

Avoyelles Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee Meeting November 18, 2003

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Introductions.
3. The meeting was temporarily delayed due to a power outage.
4. Fact sheet discussion –
Where to drop off the Used Oil Recycling Fact Sheets and who from the Drinking Water Protection Committee (DWPC) would be responsible for distributing them to the listed facilities below:

Wal-Mart in Marksville and Dollar Store in Mansura –
Connie Ducote
Dollar Store in Marksville – Jerry Smith
Express Lube and AutoZone in Marksville and Carquests in
Marksville and Simmesport – Terry Bonnette
AutoZone and Manuel Tire in Bunkie – P.T. Palermo

It was suggested that Ernest Freeman of the LSU Ag Center could distribute the Abandoned Well Fact Sheets. Kirk Garber then told the DWPC about a program he works in whereby NRCS will share the cost when someone is closing an irrigation well. Connie Ducote asked if the program could be advertised and Mr. Garber said he could do something but has not made general announcements about the program to date. It was decided that a statement about the NRCS program should be included on the Irrigation Well BMP (best management practices) Fact Sheet. The DWPC then reviewed and approved the Irrigation Well BMP Fact Sheet with the addition of the above-mentioned NRCS program.

5. Above ground storage tank (AST) discussion –
Jerry Smith said he had contacted some people with the Fire Marshall's Office, but couldn't get clarification on their fuel storage AST regulations. Robert Lemoine said that someone from the Fire Marshall's Office was supposed to contact Micaela Marchand about coming to talk to the DWPC, but nobody had. It was suggested that the Farm Bureau should get involved with anything the DWPC does relative to ASTs. Ray Bordelon discussed the involvement of the fuel suppliers for bulk tanks. Howard Fielding suggested that the DWPC could try to work with the local people while DEQ could work at the state level. Several committee members then reiterated their desire to have the State Fire Marshall's Office discuss the regulations with the DWPC prior to anything else being

done. It was decided that Robert Lemoine would call B.J. Bella, State Fire Marshall, and that if that didn't work then Jerry Smith would call Lance Carruth. Micaela Marchand suggested getting contact information to her and she could also send them an invitation to the next meeting.

It was suggested that Ernest Freeman of the LSU Ag Center do something about public education with regard to BMPs for pesticide ASTs. Micaela Marchand said she'd call Ernest Freeman to be sure he comes to the next meeting. Jerry Smith of the DHH said he's planning on including drinking water protection in his training. The DWPC decided to concentrate on fuel storage ASTs before moving on to pesticide ASTs and will thus wait to hear something from the State Fire Marshall's Office.

8. Ordinance discussion –
Ray Bordelon and Jerry Smith were unable to attend the previous mayor's monthly meeting to discuss the parish-wide ordinance, but will try to get on the agenda for their next meeting. The DWPC will continue with the plan developed to get the Drinking Water Protection Ordinance passed.
9. Open discussion –
Jesse Means notified the DWPC that DEQ will help to finish the visits to potential sources of contamination and asked for volunteers to conclude this part of the Avoyelles program. It was decided that the volunteers would meet DEQ on December 11 at 9:00 AM at the Mansura Town Hall.

Ray Bordelon brought up his concerns about private sewage treatment plants (STPs) that don't work properly. Their lack of maintenance was cited as the main reason. There was much discussion on this topic, including discussion on compliance orders and regulations, lack of education, and what DHH does. Micaela Marchand stated she would like to obtain a list of companies that provide STP maintenance in the area and Jerry Smith said he could provide this for her. Howard Fielding suggested that DEQ prepare a fact sheet that would address STPs, and the DWPC agreed. It was stated that the fact sheet should include both residential package plants and septic systems.

Janet Gros informed the DWPC that she and Joyce Prier introduced the Drinking Water Protection Ordinance to the Marksville City Council and that the Council adopted it. Councilwoman Gros stated that the ordinance could be amended at a later time if it differed from any parish-wide ordinance. She also stated that the Marksville City Attorney thought it was a good ordinance.

11. The date for next meeting was set at 6:30, January 22 at either the Hessmer Fire Station or the DHH Health Unit Building.