



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

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NEWSLETTER

Summer 2012

City of Baker Earns 2012 Leo Bankston Ground Water Conservation Award

Implementation of “Green” Project helps save 21 million gallons of groundwater a month

Prior to 2011, only 761 of the City of Baker’s almost 5,300 water customers had water meters. According to Baker Mayor Harold Rideau, users were being charged a flat rate, \$14/month, for water use, no matter how much water they used. As a result, water conservation was not a general practice. Some homeowners even went as far as putting sprinklers on the roof of their houses during the summer to keep their utility bills lower. Even though he realized that this was a politically dangerous move, Mayor Rideau applied for and received grants from DEQ and DHH to help fund installation of the water meters. Pedal Valves, of Luling, Louisiana, was contracted for the meters, which are all American-made.



The automated meters have a radio transmitter that sends continuous updates on consumption to receivers around the city that relay the information to a central computer. Once the meters were in place, users began being charged for actual water use. An added benefit is that consumers are able to determine if they had a water leak. Detailed water use data is transmitted from the individual meters to a central location. Since the meters were installed, the City of Baker has reduced groundwater pumpage by some twenty-one million gallons a month. “It’s also a timely project,” added Mayor Rideau. “Saltwater intrusion has begun in south Baton Rouge. If we don’t start to conserve water, we’ll have salt water up here.”

At their June 19, 2012 meeting, the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to award the **2012 Leo Bankston Groundwater Conservation Award** to the City of Baker. During the meeting, Commissioner Joey Hebert commented that when the Commission developed the award, this was the exact type of project that the Commission intended to recognize and that the Commission is proud to present the award to the City of Baker. Commissioner Dennis McGehee added that this encourages the people of Baker to conserve water. A plaque will be presented to Mayor Rideau and the City of Baker at the August 28, 2012 Baker City Council meeting.

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 Capital area. Past winners of the award include Georgia Pacific Corporation, Exxon/Mobil and Honeywell International, Inc.

Commission News

Upcoming Meetings

The Technical Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 11, 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, September 18, 2012 in the conference room of the U.S. Geological Survey.

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

June Meetings

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee met on Tuesday, June 12, in the conference room of the U.S. Geological Survey.

The first order of business was a presentation and discussion of Commissioner of Conservation Jim Welsh's order number ENV 2012-GW011, which requires that certain well owners in the 1,200, 1,500, 1,700 and 2,000 foot sands provide a written report (by September 28, 2012) on current and future groundwater withdrawal volumes. Mr. John Adams, an attorney for Conservation's Environmental Division, gave a brief description of the Order, stating that the Order is just the beginning of the process for the Office of Conservation to gather information on groundwater withdrawals in the Baton Rouge area.

The Committee then discussed making a recommendation to the full Commission to petition the Commissioner of Conservation to extend the northern boundary in the Order up to the parish line between East Baton Rouge Parish and East Feliciana bounded on the west by the

Mississippi River and the East by the "St. Helena Meridian." It was voted that such a recommendation be made to the full Commission.

Baker Mayor Harold Rideau made a short presentation on the City of Baker's automated water meter project. He said that prior to 2011, water usage in the City of Baker was not metered, and users were charged a flat rate. Even though he realized that this was a politically dangerous move, he applied for and received grants from DEQ and DHH to help fund installation of the water meters. Since the meters were installed, the City of Baker has reduced groundwater use by some twenty-one million gallons a month.

Jason Griffith (USGS) gave a short 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, explaining some of the adjustments that have been made to the model. He presented a list of ten potential hypothetical scenarios to be considered in future runs of the model. Following are the four scenarios that the technical committee requested:

1. Continue 2007 withdrawal rates throughout the aquifer system (status quo).

Purpose: To study water levels and saltwater movement in the 2,000-foot sand over time under current conditions. This is a requisite scenario that will provide a baseline to help evaluate the effects of other scenarios.

2. Move all industrial withdrawals from the 2,000-foot sand to a shallower or deeper aquifer in the industrial area, such as the 2,400-, 1,200- or 800-foot sands.

Purpose: To study the effects of industrial withdrawals on water levels and saltwater

3. Reduce withdrawals from 2,000-foot sand wells at the ExxonMobil refinery by 2,500 gpm (3.6 Mgal/d).

Purpose: To study the effects of planned withdrawal reductions on water levels and saltwater encroachment in the 2,000-foot sand.

4. Reduce withdrawals from 1,500-foot sand wells at GP by 50 percent.

Purpose: To study the effects of reduced industrial withdrawals on water levels in the 1,500-foot sand.

The Technical Committee then considered the City of Baker's application for the 2012 Leo Bankston Ground Water Conservation Award. Mark Walton made a motion, and Brian Chustz seconded that the Commission award the City of Baker the 2012 Leo Bankston Ground Water Conservation Award. The vote was unanimous.

