

OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

STATE OF LOUISIANA

IN RE: GROUND WATER RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

REPORT OF MEETING

HELD AT

RUSTON, LOUISIANA

JULY 28, 2009

Michelle S. Abadie, CCR

(225) 261-5109

1 OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

2 STATE OF LOUISIANA

3 -----

4 IN RE: GROUND WATER RESOURCES

5 COMMISSION MEETING

6 -----

7

8 Report of the Commission meeting held by the
9 Ground Water Resources Commission, on July 28, 2009, in
10 Ruston, Louisiana.

11

12 IN ATTENDANCE:

13 REPRESENTING THE OFFICE OF CONSERVATION:

14 Scott Angelle, Secretary, Natural Resources

15 James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

16 James Burland, Various Trade Assoc. for Industry

17 Eugene Owen, Louisiana Rural Water Association

18 Kyle Balkum, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

19 Bradley Spicer, Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry

20 Gene Coleman, Sparta Ground Water Conservation

21 William Downs, **FIND COMPANY**

22 Paul Miller, Dept. of Environmental Quality

23 Mayor Dan Hollingsworth, Louisiana Municipal Assoc.

24 Mickey Mays, Police Jury Association of Louisiana

25 Jimmy Johnston, LA Wildlife Federation

26 Elliot Colvin, Louisiana Farm Bureau

27 Glenn Cambre, Dept. of Health and Hospitals

28 Blake Canfield, Staff Attorney, Conservation

29 Gary Snellgrove, Ground Water Resources Division

30 Tony Duplechin, Ground Water Resources Division

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1 GROUND WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

2 JULY 28, 2009

3 * * * * *

4 MR. ANGELLE:

5 Good morning. We'll go ahead call the Ground
6 Water Resources Commission Meeting of July 28th to
7 order.

8 The first order of business is for us to call
9 roll.

10 Kyle Balkum?

11 MR. BALKUM:

12 Present.

13 MR. ANGELLE:

14 Bo Bolourchi?

15 (No response.)

16 James Burland?

17 MR. BURLAND:

18 Here.

19 MR. ANGELLE:

20 Glenn Cambre?

21 MR. CAMBRE:

22 Here.

23 MR. ANGELLE:

24 Gene Coleman?

25 MR. COLEMAN:

26 Here.

27 MR. ANGELLE:

28 Elliot Colvin?

29 MR. COLVIN:

30 Here.

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1 MR. ANGELLE:
2 William Downs?
3 MR. DOWNS:
4 Here.
5 MR. ANGELLE:
6 Paul Frey?
7 (No response.)
8 Garrett Graves?
9 (No response.)
10 Dan Hollingsworth?
11 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:
12 Here.
13 MR. ANGELLE:
14 Jimmy Johnston?
15 MR. JOHNSTON:
16 Here.
17 MR. ANGELLE:
18 Jackie Loewer?
19 (No response.)
20 Mickey Mays?
21 MR. MAYS:
22 Here.
23 MR. ANGELLE:
24 Paul Miller?
25 MR. MILLER:
26 Here.
27 MR. ANGELLE:
28 Eugene Owen?
29 MR. OWEN:
30 Present.

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1 MR. ANGELLE:

2 Kelsey Short?

3 (No response.)

4 Brad Spicer?

5 MR. SPICER:

6 Here.

7 MR. ANGELLE:

8 James Welsh?

9 MR. WELSH:

10 Here.

11 MR. ANGELLE:

12 And, myself, Scott Angelle. We do have a quorum.

13 Before we get into the agenda, let me extend my
14 sincere appreciation to Mayor Hollingsworth for the
15 hospitality and the leadership you have offered to get
16 us to this location, sir, on the beautiful campus here,
17 and I certainly appreciate the opportunity to be here.
18 As we said at one of our previous meetings, the
19 majority of the ground water concerns are in north
20 Louisiana today, and it's appropriate for the Ground
21 Water Resources Commission to make every attempt to
22 publicly be here in north Louisiana as we try to
23 address these issues.

24 I want to take the time to recognize two
25 outstanding members of the Louisiana legislature that
26 are here with us. We have Senator Kostelka and
27 Representative Fanning. I appreciate both of you being
28 here, gentlemen. Let me say, first hand, having worked
29 with both of them during the course of the last two
30 years -- actually, last five years, I am very, very

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1 proud of the relationship that the Department of
2 Natural Resources has with both of you. I appreciate
3 the support that you have given us when it comes to
4 shaping public policy, as well as giving us the
5 necessary appropriations we need to do our job, at the
6 same time, holding us accountable, as it is your
7 responsibility to do so.

8 Gentlemen, I will give you an opportunity, if you
9 want to address the audience?

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER:

11 Sam Little is here, also.

12 MR. ANGELLE:

13 Very good, and Representative Sam Little, another
14 member of the Natural Resource Committee from north
15 Louisiana, that is here with us today.

16 I want to make mention, as well, that we have,
17 from the City of Monroe, Mayor James Mayo, good to see
18 you, sir. Thank you for being here.

19 And from the City of West Monroe, Mayor Dave
20 Norris, thank you for being here, as well.

21 Do we have any elected members of Police Jury or
22 City Council members here that perhaps we would want to
23 recognize for the record?

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER:

25 The President of Lincoln Parish Police Jury, Skip
26 Russell.

27 MR. ANGELLE:

28 Skip, hiding back there, we appreciate you being
29 here, Skip.

30 And we also want to recognize that we have

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1 representatives from Senator David Vitter's office, as
2 well as Congressman Alexander's office.

3 And I know Tiffany with Senator Vitter's office is
4 here. Tiff, we appreciate you being here. We thank
5 the Senator for his good work in supporting the natural
6 resources of the state, and, please, bring greetings to
7 him from me, as Secretary, and from the Ground Water
8 Commission.

9 And from Congressman Alexander's office, I talked
10 to a gentleman earlier today, there he is. Thank you.
11 I appreciate you being here, and Louisiana sure has a
12 friend in Rodney Alexander, and we appreciate him.
13 Please bring greetings to him from me, as well as this
14 Commission. Thank you very much for being here.

15 Okay. We have a robust agenda today, and we're
16 going to go ahead and jump right into it.

17 The first item on the agenda is a summary of
18 existing ground water statutes and the 2009 State
19 legislation impacting ground water, that presentation
20 is to be made by Ms. Megan Terrell with the Louisiana
21 Attorney General's Office. Megan is assigned, within
22 the Attorney General's Office, to some of the resource
23 issues in the state and has done a tremendous job
24 working with us over the last several years.

25 Welcome to Ruston, Megan, and we appreciate you
26 being here.

27 MS. TERRELL:

28 I'm glad to be here. I wish the weather was a
29 little better, but we have no control over that, I
30 suppose.

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1 Good morning, everyone. As Secretary Angelle
2 mentioned, I am here to discuss, real briefly, some of
3 the existing ground water statutes and also a summary
4 of the 2009 State legislation.

5 The ground water resources management statutes
6 were added in Title 38, in 2003, and most notably, for
7 purposes of this meeting, I am going to go over the
8 duties of the Commissioner of Conservation's powers and
9 duties, as well as the Commission's powers and duties.
10 These are found in Sections 3 and 4 of Title 38. It's
11 Revised Statutes 38:3097.1 is where it begins.

12 The statute creates really a dual jurisdiction
13 between the Commissioner of Conservation and this
14 Ground Water Resources Commission, with the
15 Commissioner maintaining really a primary jurisdiction
16 and the legislature providing for some major duties, as
17 well, for the Commission, and I'll go over some of the
18 duties of the Commission, first.

