



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Executive Summary

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding/Technical Assistance Seminar

On March 6, 2025, the Water Finance Exchange (WFX), in partnership with Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Communities Unlimited (CU) and the office of State Senator Adam Bass, hosted a seminar focused on water and wastewater infrastructure funding in Bossier City, Louisiana. This event convened representatives from local, state, and federal governments, technical assistance providers, a diverse range of water sector specialists, and community leaders to explore the funding and technical assistance programs available for public water and wastewater systems. This seminar followed two previous sessions held on July 16 and October 1, 2024, in Bossier City. Notably, this particular seminar provided attendees with a scheduled opportunity for one-on-one interactions with presenters and exhibitors, enabling them to determine the applicability of available assistance for their specific projects.

The seminar commenced with welcoming remarks from State Senator Bass, followed by presentations from LDEQ Assistant Secretary Gerry Lang and CU Environmental Services Director Karen Conrad. These presentations outlined the financial and technical resources available to support the planning, funding, and implementation of projects aimed at enhancing environmental quality, protecting public health, and fostering economic development. Participants engaged in discussions with presenters, addressing shared challenges and collaborative strategies for improving water and wastewater infrastructure. Following the presentations, attendees met with various entities to delve deeper into their projects and seek answers to their inquiries.

Presenters and exhibitors represented the following organizations:

- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Louisiana Department of Health
- Water Finance Exchange
- Communities Unlimited
- Louisiana Rural Water Association
- Southwest Environmental Finance Center
- United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development
- Veolia

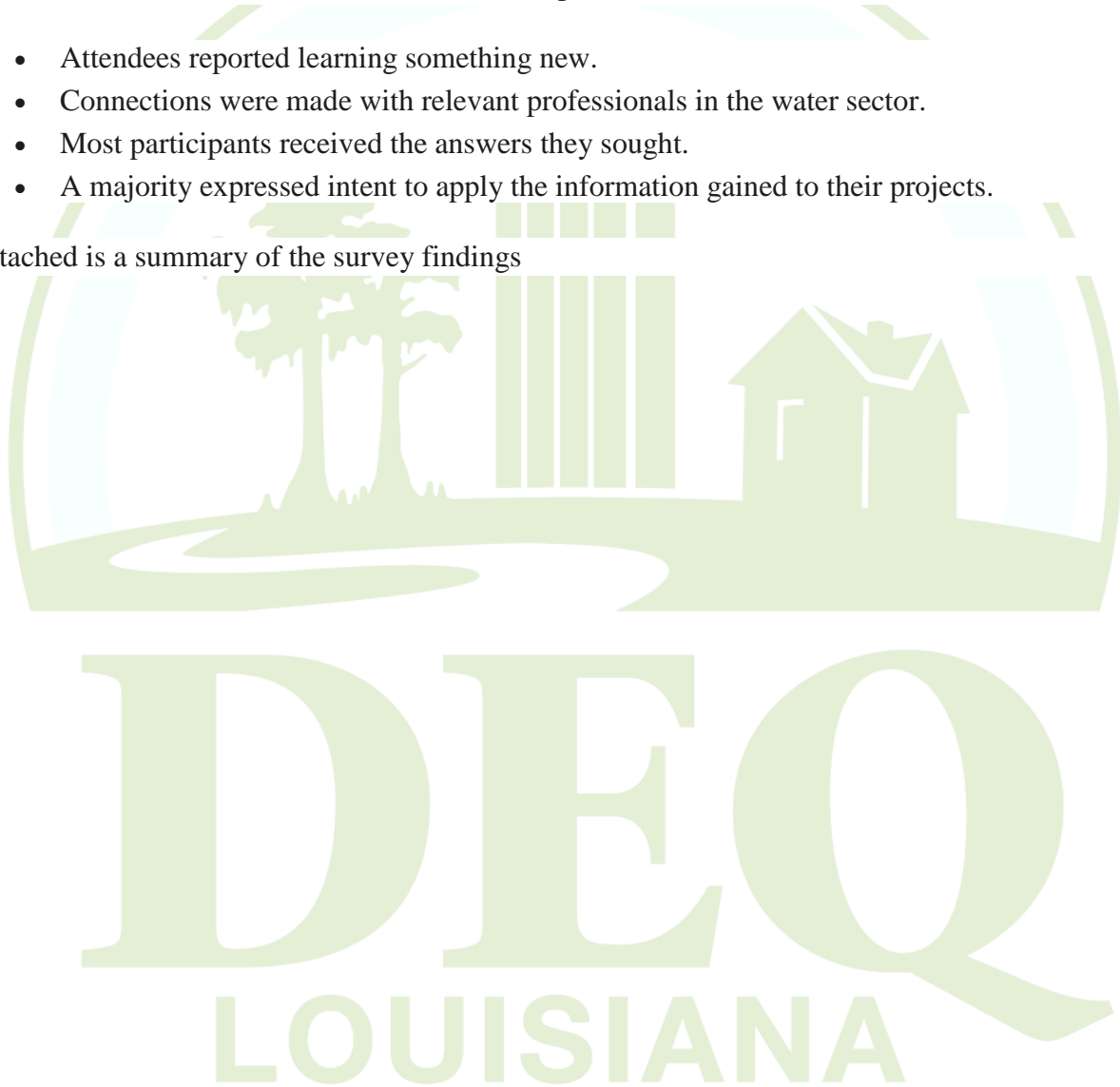
During the lunch session, LDH provided a presentation on understanding water grades, enriching the seminar experience.

