

Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District



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

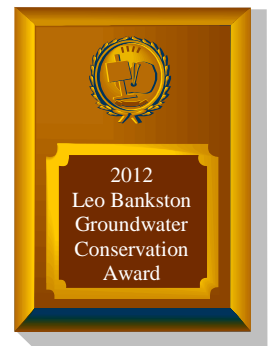
1st Quarter 2013

LEO BANKSTON GROUNDWATER 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 meters or automatic controls
- 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 (2012). 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. Last year's winner was the City of Baker, whose automated water meter project resulted in a groundwater pumpage reduction of 21 million gallons per month.

Upcoming Meetings

The Technical Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 13, at 1:30 p.m. in the Griffon Room of the LaSalle Building, 317 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A map and parking locations can be found at: <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=66>

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 19, 2013 in the conference room of the U.S. Geological Survey. The Administrative Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the District conference room, Suite 137, 3535 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, one hour before the regular meeting.

December Meetings Technical Committee

The Technical Committee met on Tuesday, December 4, in the conference room of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Matt Reonas, Education and Marketing Representative for the Louisiana Office of Conservation, gave a presentation on that agencies plan for increasing the public's groundwater knowledge in the coming months. Explained how the Commissioner of Conservation found that the Baton Rouge area is generally lacking an aggressive groundwater conservation and water resources sustainability public education, awareness and outreach effort ..." and that "The Office of Conservation will develop a groundwater conservation and aquifer awareness public education initiative on the matter of saltwater encroachment in the Baton Rouge area aquifer system with intentions to implement said initiative shortly thereafter. All major groundwater well owners, stakeholders and interested parties are encouraged to assist the agency with development and implementation of this effort."

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.

Commission Meeting

The Commission met on Tuesday, December 11, in the conference room of the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Administrative Committee had met in the Capital Area conference room earlier in the morning.

The Technical Committee report was given by Committee Chairman McGehee (see report above).

Mr. Duplechin reported that a draft copy of the agreement proposal had been sent to the City of Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish for their participation in the upcoming project titled, "Development and Maintenance of a Computer Model to Simulate Groundwater Flow and Saltwater Encroachment in the Baton Rouge Sands, Louisiana". The total project cost over an 10 year period is \$2,019,000. The Commission is requesting that the City of Baton Rouge fund \$310,500. The agreement is scheduled to be brought before the Metro Council at their February 13 meeting at the Municipal Building in downtown Baton Rouge.

Mr. Causey reported that the new officers for the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission for 2013 are: Joey Hebert, Chairman; John Jennings, Vice-Chairman, and Dennis McGehee, Treasurer.

PUMPAGE FEE INCREASE UPDATE

A Notice of Intent for a rule change to increase pumpage fees from \$4.00 per million gallons to \$5.00 per million gallons to cover the additional costs of the USGS modeling study along with the maintenance of the current model was published in the December 20, 2012 edition of the Louisiana State Register. A public hearing was held on January 29, 2013. One comment in support of the fee increases was received.

Barring any negative comments by the Legislative Oversight Committees, we hope to have the Final Rule published in the March 20, 2013 Louisiana Register, and the fee increase go into effect April 1 of this year.

Louisiana Groundwater Association holds Annual Conference

•The Louisiana Ground Water Association held their Annual Convention and Trade Show at the Paragon Casino in Marksville, LA on January 8th, 2013. Among the many presenters were Teri Tharpe and Brandon Breaux of the Office of Conservation's Environmental Division. Their presentation was titled "LDNR Rule Changes in 2013." Also from DNR was Pat Derozan from the Information Technology Division. Pat spoke on "How to Locate Wells with DNR's Internet Program." Capital Area Groundwater District Director Anthony Duplechin briefed the attendees on the groundwater challenges faced in the five-parish Capital Area.

Governor Announces Appointments to the Board of Commissioners for the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District

BATON ROUGE – On February 4, Governor Bobby Jindal announced appointments to the Board of Commissioners for the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District.

Julius Metz, of St. Francisville, is a utility maintenance worker for the W.F.P. Police Jury Water District #13. Metz will be appointed to serve as a representative West Feliciana Parish, nominated by the Policy Jury of the Parish of West Feliciana, as required by statute.

Barry Huggins, of Port Allen, is the President and CEO of Reliant Technologies, Inc. Huggins will be appointed to serve as a representative of West Baton Rouge Parish, nominated by the West Baton Rouge Parish Council, as required by statute.