19 The Commission has the power and duty to review
20 and approve or reject orders of the Commissioner --
21 MR. ANGELLE:

22 Within each of the Commission members' package,
23 there is a copy of this PowerPoint, so you don't have
24 to continue to look back. In this manila, brown
25 folder, you will find a copy of the PowerPoint, which
26 you will need to refer to during the course of the
27 meeting. Thank you.

28 MS. TERRELL:

29 So, again, has the power to review and approve or
30 reject orders of the Commissioner of Conservation if he

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1 places restrictions on water wells, if that order is
2 challenged by the owner or the proposed owner of an
3 affected well. To date, no orders have been
4 challenged.

5 The Commission can also review and comment on the
6 rules and regulations proposed by the Commissioner of
7 Conservation, and there's an opportunity for review and
8 comment provided within the statute.

9 The Commission can also, and will, continue to
10 develop, in conjunction with the Commissioner, a
11 statewide ground water resource management program, and
12 the Commission can also hold public hearings and
13 consult with local government entities in the
14 development of this program. I understand that this
15 program, this ground water resource management program,
16 is ongoing and details will follow later in this
17 presentation.

18 The Commission can also review the contingency
19 plan developed by the Commissioner of Conservation to
20 respond to a ground water emergency. A contingency
21 plan has been provided for review.

22 The Commission also can attend, and should attend,
23 all public meetings called by the Commissioner of
24 Conservation.

25 And, again, all of these powers and duties are all
26 set forth in the statute at 3097.4. This is really
27 just a summary. The statute is fairly long and a bit
28 complex.

29 The duties of the Commissioner are found at
30 3097.3, and some of those major duties include

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1 requiring registration of all new water wells by the
2 water well owners, and the statute sets forth what that
3 registration should include, such as the location of
4 the wells and the owner of the wells.

5 The Commissioner will also review the well
6 information that is submitted with the notices of
7 intent within 30 days of its receipt, and upon review,
8 the Commissioner can either issue an order placing
9 restrictions on the well or request additional
10 information or allow the well to be drilled as
11 proposed. This review is an ongoing process.

12 The Commissioner can also determine areas of
13 ground water concern and designate critical areas of
14 ground water concern, in accordance with the guidelines
15 set forth in 3097.6 of that statute. And I believe an
16 order has been provided in your packets, Order
17 No. AGC-1-05.

18 The Commissioner can also collect data with
19 respect to water wells and water resources, and this is
20 something that is ongoing.

21 He can also develop a statewide ground water
22 resources management program. The development of this
23 program is also ongoing, and some of the things that
24 the statute states should be included in this program
25 are the current and projected demands, development of a
26 water conservation program, the study of alternatives
27 to ground water use, incentives for conservation, use
28 of alternative technologies, as well as education and
29 conservation programs.

30 The Commissioner is continuing in the development

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1 of a contingency plan to respond to a ground water
2 emergency, and the statute states that that plan should
3 give ground water needed for human consumption the
4 highest priority. This ground water emergency
5 contingency plan is being developed and will be
6 effective August 15, 2009.

7 He can also authorize the use of drought-relief
8 wells for agricultural use in times of drought upon a
9 determination that sufficient water resources are
10 otherwise not available. This has been authorized by
11 another order of the Commissioner. I believe that's
12 also been included in your packet, and it's referenced
13 up here (indicating).

14 He can enter into interagency agreements and
15 interstate compacts in order to manage ground water
16 resources. Currently, there are agreements with
17 multiple agencies for data sharing.

18 And also, enforce the Louisiana Ground Water
19 Management Law through the issuance of compliance
20 orders and civil penalties, and this is ongoing.

21 In addition to the legislation that already
22 existed, there was a fairly active session this year
23 with regard to ground water resources and management
24 during the session that just ended, most notably,
25 Act 437, which was House Bill 829.

26 What this bill did was transfer the duties and
27 responsibilities relative to ground water resources,
28 water wells, and drillers from the Department of
29 Transportation and Development to the Department of
30 Natural Resources.

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1 The Department of Natural Resources and DOTD will
2 engage in a Memorandum of Understanding by January 1,
3 2010. This MOU, among other things, will set forth the
4 timing and manner of the transition, transfer of
5 records and data bases from one agency to the other,
6 staff and funding issues, use of current administrative
7 rules and regulations, and also the need for any future
8 assistance or cooperative endeavor agreements between
9 the two agencies in order to implement this
10 legislation.

11 Finally, DNR is currently working on the initial
12 draft and reviewing this with the staff so that it will
13 be ready in time for the January 1, 2010, deadline.

14 And, finally, the last bill from the most recent
15 session was Act 196, or Senate Bill 41, and really, all
16 this did was changed the name of a fund within the
17 Department of Natural Resources to the "Mineral and
18 Energy Operation Fund." And simply, the purpose of
19 this bill is to allow the funding and the mineral
20 resources operations to be appropriated directly to
21 support the regulation of minerals, and then included
22 ground water and related energy activities in other
23 offices of the Department, and this will allow for
24 direct appropriation from the Fund and will negate the
25 current practice of interagency transferring from
26 Minerals. So, really, it's to streamline that process
27 and make it a little bit more simple in the future.

28 And that's about it on the current legislation
29 that was recently passed and also a real brief summary
30 of the ground water resources law that is currently in

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1 existence. And if any members of the Commission -- it
2 is a complex law. I don't really have it in front of
3 me right now, but if any of you ever have any
4 questions, feel free to contact my office or the legal
5 staff at the Department of Natural Resources, and we'll
6 be happy to answer any further questions you might
7 have.

8 MR. ANGELLE:

9 I have a few comments and questions, as well.

10 The comments would be relative to Act 196, which
11 is Senate Bill 41, which you'll find on Page 6 of your
12 PowerPoint presentation. One of the things that I
13 thought was very, very important that we would do is
14 make sure that money that we had in one particular
15 fund, in the Mineral Operations Fund, could be used for
16 management of our ground water resources. Obviously,
17 one of the things that we are going to continue to
18 struggle with in government all across America is
19 finding the appropriate resources that we need to
20 manage what is a relatively new thing in Louisiana,
21 which is management of ground water, that is not
22 something that we have historically done. It is
23 something that I think was put on the books in 2001,
24 and an effort is beginning to move forward in standing
25 that effort up.

26 We all know, although money does not solve all
27 problems and should not be the excuse for everything
28 that we do not do, in government, it is very important
29 to have human, professional, and financial resources to
30 achieve excellence. This legislation, with the support

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1 of the members of the legislature that are here, as
2 well all across the state, allowed us to tap a fund
3 that has money in it, subject to approval by the
4 legislature, to spend on activities associated with
5 this. Now, we don't have an unlimited amount of money.
6 We are not rushing to bust their bank account, but it
7 is one tool in the toolbox, and I'm very, very pleased
8 that we are able to get that, and it will be something
9 that we will talk about a little bit later, when
10 Mr. Coleman brings up a discussion for an issue in the
11 Sparta that we may be able to have a solution for you
12 there and for all of us, so I'm pleased that
13 Ms. Terrell brought that up.

14 The second thing, with regards to the item on
15 Page 5, Act 437, House Bill 829, as many of you heard,
16 the legislature passed a bill called "Streamlining
17 State Government," and, in fact, they met yesterday for
18 the first time. And it's appropriate that, in
19 government, we begin to examine ways that we can
20 deliver services cheaper, more effectively, and
21 efficiently to the taxpayers. We ought to always be
22 doing that.

