



Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission



Watching out for A Treasured Earth Resource

Dedicated to the conservation, orderly development and protection of quality of ground water in the Capital Area

Volume 37, Issue 3

NEWSLETTER

January 2012

Around the District

EBR Metro Council Request

The East Baton Rouge Metro Council recently sent a resolution to the Commissioner of the Louisiana Office of Conservation, Mr. James H. Welsh, requesting him to call a hearing to accept testimony and other evidence regarding “the lowering of the water table under East Baton Rouge due to excessive pumping of groundwater...”. Commissioner Welsh, in turn, forwarded a request to the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission (CAGWCC) for “... current and future plans approved or under consideration to address the saltwater encroachment over the Baton Rouge Fault and towards the location of public supply wells used to provide drinking water to residents of East Baton Rouge.”

CAGWCC met on November 6 to discuss the request, and a response was submitted to Commissioner Welsh following the December 13 Commission meeting. Commission Chair Causey and District Director Duplechin met with Commissioner Welsh and his staff on January 17 to discuss the issue.



Commission News

Upcoming Meetings

The Technical Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, 2012 in the conference room of the U.S. Geological Survey at 3535 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 20, 2012 in the conference room of the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Administrative Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission office, Suite 129, 3535 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, one hour before the regular meeting.

December Meetings

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee met on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 in the Conference Room of the US Geological Survey.

Chairman Dennis McGehee brought the meeting to order. The following topics were discussed:

1. Request from Commissioner Welsh (see story above)

2. Presentation from Dr. Doug Carlson of the Louisiana Geological Survey for a draft proposal titled:

“Baseline Determination of Water Quality of Southern Hills Aquifer System, in South Louisiana.”

Dr. Carlson is seeking a letter of support for this project from CAGWCC. A motion to send a letter of support was passed unanimously.

3. Jason Griffith (USGS) gave a progress report on the Baton Rouge model (Simulation of Ground-Water Flow in the “1,500-foot” and “2,000-foot” Sands and Movement of Saltwater in the “2,000-foot” Sand of the Baton Rouge Area) that USGS has been working on and solicited comments on future possible simulation scenarios for the modeling project.

Progress

- Began calibration of the saltwater-transport simulation
- Began discussions with Capital Area District

water planners and managers about developing hypothetical future pumping scenarios.

- Continue writing text of the report.

Plans for Next Quarter

- Continue calibration of solute-transport simulation.
- Meet with water planners & managers to discuss future pumping scenarios.

Commission Meeting

The Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission met on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, in the Conference Room of the US Geological Survey.

There was much discussion about the response to Commissioner Welsh (see Technical Committee report), and a response was approved by unanimous vote. The Administrative and Technical Committees reports were presented. In addition, Commissioner Walton made a motion for the USGS to prepare a schedule and scope of costs for future studies and maintenance of the existing model to be presented at the March meeting. Mr. Causey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Causey requested that the Director send a letter to the U.S. Geological Survey requesting this information.

Mr. Tom Killeen, of the Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality Water Permits Division, stated that his department received a letter from Baton Rouge Water Company concerning potential surface water discharges from a possible new scavenger well. He stated that his department's primary role is to work with the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission and the water company to make sure decisions are made comprehensively. Mr. Killeen stated that for example if the discharge is a half million gallons per

day at about 2,000 parts per million chloride that the department has an obligation to address it. The question would be how would the department address and define it. Some possibilities would be through a LPDES permit or by a letter authorizing the discharge. Mr. Killeen stated that his department intends to discuss this further with the Baton Rouge Water Company.

Groundwater Association holds Annual Meeting in Louisiana



The Groundwater Management Districts Association held their Annual Conference on January 11-13, 2012, in New Orleans at the Astor Crowne Plaza in the French Quarter.

GMDA is composed of local groundwater management districts in several Midwestern and Southern states.

At the Annual meeting there were presentations on Mississippi River Navigation and Dredging (US Army Corps of Engineers), the Atchafalaya Basin (Iberville Parish Council Office) and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin (Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation). A field trip was also held in which several post-Katrina USACE projects were highlighted, including the 17th Street Canal Pumping Station, the Seabrook Floodgate Complex and the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barriers (as seen below).



