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# State of Louisiana Drinking Water Protection Program

September 2005

Office of Environmental Assessment

Issue 9



## St. Landry, Natchitoches and Jefferson Davis added to list of participating parishes

The DEQ Drinking Water Protection Program is a success story on the road. The program started in Avoyelles Parish in 2003 and has expanded to Acadia, Vermillion, Natchitoches, St. Landry and Jefferson Davis parishes.

The three most recent additions to the roster of parishes are Natchitoches in 2004 and St. Landry and Jefferson Davis in 2005. The program, which is aimed at increasing public awareness about drinking water, is educating the communities about how to protect their own natural resources.

The Drinking Water Protection team starts a program in a parish by first visiting local water systems. From there they visit the various schools to show kids where drinking water comes from and how easily drinking water can be contaminated. The team also works closely with elected officials. A community meeting

is set up so citizens can receive helpful drinking water tips and conservation information. Citizens of the local communities are encouraged to form a committee and then they take over the job of protecting their own water. The program is geared to help citizens take control of their environment and take an active role

in ensuring clean drinking water for the future. The program will move into Calcasieu Parish next with a community meeting scheduled for early September. The theme of the program is to "Protect Your Drinking Water One Drop at a Time."



St. Landry Drinking Water Protection committee officers, from left to right: Flo Dupre, DEQ team member Jesse Means, Luke Deshotels, Mark LeBlanc and Angela Savoy.

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
 Visit us at our website:  
<http://www.deq.la.gov/evaluation/aeps/DWPP/index.htm>



### 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 at [Micaela.Marchand@la.gov](mailto:Micaela.Marchand@la.gov) or at the following mailing address:

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## CONGRATULATIONS ! THE DRINKING WATER PROTECTION TEAM SALUTES

**Municipalities to pass Drinking Water Protection Ordinances, September 2004-August 2005:** Town of Iota, Town of Church Point, City of Rayne, LAWCO-Mansura, Goldonna, Town of Gueydan, Town of Delcambre, City of Abbeville, City of Kaplan, Town of Erath  
**Police Jury to pass Drinking Water Protection Ordinance, September 2004-August 2005:** Vermillion Parish, Acadia Parish  
**Wellhead Protection Programs Approved in September 2004- August 2005:** Town of Sunset, Village of Cankton, Chee Chee Bay Water System, Chestnut-Readhimer Water System, Provencal Water System, Clarence Water System, Sterlington Water System (Greater Ouachita Water Company), Town of Gueydan, Huntington Park Water System (Greater Ouachita Water Company), City of Kaplan, Lewisburg-Bellevue Water System, Natchitoches Parish District #2, Point Blue Water System, Town of Port Barre, Grand Prairie Water System, Waterworks District #3-Pecan Island.  
**Louisiana Rural Water Association Source Water Protection Program of the Year:** City of Rayne  
**Louisiana Rural Water Association Water Operator of the Year—South:** Bryan "Kirk" Cormier, Egan Water Corporation

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DEQ Drinking Water Protection team members (l to r): bottom row, Micaela Marchand and Mary Gentry; top row, John Jennings, Howard Fielding, Tiffani Cravens, and Jesse Means.

## DEQ receives award

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality received an award from the Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA) during the LRWA Annual Training and Technical Conference held July 11-15th, 2005, in Alexandria, LA.

The award was "in appreciation for support and services to LRWA and the water and wastewater industry." The Drinking Water Protection team works closely with LRWA to protect water resources in Louisiana.

## Each parish adds flavor to DWPP gumbo

### How are other parishes approaching the DWPP? A look at parish program highlights.

Once a committee is formed in a parish, the committee embarks on different tasks to protect drinking water in their community. There are three tasks that DEQ asks each committee to consider. They are:

- 1. Visit potential sources of contamination within a drinking water protection area.** Potential sources of contamination (PSOCs) may include gas stations, dry cleaners or other facilities that sell, store, use or dispose of chemicals. Chemicals, if not handled properly, have the potential to contaminate our ground water and surface water. PSOC personnel are provided with fact sheets, a list of important contacts, and a decal that reads "Drinking Water Protection Partner."
- 2. Distribute information.** DEQ provides the committee with fact sheets and other materials on drinking water protection to distribute to appropriate audiences such as schools, businesses, farmers, local organizations, and water systems.
- 3. Ordinances, planning and zoning.** DEQ recommends that communities pass drinking water protection ordinances and consider the

location of public water sources in planning and zoning activities. DEQ provides the committee with maps of these locations and a model ordinance to present to local government.

Each committee, in addition to these tasks, designs projects that are especially suited to the needs of their community.