23 I'm pleased that we didn't need an Act of the
24 legislature to tell us, at the Department of Natural
25 Resources, that it really didn't make a whole bunch of
26 sense that the Department of Natural Resources was
27 regulating the well owners, but we had another
28 department regulating the well drillers, that, if we
29 were going to manage this resource, we ought to put it
30 once place or the other, and it was decided that it

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1 would go to the Department of Natural Resources.

2 So, this legislation -- and you recall we've had a
3 lot of discussion about getting data and sharing data
4 and different data bases and number of wells and where
5 they're drilled, and over our several meetings, we had
6 discussion about that. This bill will address that
7 problem and allow us to move forward with a transition
8 to manage those resources, so that, at any one point in
9 time, anybody that needs information about water well
10 drillers, water well owners, volume of water, usage of
11 water will be able to go to one site in State
12 government. And as I said earlier to you, at our first
13 meeting when we reorganized ourselves, that I thought
14 this Commission should be the epicenter of ground water
15 resource management, this is another, I think, step in
16 that right direction, and I'm pleased to be able to do
17 that.

18 One question I want to make sure that I
19 understand, and I think I do, but I think it's
20 important, because a great deal of our efforts today
21 are going to be on moving forward with a comprehensive
22 ground water management plan. And as I heard
23 Ms. Terrell say, and I want to make sure I understood,
24 that, on Page 3, when you addressed Item No. 3, with
25 regards to the Commission -- and I'm not sure if you
26 can perhaps get Page 3 on, on the screen behind me,
27 okay. Item 3, that the Commission has a responsibility
28 and a duty to develop, in conjunction with the
29 Commissioner, this statewide resource management
30 program. So the Commission sits here to do its work,

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1 one of the things that the legislature gave it the
2 statutory authority is to help develop that ground
3 water management plan. At the same time, on Page 4,
4 Item No. 5, the Commissioner has the responsibility of
5 developing a state ground water resource management
6 program.

7 That simply -- the observation I would make and
8 look for confirmation is that we are in this thing
9 together. We have certain authorities, and only
10 through working together, identifying -- and you're
11 going to see at every meeting that we have for a period
12 of time, I am going to ask the Attorney General to come
13 forward and bring to us pieces of the legislation to
14 help us clearly understand what it is -- because we
15 don't have any predecessors to look backwards. We
16 didn't inherit a sophisticated operation where somebody
17 transitioned to us what it is that we do. So, as we
18 stand up this effort, I am very serious about not
19 having my attorney and not anybody else's attorney, but
20 an independent attorney from the Attorney General's
21 Office to come and lay out those things of which we are
22 charged with and the things that we are challenged
23 with, and I think this summary does a good job.

24 I want to make it very clear for the public record
25 that it is going to take all of us pulling together.
26 It means that the ideas of the Board members, the
27 Commission members, should, you know, come from the
28 representatives that they serve and should flow up to
29 these meetings and to these workshops that we will
30 have.

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1 And you did a really good job, Ms. Terrell, of, I
2 think, laying those things out, and I appreciate you
3 being here.

4 I think I asked a question. I think, by the
5 shaking of your head, you said, "yes," but perhaps for
6 the record, you could --

7 MS. TERRELL:

8 Yes, I think you are absolutely right. I went
9 over the statute a lot last night, and it really does
10 set up sort of a dual-type jurisdiction. The thought
11 process behind that is probably to have a corroborative
12 effort of all of the Commission members and, especially
13 with the membership that the legislation set out, that
14 it would really be a corroborative effort between the
15 Commission and the Commissioner of Conservation to
16 accomplish all of the goals that are set out in the
17 statute, and especially developing a statewide program.

18 MR. ANGELLE:

19 So, from an enforcement standpoint, that is
20 clearly on the Commissioner's watch, those kinds of
21 things, but when it comes to developing the plan, which
22 we would hopefully put forth as the public policy of
23 the state, we want to have a wide variety of people
24 participating.

25 MS. TERRELL:

26 Absolutely.

27 MR. ANGELLE:

28 Great. Thank you very much.

29 Certainly, I'll recognize anyone on the Commission
30 that has a question for Ms. Terrell.

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1 Mr. Mays?

2 MR. MAYS:

3 I guess my question would be --

4 MR. ANGELLE:

5 If you could speak into the mic for the recorder.

6 MR. MAYS:

7 My question would be, would we be able to put some
8 type of time frame on that, that we think that we can
9 have something of a beginning of a plan by
10 such-and-such date?

11 MR. ANGELLE:

12 We will address that on Item No. 5, that is a
13 great question and I'm very pleased that you asked it,
14 and we'll address that, because one of the things that
15 we're going to have to do is set out a time table of
16 where we want to go.

17 MR. OWEN:

18 Mr. Chairman?

19 MR. ANGELLE:

20 Yes, sir, Mr. Owen.

21 MR. OWEN:

22 Louisiana is not a water-poor state. We are, in
23 fact, a water-rich state. We are among the most
24 abundant water resources, ground and surface water, in
25 the United States, and this is a great advantage, but
26 it seems to me that a ground water management program
27 has to be more than a ground water rationing program.
28 It has to be, and it has to include, a reallocation, a
29 redistribution, of surface water resources, as well as
30 ground water resources, and I think that, before we get

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1 too far, we are going to have to address the extent to
2 which existing legislation may be too narrow to
3 accomplish a good plan.

4 MR. ANGELLE:

5 That's really great comments, and, again, when we
6 get to Item 5, we will address that, because I think,
7 like you do, as we try to move forward with a
8 comprehensive ground water management plan, that we
9 must look at the surface assets that we have, and the
10 surface assets should be a solution to our ground water
11 concerns.

12 Now, we don't have statutory authority to regulate
13 surface water here, but I think it's -- I think the
14 legislature expects us to lead and bring about some of
15 the potential changes that we may need or offering
16 surface water management into what it is that we might
17 be able to get our arms around, that is certainly, I
18 think as we move forward. And you will be pleased to
19 see, in one of the documents that we will present, that
20 the scope of the work that we're talking about doing in
21 this ground water management plan includes surface
22 water resources.

23 And I am going to ask for forgiveness, rather than
24 permission, on that. I think we're going to move
25 forward with looking at surface water opportunities,
26 and again, not trying to take away the rights of
27 others, but I think it's appropriate for us to do that.
28 So we'll -- if somebody says that we have gone too far
29 in looking at that, then I stand ready to be called
30 down, and in some cases in government, you know, you

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1 just have to provide leadership, and I think that -- I
2 think we're on safe ground doing that, so it's a very
3 good point, Mr. Owen. I appreciate you bringing it up.

4 MR. WELSH:

5 Like the frac water.

6 MR. ANGELLE:

7 Like the frac water issue, right, absolutely,
8 using frac water is a really good example, which we'll
9 talk about.

10 Any other questions for Ms. Terrell?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. ANGELLE:

13 Okay. Hearing none, again, thank you, and we ask
14 that you thank Attorney General Caldwell for allowing
15 you to be a part of our team and give greetings to him.

16 Okay. Item No. 3, we have a detailed
17 Commissioner's Semi-annual Ground Water Resources
18 Management Report, that will be given by Mr. Gary
19 Snellgrove with the Department of Natural Resources,
20 Office of Conservation.

21 In addition, as part of that particular agenda
22 item, we will discuss Sparta Aquifer issues. I will
23 ask, at that time, the appropriate time, for Mayor
24 Hollingsworth to give us some perspective on those
25 issues here in the Ruston area, of which he has a great
26 deal of knowledge.

27 We will also discuss the cost-sharing issue that
28 Mr. Coleman has provided some leadership with the Union
29 County Water Conservation Board in the state of
30 Arkansas.

