

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
ACADIA PARISH
May 27, 2004 at 1830

Agenda:

- **Greeting and eating** until meeting call to order at 1900 by Mary Gentry (M. Gentry).
- Welcome and thank you for attending. A special thank you to Mr. Mike Pastor for providing the meal (M. Gentry) – *In Attendance:*

Bill Chaumont – Louisiana Rural Water Association

Mike Pastor – South Rayne Water Corp.

Steven Thibodeaux – South Rayne Water Corp.

Samuel Reggie – Crowley

Kathy Cormier – Egan Water

Kirk Cormier – Egan Water

Margaret Frey – LSU Ag

Sandy S. Sarver – Village of Estherwood

Ernest Villejoin – Village of Estherwood

Tregg Istre – Mermentau Water

Gail Villejoin – Village of Estherwood

Jeff Bouillion – South Rayne Water Corp.

Nick Simoneaux – South Rayne Water Corp.

David Thomas – Calpine

Pat Gauthreaux – Crowley

Andrew Gauthreaux – LAWCO, Crowley

Ronnie Levy – LSU Ag Extension, County Agent

Greg Arabie - Louisiana Rural Water Association

Howard Fielding – LDEQ

Mary Gentry – LDEQ

Tiffani Cravens – LDEQ

- **Explanation of Part 1 – Assessment – of the Source Water Assessment (SWAP) by M. Gentry.** Discussion of composite SWAP results for the parish. Briefing on hi/med/low ranking of Significant Potential Sources of Contamination (SPSOC). The first task of the committee will be to visit the SPSOCs that are highlighted on your maps and inventory lists. There is a packet for each system containing all the items you need. All you have to do is tell them you are with the Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee. You are doing an educational campaign to make local business owners located near public supply wells aware that the well is near them and encourage them to continue operating in an environmentally conscious manner. Give them the fact sheet “Protecting Drinking Water in Business,” “Top 10 Tips,” a contact list, and a Drinking Water Protection Partner decal to place on their window. Dave T. – “So there will be no action taken?” M. Gentry – “No, unless you see an active SPSOC, then you would refer to your contact list (see back of training manual) and report it to the

appropriate authority. Dave T. – “You assessed the entire state?” M. Gentry – “Yes, we contracted a consulting firm to assess the 1800 water systems in the state, about 3000 wells. Please be aware this SPSOC list will be changing, new SPSOCs will develop and old ones will be decommissioned.

Note pages 1 – 9 detail the what, how and why of the SWAP, and page 2 lists and ranks SPSOCs. Sensitivity of a well – a ranking system utilizing 4 factors – depth of the screen, age of the well, recharge potential and average ground water velocity in the aquifer. This determines how sensitive the well is to (potential) contamination. Vulnerability of the well – takes into account the number of SPSOCs, their distance(s) from the well, and what the SPSOC is. These rankings are input into a formula and a wells susceptibility to contamination is ranked according to the output. Railroad and highway density was also calculated, but pipeline density data were not yet available at the time of report distribution. Septic tank density was calculated by determining the average velocity of groundwater flow in the area, then counting septic tanks within a 2-year time of ground water travel to the well. Oil and Gas Well density was also factored into the formula.

Open Discussion / Question and Answer

- Dave T. “How do you measure recharge?” M. Gentry “The Louisiana Geological Survey has a Recharge Potential Map showing where sand is at the surface, and, therefore, recharge. Where clay is at the surface, there is not a fast recharge. The Soil Conservation Service profiled the top 6’ of soil in the state and this information was used in the development of the recharge potential maps.
Ronnie L. “There is fast recharge around the Red River.”
- M. Gentry back to the maps to be handed out w/ the SPSOC packets. We consolidated the delineation circle present around the critical zones of the well(s). This will make the committee’s task easier. Bill C. “How often do we visit these SPSOCs?” M. Gentry “That is up to your discretion. One visit is enough, unless you know the establishment has changed owners, or you notice a new SPSOC. Make updates as you notice them. There are 6-digit numbers assigned to SPSOCs and marked on the maps. The need for a unique 6-digit number instead of the original map numbers used in the SWAP reports was to avoid confusion where delineation circles overlap.
- Greg A. “You don’t want us to visit farmers that we know have ASTs?” M. Gentry “We didn’t target farmers, because we don’t necessarily have names to go with the ASTs. But if you know them, and you feel comfortable, by all means visit them.” Greg A. “What about irrigation wells?” M. Gentry “An idea for a future project – distribution of a fact sheet on irrigation wells – but not on our list of SPSOCs for visits.”
- Howard F. “How are we going to handle distribution of Spill Prevention and Control plans?”
- Steven T. “Should we visit a feed lot?” M. Gentry “If there is an owner present and/or you know the owner, you can visit.”
- Ronnie L. “There is a lot of misinformation regarding irrigation wells dropping the water level in the Chicot Aquifer. The fact is the water level is higher now than in

the history of recorded data of the Chicot. If we weren't pumping into rice fields now, we would run the risk of saltwater intrusion."

- Samuel R. "A few years ago rice farmers were complaining they couldn't pump because of intrusion."
- Ronnie L. "The salt domes were to blame for any intrusion."
Greg A. "Actually Acadia didn't have intrusion, but Vermilion did. The farmers were just crying wolf so Calpine Power Plant would be refused in the parish."
Howard F. "The closer you get to the gulf, the saltier the water."
Ronnie L. "So where is the salt in the Chicot?"
M. Gentry "The water generally gets saltier at a shallower depth as you go southward. We are lucky in that the Chicot is the highest producer in the state. Aquifers in the north part of the state produce much less water. The water level in the Sparta in North Louisiana is dropping."
- Jeff B. "What is an AST?"
Greg A. "Above Ground Storage Tank - a fuel tank, like for diesel."
M. Gentry "There is a small town that had their municipal wells contaminated by a leaking AST."
Greg A. "That's a worst case scenario."
Jeff B. "I'm a farmer and I've never had a storage tank leak, never even heard of it..."
Greg A. "It can happen."
Ronnie L. "There is a potential. It seems like it would make a difference how close they are to the well."
M. Gentry "Note in your handouts, the higher ranking for an AST within 1000' of a well, than an AST farther away."
Nick S. "What we need to remember is what this is about, its not about threatening farmers, our committee is strictly for education."
Greg A. "We have no enforcement powers, we are just about education."
- Ronnie L. "We need some flood information. Are there any construction specifics regarding embankments for wells, to help deter flooding around wells?"
Kirk C. "I am most concerned with abandoned wells. In Egan we are about to have a 95% expansion, including people with domestic wells. There will be hundreds of abandoned wells to consider."
Margaret F. "That's correct, people don't properly abandoned their well, sell the property, the new owners purchase the property, pull the pump, cut the pipe at the ground, and forget it."
Brief discussion regarding the regs. The Department of Transportation and Development regulates water wells in the state, however, they do not have any regulations regarding flooding. They do have regulations on proper plugging of abandoned wells. Howard suggests putting an article in the paper about proper plugging of abandoned wells and why it is important. Howard F. "There are 14 public water systems in the state that have experienced contamination from various sources including leaking ASTs, leaking USTs. This program was designed to be proactive, to prevent this from happening. We are usually reactive, dealing with contamination after it happens. Education is often the key to preventing problems."

M. Gentry “The number one thing to remember is: Educate the people.”

- Packets were distributed and signed for.
- Next meeting date set June 24, 2004 at 1830, same place at Acadia Parish Extension Office in Crowley.

NOTE: There is a sample script for talking to local business owners located in the first section of your training manual!

“Protect Your Water One Drop At A Time”