

**Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee Meeting
June 24, 2004 at 6:30 PM**

Meeting called to order. Thank you and introductions. In attendance:

Mel Green – Church Point

Errol Comeaux – Church Point

Theresa T.C. Cary – Church Point

Sandy S. Sarver – Estherwood

Greg Arabie – LA Rural Water Association

Ken Terry – LA Rural Water Association

Bill Chaumont – LA Rural Water Association

Ben LaBiche – LAWCO – Crowley

Mary Gentry – DEQ

Tiffani Cravens – DEQ

Jesse Means – DEQ

Minutes from prior meeting accepted.

Ground Water Protection Ordinance

The main item on the agenda was the introduction and discussion of a model ground water protection ordinance. The committee should encourage the mayors to pass an ordinance for wells in the city limits and they should encourage the Police Jury to pass an ordinance on a parish-wide level to include the wells outside of corporate limits. Jesse Means gave an overview of the elements of the model ground water protection ordinance:

Section 1 states the title and the purpose of the ordinance.

Section 2 states that the ordinance does not supercede any other ordinances already in place.

Section 3 lists definitions of terms used in the ordinance.

Section 4 defines the area covered by the ordinance, or the “critical area”, which is a 1000-foot radius around the public supply well.

Section 5 lists the types of facilities that are prohibited in the critical area. These are the “significant potential sources of contamination” that were identified in the source water assessment program. The list can be modified if the community chooses to do so.

Section 6 is the grandfather clause for existing facilities. If the facility already exists when the ordinance is adopted it can remain there. Replacement or repair is permitted but facilities and activities may not be added or expanded unless it can be shown that undo hardship would result. Part A covers special permits for these cases as well as uses that are not addressed in Section 5. Part B covers the procedures for issuance of special permits, including appeals from denial of special permits.

Section 7 is the saving clause meaning that each part of the ordinance stands alone. If one part of the ordinance is found to be invalid it does not nullify the remainder of the ordinance.

Section 8 addresses the mechanism for complaints alleging violations of the ordinance.

Section 9 is the enforcement clause, the “teeth” of the ordinance.

Q & A/ Comments:

Mr. Comeaux asked why the 1000-foot radius was chosen for the ordinance. Mr. Means and Ms. Gentry explained that 1000 feet is defined as the “critical area” in the source water assessments. Most contaminants will break down beyond 1000 feet so potential sources of contamination located beyond this area tend to pose a lower risk than those closest to the well. In addition, a 1000-foot radius is much easier to pass than trying to regulate the one-mile radius of the entire drinking water protection area.

Mr. Arabie stated that it would probably be best to approach the mayors first and the Police Jury will likely go along with it for the unincorporated areas of the cities and towns that adopt it. He asked Jesse which towns had passed the ordinance in Avoyelles Parish. Jesse stated that the Town of Marksville and the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury had adopted it so far, and that the towns of Moreauville, Simmsport, and Mansura were currently working on getting it passed.

Mr. Arabie asked if Avoyelles Parish and Marksville passed the ordinance as is. Jesse stated that the Police Jury added a clause for drilling of new wells but otherwise it was unchanged from the model.

Mr. Comeaux asked how Avoyelles and Acadia Parishes compare. All DEQ representatives agreed that they are very similar. They are both primarily agricultural parishes and therefore have the same types of significant potential sources of contamination such as above ground storage tanks. Agriculture is regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Most of their regulations address surface water, but are also protective of ground water.

Jesse commented that when committee members go to present the ordinance to town councils and the police jury they have to be able to answer questions about the ordinance. It’s also beneficial to keep in mind reasons why adopting an ordinance is important to protecting the drinking water, such as those listed in the handouts. In Avoyelles, the committee chairman presented the ordinance, explaining what they were trying to do and what the ordinance would do. The DEQ team was there for backup and to answer questions.

Mr. Green asked for clarification on the significant potential sources of contamination listed in Section 5 of the ordinance. The ordinance states that these facilities cannot be

constructed within 1000 feet of a public supply well. If it already exists it will be grandfathered in. It's also important to keep in mind that the list can be adjusted to fit individual community needs. Things can be added or deleted. The ordinance provided is a *model*.

Mr. LaBiche inquired about how long the process takes. Jesse stated that everyone works at their own pace and every community is different- some take more convincing than others. It can take just a few weeks or 6 months. After presenting it to the mayor of each town the town's attorney also needs to be involved, since it is a legal document.

Mr. Green asked if DEQ was on the Louisiana Municipal Association's agenda for their upcoming conference in Lafayette. It would be a good forum to talk to municipal leaders about the ordinance. It's too late to get on the agenda for a presentation but DEQ does have an exhibit there. It will be held August 12 – 13.

Mr. Green commented that every municipality should adopt the ordinance. He stated that it's a good ordinance that protects our drinking water and does not prohibit development.

Jesse encouraged everyone to review the model ordinance and become familiar with it and bring any questions for discussion at the next meeting.

Visits to Significant Potential Sources of Contamination (SPSOC)

Mary asked how the visits to SPSOCs were going and if anyone had any questions, comments, or problems.

Mr. Arabie commented that catching the owner available was the biggest problem but when they were found they were very receptive. He stated that he is just about finished with Rayne, Morse, and Mire-Branch.

Mary stated that she received an email from Margaret Frey stating that she and Dave Thomas have completed the visits in Iota. They also found some changes that need to be made to the inventory.

Mr. LaBiche stated that he was unable to start his visits in Crowley, as he has a very busy schedule. Ms. Cary stated that she and other Church Point committee members were also very tied up and had not been able to start the visits in Church Point. Mr. Chaumont and Mr. Terry of Louisiana Rural Water Association volunteered to help them out with the visits in Crowley and Church Point.

Other Topics of Discussion/Pizza Served

Mr. LaBiche asked if anyone knew of the benefits of fluoride or where he might find information on it. He said that the City of Crowley is now requiring the water to be fluoridated and since LAWCO is responsible for the city's water he wants more information. He said fluoride is highly corrosive and was concerned about leaching of lead pipes. Most dentists generally support fluoridation of water because it can reduce

the occurrence of cavities. The concern is that overdosing can lead to fluorosis, which mottles the teeth.

There was a discussion about fluoride and possible sources of information. DEQ recommended reputable websites such as the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), the EPA, and universities. They also recommended contacting DHH (Dept. of Health & Hospitals). Tina Stefanski from DHH is on the committee and hopefully can make the next meeting. Dr. John Taylor, a dentist from Crowley is also on the committee and his input would also be helpful.

It was recommended that fluoridation be put on the agenda as an item of discussion for the next meeting. DEQ will try to find someone with knowledge of fluoridation to attend the next meeting, especially from DHH.

Due to a number of schedule conflicts, the next meeting was set for Tuesday (instead of Thursday) July 27th at 6:30 in Church Point. The meeting will be held at the Community Center. Directions will be sent along with the meeting announcement.

Adjorn.