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1 And, also, we will hear from Lindsay -- and is
2 that -- does somebody want to help me with the
3 pronunciation --

4 MR. SNELLGROVE:

5 Gouedy.

6 MR. ANGELLE:

7 -- Gouedy, with the Sparta Commission, on her
8 outreach activities.

9 So, having said that, Mr. Snellgrove, would you
10 take us in?

11 MR. SNELLGROVE:

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13 In your packets, there is going to be the
14 Commissioner's Ground Water Resources Management
15 Report.

16 MR. ANGELLE:

17 Let us see what it looks like so we can find it.

18 MR. SNELLGROVE:

19 It will be this report, right here (indicating).

20 MR. ANGELLE:

21 This bound report (indicating).

22 MR. SNELLGROVE:

23 This report, I am pleased to state, is the first
24 report of its kind that the Office of Conservation is
25 providing here to the Commission to provide to you
26 information about our activities and accomplishments as
27 we move forward in progressing with ground water
28 management in the state.

29 The contents of the report include performance
30 indicators and statistics on these performance

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1 indicators. This report includes our enforcement
2 activity. It includes a section on the Sparta areas of
3 ground water concern, water use information as provided
4 to our Agency. It also includes public education and
5 outreach activity, and it will include a section on
6 other accomplishments.

7 This report is semi-annual. It is intended to be
8 a semi-annual report, with the next one we're
9 anticipating being prepared in January 2010.

10 Performance indicators are a means that the State
11 uses to assess Agency's activities, and in doing so,
12 the ground water resources management program and the
13 Office of Conservation has, in the fiscal year '08-'09,
14 two performance indicators, the first being the number
15 of prior notifications that were received by our Agency
16 for new ground water wells that are required to report
17 60 days in advance notice to our Agency.

18 This performance indicator, it's a count function.
19 It's -- what we do here is, we document the number that
20 comes in by quarter that we've received, and as you can
21 see, you're seeing an upward trend from the first
22 quarter to the fourth quarter, and a lot of this has to
23 do with our efforts to enforce the regulations for
24 water well registration, as well as activity in the
25 Haynesville Shale. So total, to date -- total to the
26 end of the fiscal year '08-'09, was 560 new water wells
27 that have been registered with DNR.

28 The second performance indicator includes more of
29 a percentage performance indicator on the number of new
30 wells that we've received notifications for that are

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1 not exempt wells, i.e. irrigation wells, public supply
2 water wells, frac water supply wells, and those types,
3 that we are -- that we have placed as an objective for
4 our internal review and evaluation to act upon within
5 30 days of deeming one of these notification forms in
6 as complete.

7 Looking across the board for '08-'09, our goal or
8 our objective is 85 percent, and as the data indicates
9 here, we've met that. In fact, we have increased our
10 compliance, if you will, or meeting that objective, up
11 to 96 percent in the fourth quarter.

12 Enforcement activity, this report will include
13 enforcement activity. It is going to include the
14 information in a spreadsheet format that provides, by
15 quarter, the number of notices of violations or
16 compliance orders that have been issued to water well
17 owners who failed to comply with registration
18 requirements under the Office of Conservation.

19 What we have done, once we were provided with the
20 statutory authority to enforce by compliance order and
21 assessment of civil penalty, we initiated a
22 comprehensive, statewide audit schedule, which is, in
23 part, here on the screen (indicating). And this
24 ability of the Commissioner to enforce the ground water
25 regulations by compliance order and assessment of civil
26 penalty was granted in the last legislative session,
27 in '08.

28 So, going forward, the -- that Act was effective
29 in August of 2008, of which we, you know, began to
30 audit the three areas of ground water concern in the

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1 Sparta as a priority and have moved, you know, pretty
2 far down our process of completing that initial audit
3 and enforcement taken on those three areas of
4 groundwater concern. I'll get to that in a moment.

5 But back to this statewide audit schedule, we set
6 forth a pathway forward, from 2009 to 2010, breaking it
7 down by month and by parish and by aquifer. We decided
8 to start out with the Carrizo-Wilcox, because, at the
9 time, that's where we were receiving the most comment
10 and interest, so we set forth and addressed Caddo, Red
11 River, Bossier, and DeSoto as a matter of priority,
12 after we completed our initial efforts with the Sparta
13 areas of ground water concern.

14 And then moving down through the aquifers, we next
15 visited with the Chicot. Where we're at today is, in
16 July, of course, Jeff Davis and Vermilion are soon to
17 be completed and will go out, and then we'll begin
18 Acadia and Lafayette Parishes. We've completed eight
19 parishes so far in the audit, the four mentioned in the
20 Carrizo-Wilcox, and up through July, we'll be done with
21 Vermilion and Jeff Davis.

22 The next slide shows the continuation of the
23 two-year audit, and concluding with the parishes that
24 have the least amount of water well activity that's on
25 the record.

26 And then, once we go through the initial two-year
27 schedule, we will then go into an annual schedule, as
28 you can see on the bottom here, to continue this effort
29 and go back to all parishes, and then it will just --
30 it will be an annual, recurring activity (indicating).

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1 The third item of the Commissioner's Report
2 includes a summation and table format for presentation
3 of the various activities that the Agency has moved
4 forward with on public outreach and education. I do
5 want to state that this dates back to October 2007.
6 Being that this is the first report, we felt it was
7 going to be important and pertinent information to
8 provide to the Commission, the efforts that were made
9 when the Agency committed the resources to combine the
10 Ground Water Resources Program into a division, the
11 Environmental Division, to pool resources to add -- to
12 improve on the efforts that our Agency was putting
13 forth on the Ground Water Management Program.

14 So, from that point forward, the activities listed
15 under the public education and outreach gives that in a
16 summary format, and -- broken down by attendance in
17 various meetings and Commissions across the state, and
18 event participation, providing education and outreach
19 to various stakeholders in the ground water management
20 arena.

21 And then we, of course, embarked on different
22 types of communications, press releases and memos to
23 different users or stakeholders.

24 And then we've also listed out here some of the
25 outsourcing opportunities or contracts, like the
26 U.S.G.S. cooperative agreements to study the Sparta and
27 provide real-time water level data, and sole sourcing
28 or working through the Trailblazers for the public
29 outreach video.

30 Here is a listing of -- also included in the

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1 report other accomplishments as they are broken down by
2 general categories, information technology, a lot of
3 information (indicating). A lot of effort was put
4 forth in the beginning on improving our data management
5 and our ability to review and sort and filter the data
6 that we do input and we receive. So we spent a lot of
7 time in the beginning to set forth a fundamental
8 upgrade, if you will, to our data base management
9 system. We met with our I.T. group and ironed out a
10 lot of those details.

11 Of course, enforcement, I've touched on that
12 already. We're in full force, you know, moving forward
13 with the enforceability that's been provided to our
14 Agency, utilizing that tool as -- you know, to our
15 advantage to get the water well owners in the state of
16 Louisiana to comply, but not abusing that tool. In
17 other words, at this point in time, we have yet issued
18 a civil penalty, and hopefully, we don't need to, but I
19 am afraid that we may have one here that -- in the area
20 of ground water concern where we're just not getting
21 the response that we need to gain to compliance, so I
22 believe that we, you know -- we may be reaching into a
23 new area in that enforcement ability, and
24 unfortunately, sending out a civil penalty. But, you
25 know, you do what you have to do, and the law mandates
26 it, and we fully intend to implement the law.

27 One of the other aspects of our accomplishments,
28 dating back, was realizing that there were updates
29 necessary to our regulations under the Louisiana
30 Administrative Code to include, not only the

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1 enforcement bill, but a bill prior to that that was
2 passed that addressed areas of ground water concern,
3 the regulations needed to be clarified and updated to
4 include those changes, of which we did.

