



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



January 2016 Issue Number: 48

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DEQ welcomes Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D., as the 12th secretary

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown is the 12th secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Gov. John Bel Edwards named Brown secretary on Jan. 11. Brown's appointment is a homecoming. He previously worked at DEQ in 2004-2008, serving as assistant secretary for environmental services.

"It is a homecoming. A lot of the same folks that were here when I was here before are still here. And that's a good thing," Brown said. His familiarity with the agency and its working has allowed him to hit the ground running, he said. "There's not really a honeymoon period."

Brown, who is also a motivational speaker who gives talks about leadership development, is a strong believer in synergy and a team approach to problem solving and decision making. He is hoping to get his executive team in place shortly. "Once the team is in place, I'm not a single decision maker," he said. "The team will have to be a good mix of experience and fresh ideas about moving the agency forward." Brown subscribes to the philosophy he developed called E.E.A.T, (Environmental Education, Access to decision makers, and Trust in the decisions that are made).

Brown knows a thing or two about moving toward a goal. A native of Amite, Brown was a college football player (wide receiver) at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Miss. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry there, hoping to one day pursue a career as a pharmacist. That didn't turn out to be the right prescription.

Brown went on to earn a Master of Public Administration from Southern University A&M College and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Public Policy/Environmental Policy from the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge. Environmental issues and concerns became his key interest, and that interest influenced his career arc.

Brown first came to DEQ in 2004 when former Secretary Mike McDaniel selected him for his executive staff. Brown was appointed assistant secretary for Environmental



Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

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Services by Gov. Kathleen Blanco, serving until 2008 when he departed for the private sector. He next served as vice president of Franklin Industries from 2008-2010, working as environmental affairs division leader. In 2010, Brown became president and CEO of Brown and Associates, LLC, a firm specializing in the delivery of environmental services, governmental relations, and issue management.

Since 2013, Brown has been vice president of the Metro Service Group, a New Orleans-based firm that consults in waste collection, vertical and horizontal construction and emergency response. Additionally, since 2014, he is has been president and COO of Community Resource Services, a firm based in Hattiesburg, Miss., that develops capacity and capabilities of local minority owned businesses with the goal of enhancing their long term viability. Brown is leaving his positions at Brown and Associates, LLC, the Metro Service Group and Community Resource Services in order to serve as DEQ secretary.

Brown oversees an agency responsible for ensuring that the citizens of Louisiana have a clean and healthy environment to live and work in now and for future generations. DEQ will regulate pollution sources and provide permitting activities consistent with laws and regulations. DEQ will provide interface between the department, businesses and stakeholders by conducting inspections of permitted facilities and activities, responding to environmental emergencies, issuing sound enforcement actions and supplying the resources to focus on the issues with the highest potential for environmental impact. All of these responsibilities have local, national and international implications.

Brown is married to the former Cheryl Auzenne of Opelousas and has a daughter, Kayla, and a son, Nicholas.

New Air Quality Index shows strengthened EPA standards for Ozone

Air quality in Louisiana is better now than it has been since the Clean Air Act was promulgated, but there is still work to do. Louisiana's only nonattainment area for the pollutant ozone has been the five parish area of East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston and Ascension parishes. Presently, monitoring data shows this area in attainment.

The EPA is required to reassess the standards for air quality, and on Oct. 1, 2015, the EPA strengthened the nation's air quality standards for ground-level ozone to improve public health and environmental protection.

The updated standards will improve air quality broadly across the country, and are particularly important for at-risk groups, which include children, people of all ages with asthma and other respiratory diseases, older adults and people who are active outdoors (especially outdoor workers), among others.

EPA also updated the Air Quality Index (AQI) for ozone and the ozone monitoring season in many states to help inform the public about daily air quality.

AQI Category	Index Values	Breakpoints in the 2008 AQI (ppb, 8-hour average)	Updated Breakpoints (ppb, 8-hour average)
Good	0 - 50	0-59	0-54
Moderate	51 - 100	60-75	55-70
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 - 150	76-95	71-85
Unhealthy	151 - 200	96-115	86-105
Very Unhealthy	201 - 300	116-374	106-200
Hazardous	301 - 500	375 to the Significant Harm Level*	201 to the Significant Harm Level*

**The Significant Harm Level for ozone is 600 ppb, two-hour average*

New Air Quality Index from the EPA website

Current air quality conditions, information on the AQI and much more are available by accessing the DEQ My Air Quality button, <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/PROGRAMS/Air.aspx>.



