jeff Davis Waterworks Dist. #4 | Parish Water Co. |
| Cross Roads Waterworks | City of Jennings | Pecan Island WW Dist. #3 |

Update on the Sibley Lake Watershed Project

Located in the Red River Basin in Natchitoches Parish, Sibley Lake is the drinking water supply for the City of Natchitoches, the Village of Clarence, and the community of Hagewood. It is also the water supply for the unincorporated areas around the lake and along the water distribution system between the above listed municipalities. The total population served is almost 25,000.

The watershed around the lake consists of rural and urban land. The area immediately surrounding the lake has a significant amount of residential development and most of this development is located outside of the corporate limits for the City of Natchitoches. Because most of this development is located outside of the municipal limits, no centralized sewer system exists there. Therefore it is served by individual sewage systems. These sewage systems are in various degrees of operational condition. Many of these systems are located within a few hundred feet of the lake and its tributaries. Development of the property directly adjacent to and around the lake is expected to continue, which will increase the potential for sewage loading into the lake.

LDEQ is working with the City of Natchitoches to protect their water source. As part of this effort, the City of Natchitoches, with LDEQ's encouragement, submitted a proposal for the Sibley Lake Watershed Individual Sewage Treatment System Improvement Project.

The project became effective on May 1, 2007 and

Type of System	Total Number of Systems Inspected	Total Number of Failed Systems
Septic	284	44
Mechanical	476	81
Oxidation Pond	56	11
Totals	816	136

(Above) Inspection results for the Sibley Lake Watershed Individual Sewage Treatment Improvement Project. The chart shows the type of individual sewage systems inspected, the total number of systems inspected, and the number of systems found to be failing.

will terminate on October 31, 2008.

The 319 funded project enables the City of Natchitoches to inventory and inspect all individual sewage treatment systems within a half-mile of Sibley Lake, and, to the extent permitted by time and funding, additional areas beyond a half-mile which are immediately adjacent to tributaries.

The systems were located by GPS and pertinent information on each system was entered into the City's

GIS system. So far the contractor has completed all of the initial inspections of individual sewage systems for a total of 816 systems inspected. Out of these, 136 were found to be either failed or malfunctioning.

Owners of failed sewage systems were served notice that their systems must be repaired or replaced. Funding is provided for the repair/replacement of the failed systems on a cost-share basis. Owners of the repaired/replaced systems are required

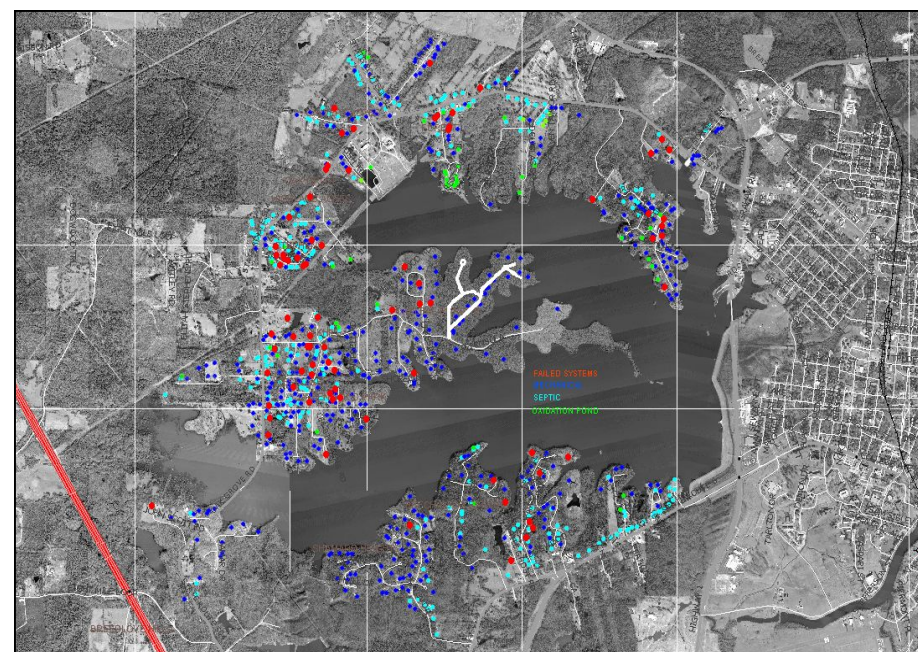
to sign a document stating that they will abide by the continued maintenance requirements specified by the city ordinance as long as they own the repaired/replaced system. The contractor has begun to disburse funds to sewage system contractors for the repairs/replacement of malfunctioning systems.

