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LDEQ MEETS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS TO HIGHLIGHT TRANSFORMATIVE OPPORTUNITIES IN WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

LAFAYETTE & BOSSIER CITY, LA — In early March, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) met with local officials in Lafayette and Bossier City to highlight funding and technical assistance for water and wastewater improvements. At a regional Louisiana Mayors meeting in Lafayette, **LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto** spoke with a group of Mayors — Broussard’s **Ray Bourque**, Carencro’s **Charlotte Clavier**, Lafayette’s **Monique Blanco-Boulet**, Scott’s **Jan-Scott Richard**, and Youngsville’s **Ken Ritter** — about LDEQ’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. The meeting also served for the Mayors to discuss population growth in their areas and the ability to have proper infrastructure for this expansion.



The Water Finance Exchange (WFX) was also present at the meeting to discuss their mission — to help communities access funding, financing, and expertise to implement resilient, sustainable, and equitable water infrastructure solutions. WFX serves as a neutral partner for communities to provide support from project conception to implementation.

The following day in Bossier City, LDEQ co-hosted a seminar organized by WFX in collaboration with Communities Unlimited (CU) and State Senator Adam Bass (District 36) that focused on water and wastewater improvements. With almost 60 participants, this event served as an essential platform for dialogue among local, state, and federal government representatives, technical experts, and community leaders committed to enhancing public water infrastructure.



The CWSRF program provides low interest loans for eligible water and wastewater projects to support municipalities in advancing their infrastructure needs while ensuring sustainable financial assistance for future projects across Louisiana. Examples of projects include construction of publically owned treatment works (POTW), upgrade; repair or replacement of decentralized sewage treatment systems; and technical assistance to owners/operators of small POTWs. LDEQ recognizes the value of water in rural communities across Louisiana and is proactively engaging with them to provide financial and technical assistance from its programs as well as from other water programs to assist with aging infrastructure.

“LDEQ is poised to assist communities across the state, large and small, in having access to clean water,” stated **Secretary Giacometto**. “With infrastructure improvement that CWSRF provides, the environment will be improved, human health will be protected, and economic development will be stimulated.”



Scott Mayor Jan Scott Richard, who attended the meeting in Lafayette, said, “The meeting was a huge success and shows our commitment to collaborating with our state departmental entities to ensure we are maintaining our infrastructure systems, preparing for worst case scenarios, and being innovative for future expansion and growth. A special thanks to Secretary Giacometto and her team for taking the time to listen to our concerns and strengthen our partnership. We look forward to continuing our work to maintain a high quality of life through public services.”

On the seminar in Bossier City, **Senator Adam Bass** said, “Events like these are vital for bridging the gap between government resources and community needs. By bringing together experts and local leaders, we can develop tailored solutions that address the unique challenges our municipalities face.”

Jackson Parr of WFX added, “Small, rural communities in Louisiana and nationwide are increasingly faced with significant funding and financing needs to deliver safe and affordable water and wastewater services. These seminars provide funding and financing options to these community leaders, along with the technical assistance necessary to execute solutions.”



Moreover, **Jim Galambos, Mayor of Blanchard**, said, “The meeting was very enlightening as it is always good to hear from DEQ to learn about their programs and good to learn about programs from other agencies as well. Getting together with other Mayors like we did in the meeting always helps us to stay abreast of issues that may affect us. I look forward to more of them.”

LDEQ works collaboratively to address the technical, financial, and human resource challenges faced by water and wastewater systems — a mission that continues to shape sustainable environmental progress. Participants of the seminar in Bossier City completed a survey to ensure the valuable information provided would help to inform future events that LDEQ plans to host in other regions of Louisiana. The results of the survey along with a summary of the seminar can be found [here](#).

For more information about LDEQ’s ongoing environmental initiatives, visit www.deq.louisiana.gov.

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About the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

LDEQ is dedicated to serving the people of Louisiana by providing comprehensive environmental protection to promote and protect health, safety, and welfare.