DEQ works with GOHSEP, partners, in response to Bonnet Carré Spillway opening

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has developed a response plan in preparation for the heavy rainfall that occurred in the upper Mississippi River and Red River Basins. The plan was developed in multi-agency situational briefings.

In the response plan, DEQ prepares from both a communications and logistical standpoint as weather conditions are assessed and preliminary plans are developed. It is similar to the plan undertaken by DEQ during the Mississippi River flooding in the spring of 2011. During this time, DEQ coordinated efforts with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, along with Louisiana State Police, the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the affected parishes and state, federal and non-governmental partners.

DEQ began assembling resources, assigning personnel and staging equipment in advance of the decision to open the Bonnet Carré Spillway. This was preparation for the department's water quality monitoring, environmental assessment and emergency response activities.

In order to assess and monitor environmental conditions within and around the affected areas, several tasks were undertaken.

Citizens and businesses within the potential impact zone were notified by DEQ of potential environmental hazards and were provided information on how to secure movables in anticipation of flooding. In addition, areas of potential concern in the impact zone were identified as possible at risk areas. "Earlier this month, a preliminary ground reconnaissance of the Butte La Rose area was conducted to assess facilities, camps and residences for possible issues related to bulk storage tanks, propane tanks and debris that is at risk for flood waters," said Bryan Riche', DEQ emergency response administrator. "In addition, DEQ contacted all three nuclear plants in the area (River Bend, Grand Gulf and Waterford-3) to ensure readiness."

The water sampling plan was put into action, and background sampling was conducted from various sites along the Pontchartrain Causeway on Jan. 8, prior to the opening of the spillway, to establish a baseline water quality reading.

As rainfall predictions and logistical data from participating agencies began to develop and change, DEQ's emergency preparedness, environmental assessment and response assets adjusted in kind. The decision to cancel the opening of the Morganza Spillway shifted DEQ's primary focus to the Bonnet Carré, which opened 38 bays on Jan. 10. The next day, DEQ conducted a flyover to inspect the spillway for oil sheens, displaced tanks, chemical discharges and any other potential threats to human health and the environment. Additional water samples from the Lake Pontchartrain sampling sites were taken Jan. 13 in order to gather data for further evaluation and comparison against the baseline readings.

"In situ (on site or in place) water monitoring operations will continue beyond the spillway closure period and until Lake Pontchartrain's salinity levels return to background readings, showing the water quality is at acceptable parameters," said Jeff Dauzat, environmental scientist staff from DEQ's Southwest Regional Office in New Orleans.



Bonnet Carré Spillway opening shown from an overflight conducted by DEQ on Jan. 11. The flow rate at that time was 299,200 gallons per second discharging through 38 of the Spillway's 350 bays.



DEQ Environmental Scientist Don Weinell retires from military service

On Dec. 31, 2015, Don Weinell retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve with more than 28 years of combined active duty, National Guard and reserve military service spanning three branches.



DEQ Environmental Scientist Don Weinell has also served as a crew chief in the Air Force Reserve since 2004

An environmental scientist in DEQ's Water Assessment Division since July 1991, Weinell has worn a second hat as a master sergeant with the Air Force Reserve since 2004. For at least one weekend a month and two weeks a year – plus additional training exercises that may arise – he works on C-130J aircraft with the 403rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss.

Weinell's military career began during high school Oct. 6, 1977, when he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve. He then attended weekend drills with a pool of fellow delayed entry enlistees until May 31, 1978, when he stepped on the infamous yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Calif.

After boot camp, Weinell served as an assistant gunner with a mortar team in the 4th Marine Division, a reserve unit, in Shreveport. During this time, he attended Northeast Louisiana State University (now known as ULM) in Monroe and joined the campus Army ROTC program. Enjoying the program, he decided to become an Army officer, so during his junior year he received a conditional release from the Marine Corps and signed a six-year contract with the Army with an obligation to serve three years active duty followed by three years in the reserves.

Graduating with a bachelor's degree in August 1982, Weinell was commissioned a second lieutenant and served three years as a transportation officer with the 171st Transportation Detachment at Fort Irwin, Calif. After completing his active duty stint, he served the next 11 years in various Army Reserve and National Guard units across Louisiana, Arkansas and Alabama. He returned to college, earned a Master of Science in biology in 1989 and taught biology at Marion Military Institute in Marion, Ala., before beginning his career at DEQ in 1991. In 1996, Weinell decided to resign his commission at the rank of captain with more than 18 years of service.