The Sibley Lake Watershed Individual Sewage Treatment Project enables the City of Natchitoches to mitigate the future threat of sewage loading in Sibley Lake and protect their source of drinking water and the health of those that swim and boat in the lake.

Submitted by Micaela Coner
Editor's Note: DEQ Staff are currently working to amend the contract to provide more grant funds and to extend the project through October 31, 2009.

MAP KEY

- Failed Systems
- Mechanical
- Septic
- Oxidation Pond



(To Left) The map shows Sibley Lake and surrounding areas. The colored dots indicate the locations of the inspected individual sewage systems, showing the failed systems in red, the mechanical systems in blue, the septic systems in aqua, and the oxidation ponds in green.

Bossier Parish Committee Accomplishments

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Drinking Water Protection Team began work in Bossier Parish at the end of June 2007. Staff members visited with representatives of the local water systems and other government officials to introduce the Drinking Water Protection Program. Bossier Parish has twenty-six active public community water systems. There is one surface water system and five (5) water systems that purchase surface water. The surface water system is the City of Bossier, and the source of drinking water is the Red River. There are twenty (20) ground water systems, ten (10) are municipal and ten (10) are non-municipal systems.

The Drinking Water Protection Team advertised for the parish program and community meeting through several media appearances. Jesse Means gave a radio interview on KEEL and Jesse Means and Micaela Coner appeared on KSLA News 12

in September of 2007. Meeting announcements were mailed to over 250 parish contacts. Two community meetings were held in the parish. The first meeting was held on September 25 at the Bossier Parish Courthouse in Benton, LA and the second community meeting was held on September 27 at the Public Service Complex in Bossier City, Louisiana. Twenty volunteers signed up to serve on the Bossier Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee.

The first meeting of the Bossier Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee was held on October 25, 2007. DWPP staff member Jesse Means opened the meeting with introductions and a brief explanation of the purpose of the Committee and why it had been formed. DEQ introduced the three goals it suggests for every drinking water protection committee: 1. Visit potential sources of contamination (businesses that store or manage chemicals) near the drinking water

sources, 2. Promotion of drinking water protection ordinances, and 3. Distribute information on drinking water protection. Next, the Committee discussed goals it wanted to work on relating to drinking water protection.

From the first meeting until the close of the program, the Bossier Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee worked diligently on efforts to protect drinking water. The committee completed informational visits to businesses near the drinking water sources. The committee also worked to create a parish list of used oil recyclers for distribution and publication in local newspapers.

Many guest speakers made presentations to the Bossier Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee. Jennifer Kihlken of the Department of Health and Hospitals gave a regulatory update on the Louisiana Safe Drinking Water Program. Matt Simon of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) gave a presentation on oil-field related DNR regulations to protect waters of the state. Local students Catie and Emily Owens gave a presentation on water quality testing they performed on the oxbow lake in C. Bickham Dickson Park.

Christy Rando of DEQ gave a presentation on DEQ's Nonpoint Source Pollution Program and storm drain marker project. The Town of Plain Dealing and Cypress Black Bayou water system elected to participate in the



(Above) Environmental Staff Scientist Christy Rando addresses the committee about DEQ's Nonpoint Source Pollution Program. (Below) Storm drain markers.



storm drain marking project, and were provided the appropriate materials by DEQ's Nonpoint Source Section.