5 And then, of course, we've had some other various
6 points of interest that are listed out there in your
7 report for other accomplishments.

8 Some recent developments to highlight, I believe
9 it's very noteworthy to discuss the Ground Water
10 Commission's interest in reaching out to the Governor
11 and requesting that there be a Ground Water Awareness
12 Week in the state of Louisiana. It's my understanding
13 that this proclamation was the first of its kind, of
14 which I believe was -- Secretary Angelle provided
15 leadership in this direction, the Commission, I
16 believe, was, of course, all behind it, and the
17 Governor, indeed, dubbed March 8th through the 14th
18 Ground Water Awareness Week.

19 Secondly, back in -- when the Secretary got
20 involved with the Ground Water Resources Commission as
21 Chair, appointed by the Governor, one of his efforts,
22 personal efforts, was to go out and reach out to the
23 communities, and especially into the education systems.
24 And so the Secretary had gone out and met with various
25 school associations and actually went out and taught
26 and gave some lessons on ground water conservation.

27 Thirdly, here recently, was, you know, in the --
28 we believe -- or as I recall, it was in the *Shreveport*
29 *Times* reference to the press release that went out in
30 the past week or so on the proposed amendment to the

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1 statewide regulations regulating pit waste or E&P waste
2 at oil and gas locations, particularly in the
3 Haynesville Shale. This proposed amendment to the
4 on-site waste management regulations will allow for the
5 temporary use of certain E&P waste fluids to be used
6 for frac water supply as an alternative to other fresh
7 water supply resources.

8 And we believe, based on the feedback that we
9 received -- I'll back up a little bit.

10 Prior to us proposing what we now have before the
11 Fiscal Office for consideration, we did send out to
12 stakeholders and published in the *Register, Louisiana*
13 *Register*, appropriate announcement of our intentions to
14 propose these rules. Based on the feedback that we
15 have received from that announcement, these rules were
16 amended and revised accordingly. And we're now at the
17 point where, once we get Fiscal Office approval on the
18 impact statement, then we can then go back to the
19 *Register* and publish a notice of intent to promulgate
20 these rules. We believe they will have an impact, a
21 positive impact, on both, the oil and gas industry, as
22 well as those who are in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer and
23 depending on that water as public water supply.

24 Fourthly, we recognize, of course, we recognize,
25 of course, you know, we're very fortunate to be getting
26 the amount of rainfall that we are getting, because
27 Louisiana has been in some abnormally dry, and in some
28 cases, drought conditions, as reported by the U.S.
29 Drought Monitor. Recognizing this approximately a
30 monthly back, whenever the Drought Monitor was starting

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1 to report from abnormal dry to drought, we wanted to
2 reach out to the agricultural community and make them
3 aware of and educate them to our process. And that
4 process includes, of course, we touched on that
5 earlier, water well registration for non-exempt wells,
6 which irrigation wells are such type of well.

7 The press release provided contact information and
8 general information about what it is that we do, where
9 the regulations are found, and walked the -- you know,
10 the reader, of course, through different options,
11 drought-relief replacement well or new well
12 notification, all with the intent to provide a tool or
13 to announce or have a press release out there to
14 hopefully get the message out that, you need to contact
15 our Agency if you have any questions about your options
16 to seek a water well to assist in the management of
17 your conditions if you are in a drought condition. We
18 will educate you. We will discuss it. It's somewhat
19 of a complicated scenario, but there are options.

20 And on this front, I see this as the beginning of
21 what I would like to move forward with, a more
22 aggressive, grass-roots effort by our Agency to reach
23 out to the agricultural community through maybe the LSU
24 Ag Center and the Conservation Districts to the
25 grass-root level, to the man who is in the field from
26 the Agencies that's speaking with the farmer or their
27 agricultural interests, the irrigation well owner, and
28 to get him the tools that are necessary for them to
29 know who to call, to know that we exist, and to help to
30 narrow the gap in non-compliant to compliant water well

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1 owners in the agricultural community.

2 The last development, or highlight, is, here
3 recently, we -- again, the Commissioner signed, and the
4 Secretary signed, into the contracts engaging the
5 U.S.G.S. in the Sparta monitoring programs that's been
6 ongoing. So those contracts have been renewed, and
7 they are good for another fiscal year, to be reviewed
8 again at the end of this fiscal cycle.

9 Okay. Right here, look, we touched base on this,
10 a lot of this. I am going to go through it real quick
11 on the first four items, and I believe the Chair is
12 going to mention some things here on Items 5 and 6
13 (indicating).

14 But on 1, 2, 3, and 4, you know, again, as I've
15 stated, we've taken enforcement action as we have been
16 provided that tool. We have sent out the notices. We
17 have sent out the compliance orders. We have received
18 responses to the majority of those enforcement actions.
19 Some have not responded. Some, we believe, we may not
20 have the correct addresses, and I have been working on
21 that to iron out those details, and hopefully, we'll
22 reach out to all of those that are in the areas of
23 ground water concern.

24 The information, it's not only that we've sent out
25 the message that, you didn't -- that you failed to
26 register your well with us, at this point, equally as
27 important, moving forward, is getting the data, the
28 ground water data, that the Area of Ground Water
29 Concern Order requires that well owners provide to our
30 Agency, and that's where we're at. We've collected a

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1 lot of information, a lot of data. We've gotten -- you
2 know, we've knocked on the doors. We have awoken those
3 who need to comply. They are getting the information
4 in to us, for the most part, now it's our turn. We're
5 going to get this information, review it, and put it
6 into the data base, and start using the information to
7 evaluate and assess the situation for the past
8 three-and-a-half, four years, that the Order has been
9 implemented. And so we anticipate getting the final
10 assessment complete to provide back to the Commission
11 by December of 2009.

12 Item No. 5 is the Sparta Recycle Project.

13 And, Secretary?

14 MR. ANGELLE:

15 Before we move on to Items 5, 6, and 7, again, a
16 couple questions and comments.

17 The summary that you have behind me and the
18 PowerPoint that you went through is an executive
19 summary of this document (indicating), correct?

20 MR. SNELLGROVE:

21 Yes, it is.

22 MR. ANGELLE:

23 Okay. So this is in more detail for the members.

24 Was this sent out to the members?

25 MR. SNELLGROVE:

26 Yes.

27 MR. ANGELLE:

28 Okay, all right, good. It's my understanding,
29 this is the first time perhaps in -- the history may be
30 going to far, but it's my understanding, certainly it's

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1 the first time in the history of ground water
2 management by the State of Louisiana that a document of
3 this magnitude, that details every activity, well,
4 enforcement, public outreach, performance indicators,
5 has been put together for members of the Commission; is
6 that correct?

7 MR. SNELLGROVE:

8 With all of those items, the contents, to my
9 knowledge, that is correct.

10 MR. ANGELLE:

11 Okay. I am hopeful that the members get a chance
12 to, in fact, review it. This will be a report that we
13 will try to issue -- I think the Commissioner has
14 indicated it will be issued twice a year. I am hopeful
15 you can go through it and find ways and comment to the
16 Commissioner, to myself, Mr. Snellgrove, on ways to
17 make it better, sharper, cleaner. It is going to go up
18 on the internet. It will be part of our SONRIS system,
19 so we can have the transparency that we need.