#### Avoyelles Parish

- Distributed information on used oil recycling.
- Updated the public on drinking water information through the Avoyelles Wildlife Federation radio show.
- Developed spill prevention and control plans to be distributed to farmers by fuel distributors.

#### Acadia Parish

Had guest speakers from:

- The Department of Transportation and Development on Abandoned Wells.
- The Department of Health and Hospitals on backflow prevention.
- Bruce Darling, LBG-Guyton Associates, on Louisiana's Water Management Plan.

#### Vermilion Parish

- 4-H members participated in PSOC visits.
- Prepared information on used oil recycling for distribution.
- Had guest speaker Bruce Darling, LBG-Guyton Associates, on Louisiana's Water Management Plan.



#### Natchitoches Parish

- Guest speaker Chris Piehler, from the DEQ, on mercury.
- Researched holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
- Researched surface water ordinances. Plans to develop an ordinance to protect Sibley Lake, the surface water source of drinking water for the City of Natchitoches.

#### St. Landry Parish

- Guest speaker Chris Piehler, from the DEQ, on mercury.
- Guest speakers from the Department of Health and Hospitals on chlorination by-products and arsenic.



### On the Radar Targeted parishes through 2007

- Beauregard
- Bossier
- Caddo
- Calcasieu
- East Baton Rouge
- Lafourche
- Rapides
- Terrebonne

## Vermilion Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee still at it...



The Vermilion Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee has completed most of the visits to significant potential sources of contamination. There is only one community remaining with visits to complete.

The drinking water protection ordinance has been adopted in Gueydan, Erath, Delcambre, Kaplan and by the Vermilion Parish Police Jury. Ordinance passage is pending in Maurice. Call your Maurice City Councilperson or contact Maurice City Hall to provide support for the passage of the ordinance. Keep your fingers crossed that Maurice adopts the ordinance – if so, Vermilion Parish will have 100%

coverage by the Drinking Water Protection Ordinance!

As the Vermilion Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee nears the completion of its drinking water protection goals, the LDEQ Drinking Water Protection Team members will soon have to move on and focus on other parishes, but we will miss you Vermilion Parish!

## Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee awarded for service

A dinner and award ceremony was held on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the Rayne Civic Center to honor the Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments and dedication to protecting drinking water. Mayor Jim Petitjean and Water Superintendent Mike Judice of the City of Rayne hosted the event, providing the food and the facility.



From left to right– Mike Judice, Rayne Water Dept. Supervisor, Howard Fielding, LDEQ Geologist Supervisor, and LDEQ Drinking Water Protection team members Mary Gentry, Geologist, and Tiffani Cravens, Geologist.

Committee members visited 128 local business owners and operators located within one mile of community wells to educate them on best management practices to keep drinking water safe. They developed a list of used oil recyclers in the parish and distributed it to local business and published it in local newspapers. They also encouraged the adoption of local drinking water protection

ordinances to restrict certain new facilities using or storing fuels or chemicals from locating within 1000 feet of public water supply wells. The ordinance was adopted by the City of Rayne, the Town of Church Point, the Town of Iota, and the Acadia Parish

Police Jury. The ordinance is up for public comment in the City of Crowley.

In addition, the committee requested special guest speakers at their meetings to discuss such topics as fluoridation, abandoned wells, cross-

connection control, and the Louisiana Ground Water Management Plan.

Members of the Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection committee are as follows: Greg Arabie, Jeff Bouillion, Mary Brasseaux, Ervin Brasseaux, A.J. Broussard, Theresa Cary, Bill Chaumont, Errol Comeaux, Kirk Cormier, Margaret Frey, Andrew Gauthreaux, Pat Gauthreaux, Donald Hilliard, Mike Judice, Ben Labiche, Ron Levy, Michael Pastor, Cindy Redlich, Gregory Richard, Sandy Sarver, Nick Simoneaux, William Stewart, Jr., Ken Terry, Steven Thibodeaux, August Thibodeaux, Curtis Thibodeaux, Walton Thibodeaux, and Dave Thomas. LDEQ congratulates these dedicated individuals for their efforts to protect a precious resource.

## Photos from the Year



DEQ Drinking Water Protection team member Tiffani Cravens discusses water issues with citizens at the St. Landry Parish Community Meeting held in Opelousas on April 7, 2005.



Volunteers work at the City of Alexandria's Household Waste Collection Day. Natchitoches Parish Drinking Water Committee representatives Ken Terry and Jesse Means attended.



DEQ Drinking Water Protection team member Jesse Means gives an aquifer model demonstration at Natchitoches Central High School in Natchitoches, Louisiana.