As a result of committee efforts, the Town of Plain Dealing passed a ground water protection ordinance on January 8, 2008 and the Town of Haughton passed a similar ordinance on June 12, 2008. The Bossier Parish Police Jury passed the ordinance on September 3, 2008.

The committee had a final meeting to celebrate its accomplishments on Wednesday, June 26, 2008. Each committee member was awarded a certificate for their service to the community through drinking water protection efforts.

Submitted by Micaela Coner



DEQ Drinking Water Protection team member Jesse Means awards a certificate of appreciation to Ms. Charlotte Hamiter for her committed service on the Bossier Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee.

Success of the Ordinance

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is gaining major coverage with their Drinking Water Protection Ordinance. The Drinking Water Protection Team confirms that the ordinance has been well received in the parishes they have worked in since the program began in 2003. The ordinance has been passed in thirty-six (36) municipalities and by five (5) police juries

(parish governments).

The model Drinking Water Protection Ordinance prohibits businesses that handle, use or store chemicals from locating within 1000' of a public water supply well. Surprisingly, with all the regulations currently in place, you can still legally put a gas station with an underground storage tank 25' from a public supply well. This ordinance, while keeping new businesses

that handle, use or store chemicals from locating near the public supply wells, has a grandfather clause that allows existing businesses to remain.

The Drinking Water Protection Team, made up of four members, stays busy educating citizens of the state about drinking water protection. However, public education is difficult to measure. It may take years to see a change in peoples'

behavior, but with an ordinance in place, protection is immediately measurable.

If you have questions about drinking water protection, our website is a great place to go: www.deq.la.gov/aeps.

If you have additional questions, call us at (225)219-3510.

Submitted by Tiffani Cravens

Grant Parish Recognized Used Oil Recycling Protects the Environment, Conserves Energy

Louisiana citizens own and maintain over four million private automobiles, trucks, and other vehicles. Each vehicle generates at least 2.5 gallons of used oil per year. More than half of Louisiana vehicle owners maintain their own vehicles, but they recycle less than 15% of the used oil. The rest, an estimated excess of five million gallons, is discarded in storm drains, waterways, sewers, vacant lots, and landfills.

Improper disposal of used oil can contaminate the environment in several ways. Many people mistakenly believe that storm drains are connected to wastewater treatment plants. The fact is that anything placed in catch basins drains directly to the nearest stream, lake, river, or bayou. Used oil poured on the ground can contaminate ground water supplies through seepage or infiltration, and can also be carried into waterways by rainfall runoff. Used oil placed in household drains enters sewage treatment systems, but home septic systems and municipal



Geologist Jesse Means and Ray Baum of the Village of Georgetown examine the 1,000 gallon tank donated by Petron for the disposal of used oil in Grant Parish.

sewage treatment systems are not designed to handle oil, which can interfere with bacterial action necessary for proper sewage treatment. The result could be costly system failure or the discharge of untreated, oil-contaminated wastewater into nearby waterways. Ground water and local waterways are the sources of drinking water for the community. One gallon of used motor oil can contaminate one million

gallons of water to a level above drinking water standards.

With energy costs soaring, many people are investigating alternative energy sources and ways to cut costs. Used oil is an excellent source of energy, yet we waste this energy when it is not recycled. That same gallon of used motor oil that can contaminate our drinking water can produce 2.5 quarts of motor oil, while

42 gallons of crude oil is needed to produce the same amount.

The Grant Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee is currently working to establish two used oil collection facilities in the parish. Petron, Inc. donated a 350-gallon tank with a dike and a 1000-gallon tank. The large tank is located in the Village of Georgetown and a secondary containment berm is being constructed around it. The small tank will likely be located in the Town of Colfax. Once the tanks are set up the committee will contact an oil recycler to arrange for oil pick-up. Residents of the parish can then begin bringing their used oil to the two collection points for recycling. By making an extra effort to establish collection points for used oil, the Drinking Water Protection Committee is giving the residents of Grant Parish the opportunity to do their part to recycle energy resources and reduce their impact on the environment.

Submitted by Mary Gentry