20 It, by all account, is not a perfect document. It
21 is not where we've gone, but one of the things that I
22 think over the last several meetings, information and
23 getting our arms around the data to allow us to be
24 better managers, much like financial managers need to
25 see income statements and balance sheets, we need to
26 see wells, where they are. Volumes is another thing
27 we'll talk about a little bit later, you know, getting
28 our arms around volumes. But if you could make some
29 comments to us, good, bad, or ugly, I would appreciate
30 some feedback as we get this information out and make

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1 it available to you, so you can, again, be better
2 prepared to do that.

3 Mr. Snellgrove, you talked about enforcement. You
4 spent a great deal of your time talking about
5 enforcement at the very beginning. Again, it is my
6 understanding, and I want to make sure that I
7 understand where we've come from, so I can predict
8 where we may go. This comprehensive statewide audit
9 schedule that you talked about, which is on Page 10
10 and 11 of the PowerPoint, and you list the parishes.
11 This is a two-year process. Has anything -- has a
12 statewide audit ever been performed on these type of --
13 on these wells; are you aware of any effort that has
14 been made by the State to do this kind of activity
15 hereto before?

16 MR. SNELLGROVE:

17 No, sir, not personally, but we did do something
18 prior to this effort. Before we had the ability
19 through the Act to issue compliance orders and assess
20 civil penalty, we --

21 MR. ANGELLE:

22 So are you saying that it was -- in some cases,
23 was foolish to go out and do a whole a bunch of audit,
24 because you didn't have any enforcement power, that,
25 even though you chased the car and you caught it, there
26 would not be a whole bunch that you could do with it,
27 and now that we have enforcement authority that the
28 legislature gave us, an audit makes a lot more sense?

29 MR. SNELLGROVE:

30 It does help. We did -- prior to this effort, we

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1 did a comparison between DOTD and DNR's data base with
2 data bases to see what was the percentage of -- and I
3 think I presented that information in some meetings in
4 the past -- of, you know, by industry type -- or well
5 type --

6 MR. ANGELLE:

7 Right.

8 MR. SNELLGROVE:

9 -- what were the number of non-compliant versus --
10 you know, us compared to DOTD.

11 But, look, this is the first of its kind,
12 post-enforcement. We've got the tools available to us.

13 MR. ANGELLE:

14 Can you tell me how many enforcement -- do you
15 know, off the top of your head, how many enforcement
16 actions -- I don't know what an enforcement action is,
17 whether it's a letter or something that has gone out
18 over a period of time; do you know that?

19 MR. SNELLGROVE:

20 Well, in the report --

21 MR. ANGELLE:

22 Yes, sir.

23 MR. SNELLGROVE:

24 -- just for the areas of ground water concern,
25 there was some statistics in there. It's going to be
26 on Appendix C. And in there, there's a tabulation of,
27 I believe, 93 water well owners that issued enforcement
28 actions, of which, you know, we break it down to how
29 many has responded to date and how many we weren't able
30 to locate and how many we -- are pending --

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1 MR. ANGELLE:

2 And that 93, if you would have compared it to --
3 prior to the establishment of the law in 2008, that
4 gave some enforcement activities, obviously, the answer
5 would be zero; there would be no enforcement -- you
6 would have had no enforcement action against folks
7 prior to that, because you would not have had the
8 specific enforcement?

9 MR. SNELLGROVE:

10 Well, in October of 2007, a couple of months
11 thereafter, we did initiate a process where we were
12 noticing well owners of their violations, but it took a
13 little different -- it was not as strong, of course, as
14 this, because we had no tool to use to enforce or
15 access a civil penalty.

16 MR. ANGELLE:

17 So the analogy would be going through in a car at
18 -- above the speed limit, knowing that the police
19 officer might be able to stop you, but knowing that he
20 didn't have a ticket book to issue you a ticket?

21 MR. SNELLGROVE:

22 It would be equivalent to me stopping you and
23 telling you, sir, you are exceeding the speed limit,
24 now, please, slow it down, versus now, sir, you've
25 exceeded the speed limit, here's your ticket, and,
26 please, show up at the courthouse and pay your fine.

27 MR. ANGELLE:

28 Right. Very good, thank you very much.

29 MR. SNELLGROVE:

30 Okay.

1 MR. ANGELLE:

2 I appreciate it.

3 Okay. Before going to Items 5, 6, and 7, I
4 certainly want to give members of the Commission an
5 opportunity to ask any questions of Mr. Snellgrove.

6 Mr. Mays?

7 MR. MAYS:

8 Yes. Mr. Snellgrove, in the last meeting -- I'm
9 having a little trouble getting the well owners in
10 violation relating to your compliance orders and
11 notices of violation, so I don't guess I understand
12 exactly the wording that you used the last time versus
13 this time. Can you clarify that for me, please?

14 MR. SNELLGROVE:

15 You are asking the difference between the notice
16 of violation instead of a compliance order?

17 MR. MAYS:

18 Well, last time, you said there were 24 notices of
19 violation in the AGC ground water --

20 MR. SNELLGROVE:

21 Well, there's been several months since that
22 meeting, and we've -- you know, it's a moving target.
23 You know, we discover information, and we -- now what
24 you may have been referring to -- I think we had this
25 discussion last time, as I recall, and maybe, at that
26 point, it was inconclusive at the time, but we have now
27 completed and are in the process of really wrapping up
28 that. So the statistics that we reported in this
29 management report is the statistics that are accurate.

30 There were -- let me state this. I think that I

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1 recall this discussion. There are two pieces of
2 enforcement that we take, a notice of violation to
3 water well owners prior to -- between July of 2001, and
4 about that same time in 2003, we were under a different
5 Act, and under that Act, you know, our legal was
6 advising that we don't have the ability to send out a
7 compliance order, as we had been given the authority to
8 do so in 2008, reaching back to the Act that was passed
9 in 2003.

10 So any water well owner that comes in under the
11 radar not registering with us from 2003 forward, we
12 have the ability to enact the Act, or enforce the Act,
13 to issue a compliance order as authorized by the Act to
14 the Commissioner.

15 So we've got two different legal boundaries that
16 we are complying with and mandated to follow, the
17 notice of violation, which could have been the 27
18 number you were talking about, and then you add the
19 other guys who were 2003 and above to make up the
20 balance. But I can assure you that the number that you
21 have in your report is as accurate today as it could
22 be, because, you know, it's fresh information, and, you
23 know, back in March, we were still tying in some loose
24 ends. But I believe that's the difference that you're
25 looking at, notices of violation, that lower number,
26 and compliance orders, the higher number, because of
27 the time period between 2009 and 2003 being greater
28 than 2001 and 2003.

29 MR. MAYS:

30 I am not sure I understand it anyhow.

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1 I have one other question. There was -- did you
2 say, the last time, there were 240 wells in that area,
3 or what was the total number --

4 MR. SNELLGROVE:

5 That number should have been -- that was reported
6 then should still be good. As far as the total number,
7 I don't recall which exact -- if it was just one area
8 of ground water concern or all three, but those numbers
9 would have been derived from the DOTD data base, which,
10 you know, unless there's been some new wells drilled
11 prior to -- or following that number I gave you, they
12 still should be -- they should still hold.

13 MR. MAYS:

14 Thank you.

15 MR. SNELLGROVE:

16 Yes, sir.

17 MR. ANGELLE:

18 Mr. Hollingsworth?

19 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

20 Mr. Chair, on behalf of the City of Ruston, we
21 want to thank you for having this meeting in Ruston.
22 We didn't realize we would need an arc to get around
23 today, nor did we realize that we would have a train
24 fire which stopped a major freight train in downtown
25 Ruston and blocked most of the arteries.

26 MR. ANGELLE:

27 I can't wait to come back.

28 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

29 We want to thank Louisiana Tech for making this
30 facility available today, and thank those of you who

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1 have come to speak on behalf of the Sparta and show
2 your support today.

