



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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LDEQ helps fund Bayou Lafourche fresh water project

It's not often that something as banal as a pump station can excite a top government official, but Gov. John Bel Edwards was elated Oct. 21. "This is a great day for us," the governor said as he stood in front of a crowd gathered in a tent at the foot of the slope of the Mississippi River Levee in Donaldsonville to celebrate the groundbreaking for the Bayou Lafourche Pump Station.

It's not an ordinary pump station. The project is the linchpin of a series of public works designed to achieve multiple water quality and other environmental improvements by tapping into the Mississippi River to restore fresh water flow to Bayou Lafourche.

"The new pump station will triple the amount of fresh water that flows down the bayou," Edwards said. The \$96 million facility will help control erosion, improve navigation and, most importantly, protect the drinking water supply for Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes, he noted. Budget flexibility, he said, made it possible. "You can not invest what you do not have," Edwards said.

Part of the funds for the project came from a loan from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) -- \$65 million. The CWSRF funding will help pay for the construction of the new pump station, including intake pipes, pumps, discharge piping, a pump house, access ramp and appurtenances.

"Sixty-five million dollars is the largest loan we have given to an institution," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said at the event. "We want to have a generational impact on the way we manage drinking water and waste water in the state."

"This is what progress looks like," Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) Board Chairman Chip Kline said. He cited a list of projects going back to 2010 that includes dredging projects, pump station upgrades, a bridge replacement, a water control structure at Napoleonville, a weir removal, drainage improvements and more.



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown speaks at the Bayou Lafourche Pump Station groundbreaking ceremony as Gov. John Bel Edwards listens.

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Sixth District U.S. Congressman Garret Graves, a former CPRA Board Chairman, said that after Hurricane Gustav in 2008, Bayou Lafourche could no longer be used as a drinking water source. Although the bayou was restored as a drinking water source afterwards, the new pump station will ensure that it can continue in that role. “This is a huge deal,” Graves said.

The event drew local and state officials but also many area citizens. Speeches concluded, the dignitaries adjourned together to the sun-washed crest of the levee where a pile of sand and phalanx of shovels awaited the ceremonial breaking of the ground.

“No one does this alone,” Second District U.S. Congressman Troy Carter said at the event. “This happens when you have good people working together.”

Career Opportunities at LDEQ

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is a state environmental regulatory agency whose mission is to protect human health and the environment. LDEQ employs highly trained personnel who are dedicated to preserving and protecting our environment. There are many professional positions now open at LDEQ, such as environmental scientists, engineers, chemists and geologists. **Click here** to view job specifications for these positions on the Louisiana Civil Service website.

There are many benefits to working at LDEQ, including paid holidays, annual and sick leave, retirement, health insurance, life insurance and more. View our **Major Benefits Of Working At LDEQ flyer** for more information.

APPLY NOW

You can apply online by selecting the job title you are interested in from our list of **Job Announcements**. Click on the “Apply” link within the posting. You will be directed to LA Careers, the Louisiana Civil Service website. If this is the first time you are applying with the online job application, you may find the **Online Employment Application Guide** helpful. Additional information is available to job seekers on the **Civil Service website**.

For more information, contact LDEQ Human Resources Section at (225) 219-3850 or **deqpersonnel@la.gov**.



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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

Who is your neighbor? If your neighbor is a plant, refinery or other industrial facility, you may feel they have a special obligation to keep you informed about their activities. After all, you are close to action when something happens. That's what I am referring to when I talk about the issue of proximity.

I talked about that issue at the AWMA Conference Oct. 27. Many of you were there too. You heard me say that LDEQ expects facilities to adhere to environmental laws and regulations, be accessible, be transparent and engage the public. There is more to this issue though.

A facility can be doing a good job of controlling its emissions, taking care of its employees and minimizing impact to the surrounding community and still not be doing enough. Plants need to work to enhance the quality of life in the surrounding community. They need to have a Community Advisory Panel and reach out to the residents who share their address.

The pace of retirements and departures is dizzying. We are replacing the people who leave as quickly as we can. The new employees may need training to get up to speed. Please help your fellow workers learn their jobs if you can. Not all training is online or in a classroom. In fact, most of it isn't. We learn best from each other. Let's reach out and make it easier for new employees because the sooner they are proficient in their jobs, the sooner the rest of us can rely on them.

It's been a very beautiful fall but very dry too. We are seeing a little bit of rain now, but it's not enough to offset the drought. Remember, it's dry and there are fire hazards all around you. Even your lawns will burn when it's this dry. Be careful using a grill or burning anything outside. Keep a hose or fire extinguisher handy just in case.