Dale Aucoin, of Zachary, is employed with ExxonMobil and is assigned to their Energy Project Group. Aucoin has been reappointed to represent industrial users, as required by statute.



Louisiana Office of Conservation Hosts Groundwater Workshop for Local Science Teachers

On February 1st, Louisiana Office of Conservation staff held a very successful science teacher workshop at the Capitol Park Museum in downtown Baton Rouge as part of the Office's ongoing "Water-Wise in BR" public awareness effort. The program drew middle school and high school science teachers from 18 public, parochial, and private schools in East Baton Rouge Parish, as well as members of the science faculty from Baton Rouge Community College. Jason Griffith of the U.S. Geological Survey presented a keynote address on groundwater issues in Louisiana and the Baton Rouge area, followed by three curriculum sessions led by veteran science teachers that explored groundwater basics, the environmental decision-making process, and digital mapping concepts. Field tours to Entergy's Louisiana Station co-generation plant and the Baton Rouge Water Company's Old Lady of the Lake pumping station proved to be highlights of the workshop. Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission Chairman Joey Hebert (Georgia-Pacific) attended the event, and board members Brian Chustz (Entergy) and Dennis McGehee (Baton Rouge Water Co.) facilitated the tours; the Office of Conservation wishes to express its sincerest thanks to both men and their companies for helping put these tours together.

Commissioner of Conservation James Welsh addressed the educators attending the meeting, laying out a challenge for them in his opening remarks to stay engaged and implement groundwater lesson plans in their classrooms. Welsh called open dialogue about Baton Rouge's groundwater management in local middle and high school science classes a "great opportunity to discuss real issues and to foster creative thinking." The workshop received high marks from the teachers on both content and effectiveness, with one teacher calling it "the most interesting and informative workshop that I've ever attended."

Groundwater: Out of Sight, But Not Out of Mind

An editorial by Kevin McCray, CAE, Executive Director,
National Ground Water Association

Some 44 percent of the U.S. population depends on groundwater, the water that fills cracks and other openings in beds of rock and sand, for its drinking water supply — be it from either a public source or private well. In rural areas, the number is about 96 percent. That fact alone justifies the need for National Groundwater Awareness Week, to be observed March 10-16, 2013. But groundwater is important to us in many other ways, as well. Consider:

- Groundwater provides much of the flow of many streams; often lakes and streams are "windows" to the water table. Groundwater adds 492 billion gallons per day to U.S. surface water bodies. In large part, the flow in a stream represents water that has flowed from the ground into the stream channel.
- Scientists estimate U.S. groundwater reserves to be at least 33,000 trillion gallons — equal to the amount discharged into the Gulf of Mexico by the Mississippi River in the past 200 years.
- The United States uses 79.6 billion gallons per day of fresh groundwater for public supply, private supply, irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, thermoelectric power, and other purposes.
- Groundwater is tapped through wells placed in water-bearing soils and rocks beneath the surface of the Earth. There are nearly 15.9 million of these wells serving households, cities, business, and agriculture every day. Wells are constructed by the 8,100 contracting firms employing nearly 45,000 people dedicated to providing and protecting our nation's groundwater supplies.

- Irrigation accounts for the largest use of groundwater in the United States, about 67.2 percent of all the groundwater pumped each day. Some 53.5 billion gallons of groundwater are used daily for agricultural irrigation from more than 407,913 wells. Irrigation is a major reason for the abundance of fresh produce and grains that we all enjoy.
- One ton of groundwater used by industry generates an estimated \$14,000 worth of output.

These facts help us connect with the important role we each play as stewards, or protectors, of groundwater. Man can adversely affect the resource. Fortunately, there are simple steps that will help protect groundwater and the wells systems that distribute it.

- Always use licensed or certified water well drillers and pump installers when a well is constructed or serviced, or when the pump is installed or serviced.
- Keep hazardous materials away from any well. Never dump such materials, motor oil, or anything else that could impact water quality onto the land surface, into a hole or pit, or into a surface water supply.

These tips and more are available from sources such as a state groundwater or water well association, NGWA, or from your county agricultural extension agent or state government agency with responsibility for groundwater. A convenient source for a broader understanding of our groundwater protector role can be found at www.wellowner.org, a Web service of NGWA.

National Groundwater Awareness Week is not a celebration such as the Fourth of July has become. Instead, we should use the week to reflect more deeply on groundwater's value and its contributions to our lives.

COMMISSION STAFF

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

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