3 To kind of give an update of where we are -- is
4 this the appropriate time to do that?

5 MR. ANGELLE:

6 Yes, sir.

7 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

8 Okay. The levels are still dropping, according to
9 U.S.G.S. The quality is still deteriorating in the
10 Sparta.

11 And just in our wells in the City of Ruston,
12 alone, I have these yellow sheets for everyone -- our
13 well -- we have one here, Well No. 1, drilled in 1953,
14 has dropped 130' since then, and No. 2, in 1936, has
15 also dropped 130'. One drilled in 1955 has dropped
16 128', and one that was drilled in 1966 has dropped 86'.
17 So our wells have dropped in the City of Ruston to
18 static level, that is between where the water level is
19 when the pump is turned off and ground surface, have
20 dropped anywhere from 56' for one that's drilled in
21 1978, to 130' for the one that was drilled in 1936 and
22 1953, so it's continuing to drop.

23 MR. ANGELLE:

24 Can I have a copy of that to enter into the
25 record?

26 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

27 Yes, sir.

28 MR. ANGELLE:

29 And do you have -- is this broken down on an
30 annual basis, has that drop --

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1 MR. HOLLINGWORTH:

2 I could get it for you on an annual basis --

3 MR. ANGELLE:

4 Yes, that's what I --

5 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

6 -- but it's been pretty steady, I think.

7 MR. ANGELLE:

8 Has it accelerated, you know; has it leveled off?

9 That would be some good information, if you could get
10 that.

11 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

12 Ben Magee could probably answer that question a
13 whole lot better than I.

14 MR. ANGELLE:

15 Yes.

16 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

17 But, anyway, we've had an education program going
18 on in the City that we started shortly after I took
19 office, where we go to every 5th grade class and talk
20 to them about water conservation, as well as other
21 issues, and that has really kind of leveled off -- not
22 leveled off. We are still having increases, but not
23 anything like we have been growing at the same rate
24 before.

25 Rick Hohlt, under his leadership, got together and
26 put out a DVD, a little movie, if you will, about
27 conserving the Sparta and what it means to all of us,
28 and that's been very important.

29 The Union-Lincoln Regional Water Supply
30 Initiative, which is composed of the City of Ruston,

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1 the town of Farmerville, and the Union and Lincoln
2 Parish Police Juries, who formed a 501(c)(3) five or
3 six years ago, to study how we might find an
4 alternative water source to take some of the pressure
5 off the Sparta. And the conclusion of that study was
6 that Lake D'Arbonne was our most reasonable alternative
7 at this time, and that enough water could be drawn out
8 of it to make a big difference in the Sparta usage and
9 also that the water is treatable and there would be no
10 harm to the recreational use of the lake.

11 We got a \$750,000 grant from NRCS to do that
12 preliminary work. We are working right now with USDA
13 Rural Development on a \$500,000 grant for facility
14 plan. In 2007, we got a \$2 million grant from the
15 USDA, administered through the Corps of Engineers on
16 the WRDA project, and, however, we got an
17 authorization, so far, we have not gotten an
18 appropriation, and we have been back to Congress to try
19 to do something about that.

20 We think that Lake D'Arbonne does offer an
21 alternative for us for all those on the Sparta, and I'd
22 like to get this group, this Commission, to consider,
23 as its indication of support for the solutions that are
24 put forth to our water problems, to consider endorsing
25 and supporting both, the Lake D'Arbonne Project by the
26 Union-Lincoln Regional Water Supply Initiative, and the
27 -- as well as the initiative sponsored by the City of
28 West Monroe, to continue that project in utilizing
29 advanced water treatment techniques to eliminate some
30 of the drain on the Sparta. These projects are the

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1 only present-day projects that are ongoing to begin to
2 solve the overall problems of the Sparta and are only a
3 beginning. It will take many other projects of one
4 sort or another to expect a real change. But we would
5 like to ask this Commission to endorse and support
6 these two projects as a part, and only a part, of the
7 overall plan to do something about our Sparta problem.

8 Thank you, sir.

9 MR. ANGELLE:

10 Thank you, Mr. Mayor. At the appropriate time, I
11 will consider adding an agenda which is -- item to the
12 agenda to go ahead perhaps and take up those motions,
13 and we will do that. Again, we appreciate your
14 interest.

15 I think what we're going to do there is, when we
16 get to Item No. 5 and we talk about a statewide ground
17 water -- it says "conservation plan," but the correct
18 item should be a "management plan," and that's my
19 mistake, we'll -- I think we're going to address some
20 of the -- my concerns about the Sparta and what I think
21 -- where we need to go.

22 Having said that, I would like, at this particular
23 point in time, to go ahead and -- you keyed it up very
24 good for us, for Mayor Norris to make a presentation on
25 what is called the Sparta Recycle Project, and I know
26 Mayor Norris has been a leader in this area.

27 We appreciate you being here, sir, and looking
28 forward to hearing from you on the benefits of this.

29 MR. NORRIS:

30 Mr. Secretary, I want to thank you for inviting me

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1 to be here today. This is a project that we are
2 excited about and we've worked on a long time.

3 I did hand out to all the Commission members -- or
4 had handed out, a copy of a contour map that gives you
5 some indication about the movement of water and also
6 the cones of depression that were discussed in the 2000
7 major study that was done of the Sparta Aquifer.

8 Rick Hohlt has done a great job, media-wise, and
9 the Commission has done a very good job in publicizing
10 the problems with the Sparta, but one of the things
11 that I think people are not quite aware of is the
12 immediacy of the problem.

13 Mayor Hollingsworth mentioned the deterioration of
14 the quality of the water. It is becoming a real
15 serious problem in West Monroe. Not only are water
16 levels falling at rapid rates, but we are seeing much
17 increased color in the water. We can identify a couple
18 of wells, at least one well, that was one of our real
19 warhorse wells that really produced a lot for us, that
20 the color is almost doubled in a very short period of
21 time. So we're not only seeing that water levels are
22 dropping, but the quality of the water is dropping.

23 And, of course, what we're watching most closely
24 is the salt levels in the water, because there is,
25 obviously, from the 2000 study, a large area of
26 saltwater that is just to the east of us.

27 Now, if you will look at that contour map, you'll
28 see, the epicenter of the Sparta problem is West Monroe
29 and West Ouachita Parish. That giant cone of
30 depression is in West Monroe, and that number -- I

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1 haven't got my right glasses on, but I believe that
2 number is -226, that will give you some idea about the
3 relative levels of what's happening to the water. Now,
4 the Sparta is deeper there than it is as you go back to
5 the west.

6 But in the 2000 study, there were some
7 recommendations made, and they were made in priority
8 order. And the number one priority project was to go
9 to the Ouachita River and build a treatment facility
10 that would treat ten million gallons of water a day,
11 and for that project to be the first thing that was
12 done.

13 Now, if you've read the 2000 study lately, you
14 know that they suggested about \$200 million worth of
15 projects that would have stemmed the deficit in the
16 Sparta, and they recommended that those be in place by
17 the year 2005. No project is in place today. And the
18 one you're going to get a little virtual tour of today
19 is the only project that is really under design and
20 we've got a date for construction.

21 We started working on this back in the late '90s.
22 It was evident to us -- even before the big study was
23 done, it was evident to us that we were going to have
24 to do something about the falling water well levels in
25 the City of West Monroe, so we kind of took a little
26 bit different approach to the project in West Monroe.
27 What we decided to do was to try to figure some way to
28 recycle wastewater.