As always, stay safe as you go about your job. Watch out for the other guy too.



I talked about "The Issue of Proximity" at the Air and Water Managers Association (AWMA) Conference at L'Auberge in Baton Rouge, Oct. 27. Allyson Morales, to my right, was the chairperson for the AWMA Annual Conference this year.



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Louisiana Brownfield Grant Presentation and Brownfield Conference 2022

The Louisiana Brownfield Grant Presentation and Celebration was held Tuesday, Oct. 4 at the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center in Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Reserve in Thibodaux. EPA presented Brownfield grant awards to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC), Baton Rouge City/Parish Planning Commission (BRCPDC) and the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) totaling \$5 million. This funding will help address environmental conditions at vacant and underutilized properties throughout Louisiana to facilitate their reuse and community revitalization. The funding comes from EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The grants are awarded with a special focus on reaching environmental equity communities.

Grantees have already begun utilizing funds to help communities across the state. It was a beautiful day to celebrate the hard work that has been done and that will continue to revive our lands and economies.



Jennifer Schatzle, LDEQ Brownfields Program Technical Liaison; Rebecca Otte, LDEQ Brownfields Program Coordinator; Roger Gingles, LDEQ Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Assessment; Demetric Mercadel, Congressman Troy Carter's District Director; Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, LDEQ Secretary; Dr. Earthea Nance, EPA Region 6 Administrator; Chonya Davis Johnson, Congressman Troy Carter's Chief of Staff; and Ashlyn Holmes, LDEQ Brownfields Program Project Manager celebrate LDEQ's \$2 million Brownfield Community-Wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes award.

Following the check presentation, the 2022 Louisiana Brownfields Conference was held

Oct. 5-6 in Houma. Attendees connected with local, state and federal Brownfield resources including representatives from SCPDC who co-hosted the conference with LDEQ, KSU TAB and EPA. Attendees also heard from speakers explaining how to address asbestos at Brownfield sites, access redevelopment resources, revitalize Main Street corridors, address underground storage tanks and partner with USDA. Local governmental entities from across the state were able to connect with each other and state, federal and consulting partners to share stories and resources and develop ideas to bring back to their communities. The two-day conference shows that with the extensive financial resources of Brownfield programs throughout the state, the knowledge we share with each other and visionary project leaders, community revitalization is achievable.



Attendees of the LA Brownfield Conference enjoy a seafood boil at the SCPDC's office following Day 1 of the conference.

Special thanks to our sponsor, the Louisiana Brownfields Association, for providing lunch for both days, to the Louisiana Municipal Association's Technical Services Bureau, who helped us get the word out to municipalities throughout the state and to South Central Planning and Development Commission, who not only co-hosted

the event but provided an impromptu crab and shrimp boil reception on Wednesday evening.

If you missed the conference, presentations are posted at the link below under "Resources": www.ksutab.org/events/workshops/details?id=547. If you'd like to learn more about the Louisiana Brownfields Program you can visit our website www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields or reach out to our team at Brownfields@la.gov.



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LDEQ attends the 2022 Louisiana's National Hunting and Fishing Day

Saturday, Sept. 24, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) hosted the 2022 Louisiana's National Hunting and Fishing Day (NHFD) at four locations in Louisiana – Waddill Wildlife Refuge in Baton Rouge, Woodworth Shooting Range in Woodworth, Bodcau Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Haughton and Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Monroe.

The events at each location varied, but they all included exhibits on LDWF's research and conservation efforts, shooting and fishing demonstrations and exhibits from local chapters of Ducks Unlimited, the Safari Club, the Coastal Conservation Association and local businesses. Attendees tested their skills at shooting ranges, fishing ponds and boating activities. They also learned about wildlife during live animal demonstrations.

LDEQ Environmental Scientists Rhyshima Parms-Green and India Ambeau attended the NHFD event held at Waddill Wildlife Refuge. They had giveaways for attendees who answered trivia questions and for those who listened as they explained methods of preventing the spread of nonpoint source pollution. These methods include picking up pet waste, reducing the use of fertilizers and pesticides, washing cars on grass instead of concrete and bagging grass clippings as opposed to blowing them into storm drains.



LDEQ Environmental Scientist Rhyshima Parms-Green explains nonpoint source pollution to NHFD attendees.

The LDEQ employees' main goal was to make the public aware that anything that lands on the ground can end up in sewers and waterways through runoff. The only thing that should go into storm drains is water.