Photo by Ray Devlin

Statewide Ground Water Management Plan

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Office of

Conservation, hosted a series of public meetings in November to provide information on the state's past and current ground water resources management practices and the draft recommendations for a state ground water plan.

Public comments were received during the meetings and written comments were accepted through November 21, 2011.

A draft copy of the recommendations document can be viewed at:

www.dnr.louisiana.gov/draftstatewidewaterplan

Public meetings were held in the following locations:

Ruston	Alexandria
Crowley	Baton Rouge
Shreveport	

Meeting transcripts and written public comments can be viewed at:

<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=475>

Groundwater Awareness Week:

March 11-17, 2012



"Time to schedule your annual water well checkup!"

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to have an annual water well checkup before the peak water use season begins, according to the National Ground Water Association (NGWA).

Why is it a good idea to have my water well checked annually?

An annual checkup by a qualified water well contractor is the best way to ensure problem-free service and

quality water, says Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District Director and NGWA member Tony Duplechin.

Also, preventative maintenance usually is less costly than emergency maintenance, and good well maintenance — like good car maintenance — can prolong the life of your well and related equipment. NGWA further recommends you test your water whenever there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, or when the system is serviced.

Schedule your annual water well checkup

Wells can provide high-quality drinking water, and about half the U.S. population receives its drinking water from wells. But with well ownership comes the responsibility of keeping the water well in good working order. A check of your well by a qualified water well contractor may include:

- A flow test to determine system output, along with a check of the water level before and during pumping (if possible), pump motor performance (check amp load, grounding, and line voltage), pressure tank and pressure switch contact, and general water quality (odor, cloudiness, etc.).
- A well equipment inspection to assure it's sanitary and meets local code.
- A test of your water for coliform bacteria and nitrates, and anything else of local concern. Other typical additional tests are those for iron, manganese, water hardness, sulfides, and other water constituents that cause problems with plumbing, staining, water appearance, and odor.

NGWA also recommends that well owners:

- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer,

pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well, and maintain a "clean" zone of at least 50 feet between your well and any kennels and livestock operations.

- Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems, and chemical storage areas.
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its seal should keep out insects and rodents.
- Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, and annual water well system maintenance and water testing results.

**LEO BANKSTON
GROUND WATER
CONSERVATION
AWARD**

CAGWCC is pleased to announce the continuation of its annual Leo Bankston Ground Water Conservation Award. This award was instituted to recognize water users in our district that demonstrate outstanding ground water conservation practices. The CAGWCC hopes to encourage good stewardship of our ground water resource by showcasing these projects.

Examples of conservation practices that would be considered for awards include:

- * Reduction in pumpage of ground water
- * Increased use of shallow sands to decrease pumping stress on deeper sands
- * Technology improvements such as installation of flow meter or automatic control
- * Process modifications that would switch to alternative

sources such as gray water, river water or shallow sands

- * Water recycling such as cooling water reuse
- * Identifying and properly plugging abandoned wells

Any water user in the five-parish District (East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana and Pointe Coupee) is eligible to receive the award. To be nominated, the project must have been implemented during the previous calendar year (2011). The winner will be recognized by the Board of Commissioners and in the Commission's newsletter. Press releases will also be sent to local newspapers. The application for the award can be found on the Commission's website at www.cagwcc.com.

The award is named for former Commissioner Leo Bankston. Mr. Bankston was on the first Board of Commissioners when the Commission was organized in 1975, and served as its first Chairman. During his long career with the Baton Rouge Water Company he worked tirelessly to protect and conserve the priceless ground water resources in the five parish Capital area. Past winners of the award include Georgia Pacific Corporation, Exxon/Mobil and Honeywell International, Inc.



COMMISSION STAFF

Anthony J. Duplechin, Director
Shawn O. Scallan, Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jake Causey, Chairman
John Hashagen, Vice-Chairman
James Rills, Treasurer

Melvin Argrave, III
Zahir "Bo" Bolourchi
Jody Burleson
John P. Cadenhead
Brian Chustz
Joey Hebert

John Jennings
Harold Kirby
Dennis McGehee
Rosemary Rummeler
Mark Walton
John Westra

Visit our website at www.cagwcc.com