In the aftermath of 9/11, Weinell decided to join up again and serve with the Air Force Reserve. Too old to be re-commissioned, he enlisted as a staff sergeant in 2004, and was subsequently promoted to master sergeant while serving as a crew chief/expediter. In that capacity, Weinell supervised other crew chiefs in support of aircraft maintenance operations on C-130J aircraft for the squadron.

"We are the primary care physicians for the aircraft, handling several functions such as fueling and general maintenance. We also coordinate the more specialized work with other technicians," said Weinell.

Over the course of his military career, he has traveled across the globe, visiting interesting locations such as Hawaii, Germany, Qatar, Afghanistan, Romania and England. One excursion to the African country of Chad was a particularly eye-opening one where he saw the extreme poverty that civil war and the ongoing humanitarian crisis can place on families. "I witnessed an entire family literally living out of a hollowed tree near a river that ran along the country's border," said Weinell. "The father

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Weinell with his military retirement certificate

would make repeated visits back and forth to the river with a bucket to water his garden. He did this all day long. The sight just struck me as incredible, and it really affirmed the fact that many of us take so many things for granted in our daily lives.”

In the course of his duties serving on air bases during his tours in the Middle East, he has also been on hand to see many flag-draped coffins make their ultimate journey back home. Those events moved Weinell to write an article in 2009 that ran in the Sun Herald, a Mississippi Gulf Coast newspaper, entitled “In Remembrance of our Fallen Warriors.” His story captured the range of emotion and sense of tremendous loss that go through the minds of service members as they render salutes and honor the fallen as they are escorted off military aircraft on the way to their final resting places.

In the article, he wrote “... I mourn, that for each of these individuals, all of their hopes, their dreams, their plans for the future, are extinguished ... Individually, their names are unknown to us. Collectively, they represent all that we, as members of our country’s armed forces, are prepared to offer.”

Surely those moments, along with a host of memory-filled sentiments spanning his nearly 30-year career in the military, were on his mind when he was presented with a retirement certificate on Jan. 9 at Keesler Air Force Base. The certificate denotes his final rank as captain, as retirement pay is based on the service member’s highest rank held over a three year span.

DEQ congratulates Don Weinell on his military retirement, and we offer appreciation in recognition for his extensive and honorable service to our country.



DEQ On The Move

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, DEQ secretary, speaks to a group of students and faculty at a leadership development program at Southern University Jan. 6. Brown offered his take on Steven Covey’s classic business and self-help book, “7 Habits of Highly Effective People.” Brown explained how he uses maxims like “Be Proactive” from the book to meet environmental challenges. He explained that proactive people are able to see a challenge in any situation and are not subject to pessimistic reactive thinking. “Proactive people carry their weather with them.”



Minta Canelas honored for her “above and beyond” service to the state

Minta Canelas is well-known and well-loved at DEQ. She has been with the department since 1992 in various positions. Presently, she is an administrative assistant 4 in the office of environmental services.

“Minta is unselfish and genuine.” said Sonja Loyd, who nominated her. “She always considers other people, and if Minta can’t do it, it can’t be done.”

No job or effort is too large or too small for her to tackle. She currently heads up the DEQ Blood Drive, volunteers for Envirothon (an annual environmental competition), ChemFriends (an annual science career fair), Household Hazardous Materials Days, the Capital Area Heart Drive, and other activities – regardless of whether she receives compensatory time or not. She just likes to help and is a familiar face at any DEQ event, including cheering for DEQ football and baseball teams. Whether it’s giving a coworker a ride to work, launching a fundraising effort for a family or organization in need, or bringing food, comfort or housekeeping assistance to families going through a difficult time, you will always find Minta there, smiling. And if you walk by her desk, or stop into talk, there is always candy or goodies if you choose. All compliments of Minta.

“Minta has exemplary work habits and she is dependable,” said Loyd.

Minta and 23 other state employees were honored at a luncheon for the Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Service Awards for 2015. The luncheon was held at the New Orleans Doubletree Hotel on Jan. 21.

“I was very honored and humbled to be amongst 23 other winners, and yes, even though there were 12 honorable mentions and 12 winners, I consider all of us to be winners,” said Canelas. “We were chosen out of 90,000 state workers. I’m so thankful and blessed to have been nominated by such caring and amazing coworkers who thought enough of me to take their time to do this. The luncheon was very nice and the food was good. We even stopped by the front desk on the way out and got our warm chocolate chip cookies!”