For more information on the NHFD, visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/nhfd. To learn more about nonpoint source pollution, go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/nonpoint-source.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful 2022 State Conference held in Baton Rouge

On the second day of the Keep Louisiana Beautiful State Conference, Gov. John Bel Edwards lamented that many in the state have been conditioned to see litter on the streets, in the streams and everywhere.

"We should be conditioned the opposite way, and when we see it (litter) we should say 'that doesn't belong here,'" Edwards said.

That is what Keep Louisiana Beautiful is saying – "That doesn't belong here." The group celebrated its State Conference in mid-October at Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center. KLB official welcomed 250 attendees for the two-day event based on the eight recommendations and key priorities put forth by the Litter Abatement and Beautification Task Force. Attendees and speakers were from in-state and out-of-state. Jennifer Lawson, President and CEO of Keep America Beautiful, Connecticut, spoke and presented awards

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Keynote Speaker for day one was Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, who discussed the priorities and goals set forth by the Task Force.

The agenda closely followed the recommendations from the Task Force, which are:

1. Establish Fundamentals to Sustain Litter Prevention and Beautification
2. Raise Public Awareness
3. Build Knowledge Through Training and Education
4. Advance Youth Education to Create a Culture of Cleanliness
5. Strengthen Litter and Illegal Dumping Enforcement Efforts
6. Improve Waste Disposal Practices and Recycling Opportunities
7. Expand Litter Prevention and Removal Initiatives
8. Support Beautification and Community Appearance Enhancement

If you are interested in the presentations and information, you can go to <https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/programs-events/stateconference>.

The University Affiliates Program was discussed and falls under recommendation four. Being a Keep Louisiana Beautiful University Affiliate is a special mark of distinction and represents a commitment by the university to continual improvement in sustainability and environmental issues, promoting student environmental stewardship and engagement, and rigorous outcome measurement. It offers state recognition and sends a strong message to university stakeholders, as well as city, state and national leaders.

The first graduating class of KLB University Affiliates includes Grambling State University, Louisiana State University, Nicholls State University, Tulane University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, University of New Orleans and Xavier University of Louisiana. For more information about the University Affiliates program go to <https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/universityaffiliates/>.

On day two, Jennifer Lawson, President and CEO of Keep America Beautiful spoke to attendees about the value of their efforts and praised Keep Louisiana Beautiful for their efforts in the fight against Litter.

The conclusion of the conference was the luncheon and the presentation of the Everyday Hero Awards. These awards recognize those going the extra mile to clean up and beautify Louisiana. There were 275 attendees for the luncheon

Gov. Edwards was keynote speaker that day. LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, DOTD Secretary Dr. Shawn Wilson, Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration, Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Jack Montoucet were among the presenters.



Jennifer Lawson, President and CEO of Keep America Beautiful speaks to the conference attendees.

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The 2022 Awards went to:

1. Youth Leadership Award – Gabreyelo Gonzalez
2. Litter Enforcement Award – Corporal Jason Stagg
3. Most Innovative Program – Louisiana Stormwater Commission
4. Outstanding Affiliate Award – Keep Bossier Beautiful
5. Outstanding Affiliate Director Award – Ginger Tastet – Keep Tangipahoa Beautiful
6. Corporate Leadership Award – New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
7. Golden Can Award – Oscar D. Howard Jr.
8. Alice Foster Award – Jane Boudreaux



Jennifer Richardson accepts the Let Louisiana Shine Award from Governor John Bel Edwards and KLB Chairman Courtney Hornsby.

This year KLB created a new award – Let Louisiana Shine and it went to the grassroots organization Keep Tiger Town Beautiful, Jennifer Richardson.

For more information on the Everyday Hero Awards and the winners go to <https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/conference-materials> and <https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/programs-events/everyday-hero-awards>.

To become a part of the effort to beautify the state and keep it litter free, go to www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org.

LDEQ honors employees with service awards

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is made up of many people in many kind of jobs that fulfill and carry out the LDEQ mission. “The mission of the Department of Environmental Quality is to provide service to the people of Louisiana through comprehensive environmental protection in order to promote and protect health, safety and welfare while considering sound policies that are consistent with statutory mandates.”

One way to show employees how much they are valued is to recognize them for the years they have served the state of Louisiana.

The following are the LDEQ employees who have served for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years. We appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you.