Commission Meeting

At the request of the Chairman, Jake Causey, Mr. James Rills reported on the Administrative Committee meeting that was held June 19, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. Following is a summary of items discussed at the meeting and further discussion and action at the regular Commission meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Financial Conditions as of May 31, 2012 were distributed for review and comment.

Copies of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 were distributed for review.

Mr. Rills made a motion to adopt the budget for 2012-2013. Mr. Walton seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Rills reported that Chairman Jake Causey received a letter from Commissioner of Conservation James

Welsh, dated June 15, 2012. Mr. Welsh made some recommendations to CAGWCC. One recommendation was to hire the services of a court reporter during official CAGWCC meetings. Mr. Rills stated that it is the recommendation of the Administrative Committee that the Commission not hire a court reporter. Mr. Welsh also inquired about the Commission's meeting protocol. The Commission follows Robert's Rules of Order and the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

Mr. Rills made a motion that the Commission earmark \$300,000 as a line item in the 2012-2013 budget for modeling studies. Mr. Bolourchi seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

At the request of Mr. Causey, the report of the Technical Committee was made by Committee Chairman, Dennis McGehee (see report above.)

The Commission considered the City of Baker's application for the 2012 Leo Bankston Ground Water Conservation Award. Mark Walton made a motion, and Brian Chutz seconded that the Commission award the City of Baker the 2012 Leo Bankston Ground Water Conservation Award. The vote was unanimous.

Discussion followed concerning setting up a meeting between CAGWCC and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber. Mr. Ryan Gremillion was in attendance, representing BRAC, and he offered to set up such a meeting with Mr. Adam Knapp, President and CEO of the Chamber. At the meeting, Mr. Duplechin will give a presentation on the history, functions and duties of CAGWCC.

Mr. Causey appointed the Nominating Committee for the 2013 officers. The committee will be John Jennings and Mark Walton. The committee will present their nominations at the September meeting.

CAGWCC Resolution No. 2012 -2 requested the Commissioner of Conservation amend Conservation Order 2012-GW011 by extending the northern boundary of the area

designated in Exhibit B of that Order to the northern boundary of East Baton Rouge Parish, retaining the same east and west boundaries, namely the Mississippi River on the west and the St. Helena Meridian, from its intersection at Monte Sano Bayou on the east. Much discussion followed, including a motion that the resolution be tabled (failed) and amended such that the deadline for submittal be extended until March 31, 2013 (passed). Ultimately, the Resolution was forwarded to the Commissioner of Conservation, who denied the request

Consideration of the USGS modeling proposal was postponed until the September 2012, as was consideration of a fee increase for water well pumpage.

EBR pledges Continued Support of USGS Modeling Effort

The Directors of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District and the USGS Louisiana Water Science Center met with Baton Rouge Mayor/President "Kip" Holden in July to discuss the continuation of a cooperative endeavor between East Baton Rouge Parish (EBR) and Capital Area to assist in funding USGS' future groundwater modeling efforts in the Baton Rouge area. Also present from EBR were Director of Public Works William Daniel and Chief Engineer Bryan Harmon. Representing USGS were Louisiana Water Science Center Director George Arcement and Assistant Director John Lovelace. Mr. Lovelace made a brief presentation to the Mayor about the work that has been done on the model over the past five years and USGS' plans for the next ten years. Mayor Holden was very appreciative and pledged his support of future modeling efforts. Capital Area Director Tony Duplechin will work with EBR to complete paperwork for the continuation the cooperative endeavor.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Public Works, is also a cooperator in this modeling effort by USGS.

2012 Louisiana Legislature Wrap-up

Several pieces of Legislation were passed by the Louisiana House and Senate this past session that had a direct effect on the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District and Board of Commissioners.

House Bill 896 (Act 601) by Representative Dove of Houma replaces the representative from DOTD with one from DNR's Office of Conservation.

Senate Bill 502 (Act 790) by Senator Claitor of Baton Rouge requires annual reports from certain special districts regarding groundwater resources.

5

Senate Bill 495 (Act 471) by Senator Long of Winnfield makes sweeping changes to the state Groundwater Resources Commission, renaming it the Water Resources Commission, and adding several members, including the Executive Director of the Sabine River Authority, the Executive Director of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, a representative of the Ports Association of Louisiana, a representative of the Louisiana River Pilot's Association, a lawyer with experience in water law, and two members, one nominated by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and one by the Senate Natural Resources Committee who represent residential customers. The Groundwater Management Advisory Task Force has been re-named the Water Management Advisory Task Force, adding Louisiana Water Environment Association as a member.

Gain insight on new research, technological advancements, and opportunities at the

NGWA Focus Conference on Gulf Coast Groundwater Issues (#5010)

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<i>Brian Chustz</i>	<i>John Westra</i>

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