Key discussions from the seminar highlighted significant challenges within the sector, including a shortage of certified operators, a lack of financial and accounting expertise, and an insufficient number of qualified clerical personnel.

Subsequent to the seminar, WFX distributed a survey to all attendees to gather feedback on the event's usefulness and effectiveness. Notable responses included:

- Attendees reported learning something new.
- Connections were made with relevant professionals in the water sector.
- Most participants received the answers they sought.
- A majority expressed intent to apply the information gained to their projects.

Attached is a summary of the survey findings



Attachment 1



List of Participating Entities

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Participating Entities

Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Funding/Technical Assistance Seminar

The following is a list of entities from which representative participated in the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding/Technical Assistance Seminar held in Bossier on March 6, 2025 by either attending, giving a presentation or working a booth.



Town of Benton	Murgreen Environmental Company
Town of Blanchard	Town of Oil City
City of Bossier City	Town of Plain Dealing
Bossier Parish Community College	Village of Pleasant Hill
Bossier Parish Police Jury	Town of Sarepta
Clean Water Shreveport	Town of Sibley
Communities Unlimited	South Bossier Water System, Inc.
Consolidate Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of Bossier Parish	Southwest Environmental Finance Center
Coordinating and Development Corporation	City of Springhill
Town of Cotton Valley	State Representative District 5
Department of Environmental Quality	State Representative District 8
Town of Gibsland	State Representative District 10
Office of Governor Jeff Landry	State Senate District 36
Town of Greenwood	Veolia North America
Town of Haughton	Volkert, Inc.
Louisiana Department of Health	Water Finance Exchange
Louisiana Rural Water Association	Webster Parish Police Jury
Town of Many	West Monroe Water System
City of Minden	

Attachment 2



Summary of Survey

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Water Finance Exchange Survey

Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Funding/Technical Assistance Seminar

The following is a summary of the survey that Water Finance Exchange sent to participants of the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding/Technical Assistance Seminar held in Bossier on March 6, 2025. The purpose of the survey was to garner the effectiveness of the seminar and determine if any of the participants will utilize information learned at it for assistance with their infrastructure projects. Seventeen participants responded to the survey.

Survey questions 1 through 5 used a rating scale of 1 (Not Useful) to 5 (Useful). The numbers given for the answers below are an average of the responses.

1. I learned something new at the workshop – **4.88**
2. The workshop allowed me to connect with relevant people in the water sector in a productive way – **4.88**
3. I was able to seek answers to important questions from my work while attending the workshop – **4.41**
4. I intend to use the information I learned to pursue a funding program or infrastructure project – **4.07**
5. Rate the following presentations using the same scale as above (1 = Not Useful to 5 = Useful)
 - Drinking Water Revolving Fund – **4.81**
 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund – **4.56**
 - Water and Environment Programs USDA – **4.56**
 - Water Sector Program Division of Administration – **4.53**
 - Communities Unlimited Technical Assistance – **4.5**
 - Louisiana Rural Water Association Programs – **4.8**
 - Water Finance Exchange Technical Assistance Opportunities – **4.5**
 - Southwest Environmental Finance Center Technical Assistance Opportunities – **4.44**

The following are direct survey responses and which did not use the rating scale as above.

6. What topic, agency, or funding opportunity would you have liked to hear more about at this workshop?

Funding opportunities

Water Sector

Southwest Environmental

Water Sector

7. I intend to follow up with some of the contacts I made at the workshop

Fourteen said "yes" and three said "maybe"

8. I would attend a follow-up workshop in the future

Sixteen said "yes" and one said "maybe"

9. Other feed back

Could not rate speakers as I was late

Wanted to speak more about sewer funding issue through Water Sector (he got with Will Bartlett for his answers during the one on one portion)

The Water Grade presentation from Barbara Featherston from LDH was great

Thanks for breakfast, snacks and lunch



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