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2022 Service Award Recipients

(In recognition of milestone anniversaries that occurred July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

Office of Environmental Assessment

5 Years

Kimberly Hamilton-Wims
Amanda LeBlanc
Shanna Mason
Jacob Newgard
Jacie Ourso

10 Years

Jessica Holland
Jonmarcia Jernigan

15 Years

William Barlett
Stewart Beard
David Burton
Fernando Iturralde
Laura LeBouef
Nichole Loupe
Jacqueline Millet
Amanda Vincent

20 Years

Ronnie Denais
Vicki Hadwin
Chad Keith
Kenneth Kimball
Jonathan McFarland
Timothy Seiler
Paula Sen
Clinton Twilley

25 Years

Ryan Brignac
Gary Fulton
Eric Garner
Leslie LeBaron
Gwen Maglic
Jason Meyers
Regina Philson

30 Years

Wanda Ballou
Celeste Bonnetcaze
Rosiland Glasper
Keith Horn
Vivian Johnson

Amy Smith
Ned Stevenson

35 Years

John Babin

Office of Environmental Compliance

5 Years

Sheila Abraham
Joshua Bourgeois
Jessie Canerday
Christopher Clement
Christian Flucke
Paige Green
Angela Jackson
Katie Jorden
Andrew Kimmel
Kristen Latiolais
Ashley Manuel
Joshua Robichaux
Kristin Shaffer

10 Years

Bradley Gauthier
Brodie Meche
Sophia Ong
Bradley Osbon
Sheila Phillips
Christopher Rajewski
Jessica Walker

15 Years

Clifton Acosta
Deonne Bodin
Marcie Sharpe
Andrea Tabora
Warren Williams

20 Years

April Baiaamonte
Karen Burgard
Alissa Cockerham
James Dardar
Sean Darensbourg
Eura Dehart
Chrissie Gubancsik
Cindy LaFosse

Scott Pierce
Andrea Roberts
Brad Schexnayder

25 Years

Nicole Anthony
Casey Head
Kathleen Landry
Stephen Lorio
Michael Miller
James Pate

30 Years

Lance Beauvais
Ziad Fahd

Office of Environmental Services

5 Years

Kristin East
Jordan Eldridge
Gregory Keller
Jillian Strickland

10 Years

Khoa Bui
Martin Perilloux

15 Years

Heather Alexander
Kimberly Carter
Tricia Kelehan
Tuongvan Nguyen
Sucharitha Theegala
Laura Thompson

20 Years

Kathryn Fontenot
Tiffini Gosserand
Binh Nguyen
Melissa Reboul
Junqing Zhu

25 Years

Hassan Ghosn
Bryan Johnston
Denise Roderick
Christopher Smith

30 Years

Sonya Eastern
Paula Roberts
Christy Rogers

Office of Management & Finance

5 Years

Randi Stump

10 Years

Errol Bordelon
Krista Ellis
Robyn Geddes

15 Years

Claudine Anderson
Frances Falke
Jennifer Hardee
Jason Smith

20 Years

Jason Efferson
Noriko LaTulippe

25 Years

William "Brady" Beacom

30 Years

Durwood Franklin

Office of the Secretary

5 Years

Jaime Elsey
Oscar Magee

10 Years

Bliss Higgins
Marissa Jimenez

15 Years

Byron Blanchard
My Trinh
Kurt Wilson

30 Years

Linda Piper



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Who's Who At LDEQ?



Tramecha Rankins – Office of Environmental Services, Public Participation and Permit Support Division, Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Rankins, a native of Mississippi, is a graduate of Alcorn State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry for Advanced Studies.

Before joining LDEQ, Rankins worked as a Research Associate at the Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory with Louisiana State University for 15 years. She has over 25 years of experience in the field of environmental chemistry, radiochemistry, organic & inorganic chemistry with private, state and federal operations.

In her spare time, Rankins enjoys attending church and spending time with family. She and her husband Ansel Sr., have two children; Ansel Jr. and Jaylon.

Jessie Cannon – Attorney, Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Section

Cannon has an undergraduate degree in history and theatre from LSU. She attended Southern University Law Center and graduated from the law school in 2015. Cannon has been actively practicing law for over four years.

Cannon is married with three children and a fourth due in December. She loves spending time with her children and husband. Cannon also loves practicing law because she is always learning something new. Her favorite holiday is Halloween.





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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

Third Quarter 2022 Enforcement Actions:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions>

Third Quarter 2022 Settlement Agreements:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division>

Third Quarter 2022 Quarter Air Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter>

Third Quarter 2022 Water Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes>

Third Quarter 2022 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits>