Canelas’ nomination was filled out by Sonja Loyd with input from Canelas’ coworkers and friends, Mia Townsel, Jean Kelly, Jenniffer Sheppard, Amanda Vincent, Curt Auzenne, Cyndi Rainwater, Judith Schuerman and Bruce Fielding.

Canelas’ philosophy is summed up by the message on her desk phone – “Don’t forget to smile!”



Minta Canelas receives her Charles Dunbar Honorable Mention Award from Daniel Sullivan, Executive Vice President of Louisiana Civil Service League.



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Fundraising participation by DEQ nets Baton Rouge Food Bank more than 12,500 meals

This past October, DEQ launched a 10 – week campaign in support of “Trevor’s Wish 2015.” Trevor’s Wish was an idea born from Trevor Sims, a 10-year old boy who was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Trevor’s one wish was to feed the hungry, and several private citizens, businesses and organizations in Baton Rouge and across the region joined Trevor’s humanitarian call to action. Although Trevor passed away in 2013, just a few days after his 11th birthday, the legacy and impact of his kind heart and selflessness grew into an ongoing mission that crossed state lines, producing more than 442,000 meals for the hungry to date.

“In honor of ‘Trevor’s Wish 2015,’ the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank was selected as the recipient of monies and donations from DEQ’s 2015 Fundraising Campaign,” said Terry Thomas, of DEQ’s Office of Management and Finance. “The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank provides food and educational outreach to an 11 parish service area.”

DEQ’s “Trevor’s Wish 2015” fundraising period ran from Oct. 7 through Dec. 17, with fundraising and donation events such as money collected from employee casual dress days and non-perishable food accumulated from food bank donation barrels.

At the final tally, DEQ’s food and monetary donation to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank amounted to the equivalent of 12,516 meals.

For more information about Trevor’s Wish, or to donate to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, please visit: <http://www.brfoodbank.org/trevors-wish/>.



Food donation barrels were placed in the lobby of the Galvez Building in Baton Rouge.

**Employee monetary donation
for casual dress days:**

\$2,358 (11,790 Meals Provided)

**Total weight from
food barrel donations:**

871 lbs. (726 Meals Provided)



Who's Who At DEQ?

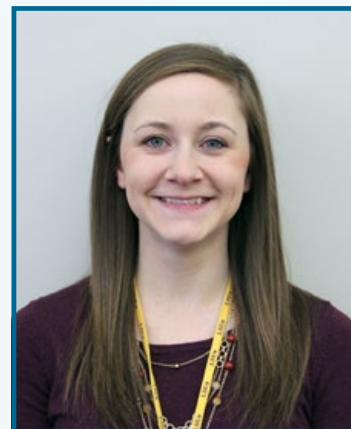


Kevin Borne – Emergency Response Section – staff environmental scientist

Borne graduated from LSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in 2009. He worked as a biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from 2010 to 2012 before coming to DEQ in 2012 as an environmental scientist. Borne has been in the Emergency Response section for 3½ years as a responder for the Capitol Regional Office and was recently promoted to staff environmental scientist. He is from Lafayette and enjoys hunting, fishing and anything outdoors.

Anna Evans – Water Enforcement, Office of Environmental Compliance – environmental scientist

Evans started at DEQ in November 2015 as an environmental scientist in Water Enforcement Division. She is from St. Bernard Parish and graduated from LSU in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in natural resource ecology and management. While at LSU, she worked as a research assistant in the fisheries lab and the conservation genetics lab.



Jaclyn Allen– Water Permits Division– environmental scientist

Allen graduated from LSU in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences and in 2012 with a Master of Natural Sciences focusing on geology and environmental sciences. Following graduation, she taught science at St. Amant High School. She is now an environmental scientist in Water Quality Standards. Allen enjoys restoring antique furniture and teaching her Boston terrier new tricks. She grew up in and currently lives in Central.





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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

Fourth Quarter 2016 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/EnforcementActions.aspx>

Fourth Quarter 2016 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/SettlementAgreements.aspx>

Fourth Quarter 2016 Quarter 2014 Air Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx>

Fourth Quarter 2016 Quarter 2014 Water Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx>

Fourth Quarter 2016 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/divisions/wastepermits.aspx>