29 The biggest user of the Sparta Aquifer in our area
30 is Graphic Packaging, that's also our largest

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1 industrial employer and probably the most critical
2 component of our local and regional economy, so Graphic
3 Packaging was very important to us. They use about ten
4 million gallons a day of Sparta water.

5 So we went to them and we said, what's the
6 possibility of us treating wastewater so that you could
7 use that in that process and stop using water out of
8 the Sparta, and they were very -- they were very
9 cooperative. They said, let's see what would be
10 involved in doing that. They did go to the FDA. Since
11 they produce board that is used in food packaging, they
12 said, we are going to have to bring that water up to
13 EPA drinking water standards. Well, that didn't seem
14 like too big a problem, take wastewater and make
15 drinking water out of it, I'm sure that will be pretty
16 simple. Of course, it was extremely difficult. We
17 worked on that since the 19 -- late 1990s.

18 About 2003, I asked a friend who I've worked with
19 for many years in projects that relate to drinking
20 water and wastewater, a man named John Stamberg from
21 Arlington, Virginia, to come and get involved in that
22 research. And John came and we tried some -- we had
23 been using alum as a way to try to upgrade the
24 wastewater. John came up with some different ideas,
25 and we tested those in what is called bench-level
26 tests.

27 We tested the use of dissolved air flotation
28 combined with activated charcoal. We tested it at the
29 bench-scale level, and we decided that we could create
30 drinking water out of wastewater at the bench-scale

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1 level. We had to do something to see if we could do it
2 at the full-scale level.

3 We were successful in getting the Louisiana
4 legislature -- and Representative Fanning and Senator
5 Kostelka were extremely involved in helping us get the
6 funding to do a full-scale test, and when you -- I am
7 going to show you in just a minute what our plant looks
8 like, or is going to look like, and you will understand
9 why it was truly a full-scale test. We conducted that
10 test for a year, because we wanted to see the impact of
11 changing temperatures, amounts of sunlight, all the
12 different things that do affect wastewater. We tested
13 that for year and produced, consistently produced,
14 600,000 to 700,000 gallons a day of EPA-quality
15 drinking water out of wastewater.

16 Now, our agreement with Graphic Packaging was
17 that, if we could do that and prove we could do it on a
18 consistent basis, they would substitute the water that
19 we were producing out of our wastewater treatment
20 plant, they would substitute that for water that
21 they're using from the Sparta. We reached an agreement
22 with them just recently, all the terms of that
23 agreement.

24 Right now, we only produce about seven million
25 gallons a day of wastewater. If we -- when we build
26 this plant and when we start making that transfer to
27 Graphic Packaging through about a mile-and-a-half
28 pipeline -- our wastewater treatment plant is very
29 close to their facility -- when we make that transfer,
30 we will no longer discharge into the Ouachita River.

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1 We will go no discharge into the River, and we'll
2 reduce the consumption of the water from the Sparta by
3 about seven million gallons a day.

4 The plant we are going to build will have the
5 capacity to produce ten million gallons a day. We
6 don't have enough wastewater right now, but we do have
7 a lot of wastewater plants. Some are inefficient and
8 need to be put into a collective -- the collection
9 system to come to our plant, and we believe that, over
10 time, we will be able to produce ten million gallons a
11 day in wastewater.

12 The project is currently being engineered by Ford,
13 Bacon, and Davis. They are doing all the design on the
14 plant, their West Monroe office is, and two of their
15 representatives are here today. They are going to show
16 you exactly how this works. Lazenby and Associates are
17 doing the design of the pipeline.

18 The project is going to cost -- now, remember,
19 this contemplated project that would have taken river
20 water and converted it to drinking water was about a
21 \$55 million project in 2000, that's probably up -- and
22 we've done some cost escalations to figure out based on
23 what is happening to the cost of the components, that's
24 probably about a \$70 to \$75 million project now, so we
25 didn't have a source of money to do that. Of course,
26 we didn't have a source of money to do this.

27 An interesting thing was that, after Governor
28 Jindal got elected, before he took office, Senator
29 Kostelka and Representative Fanning arranged for me to
30 meet with him at the Monroe airport. He was flying in

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1 to make some kind of speech. And I have been in office
2 a long time. Moses was the mayor of West Monroe before
3 I was. But I met with a lot of governors on a lot of
4 projects. I contemplated this would be one of those
5 times when you met the governor getting off a plane,
6 you walk with him on the way to the car, he got in the
7 car and drove off while you were still talking. That
8 was not the way that meeting was. Governor Jindal sat
9 down, and we talked for over a half an hour.

10 And he talked -- he asked me the right kind of
11 questions. He knew the kind of questions to ask, and
12 he made a commitment that day that the State would help
13 to fund this project, and he lived up to that
14 commitment very fully. I don't know how much the
15 Representative and Senator had to remind him of it, but
16 not very much. I think he was very sensitive to the
17 fact this was an important project.

18 The State has helped to fund this project to the
19 tune of a little over \$14 million. We have been able
20 to get stimulus funding that will take up some of the
21 slack. We anticipate that this project will cost about
22 \$19,700,000 to construct, and that the annual operating
23 costs will be pretty close, a little less than, it
24 would have been to treat river water.

25 I've learned a lot, that river water is a little
26 harder to treat, strangely enough, than our wastewater.
27 Our wastewater has a very good -- we have a very good
28 quality effluent. River water would have been more
29 expensive because of the additional silt that's
30 involved.

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1 So what I am going to do right now, and we'll do
2 it very quickly, is ask John Stamberg, who is really
3 the concept designer of this project and two folks from
4 Ford, Bacon, and Davis, Todd Capp (phonetic), and I
5 forgot the other guy's name -- I wish I hadn't said
6 that now -- but I'm going to ask these guys to go
7 through, and they're going to give you a 3-D
8 presentation of what this plant is really going to look
9 like.

10 John and Terry Emery (phonetic), who is going to
11 operate the plant and operates our current plant very
12 effectively, will be here. If you have any questions
13 or anything you would like to ask after the meeting, I
14 am sure they will be glad to answer them.

15 John, if you would come and take everybody through
16 a quick tour. Where are you?

17 John is from up north, but he can be understood,
18 if you will really listen closely.

19 MR. STAMBERG:

20 Maryland is actually below the Mason-Dixon line,
21 and so is Virginia.

22 But, basically, what we have here is we have two
23 wastewater treatment ponds, one is for the city, one is
24 for the suburban sewer -- Sewer District No. 5. Then
25 in the mid-'80s, we added rock filters, which are the
26 two little squares that got the pond effluent up to
27 model wastewater treatment discharge standards.

28 Now, in pink, LEW (phonetic) is where we're
29 putting the LEW process, which will be 12 trains,
30 identical to the trains that we had done the successful

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1 one-year tests, same equipment, same thing but indoors.

2 So if we could take a look at that from the side.

3 We pump up to the LEW area, and then this -- this tool
4 here wasn't for necessarily educating people, but this
5 is how Ford, Bacon, and Davis does a design to make
6 sure everything is fitting and all that, instead of
7 gluing models together (indicating).

8 So the light-pink area is where we will have to
9 fill in. We had to get a Corps of Engineers' wetland
10 permit for that.

11 But as you look into the facility, you can see, we
12 have several things going on here (indicating). The --
13 on the right side, the tanks are what we call
14 flocculation, where we add the chemical, aggregate the
15 salt, and then go through the white process, which is
16 called dissolved air flotation, and float the solids.

17 We have the benefit of the sewerage ponds to
18 settle out the soluble (phonetic) solids. Then we have
19 the tanks where we dissolve the air, float the solids
20 up that have been treated with the chemical, and then
21 we go through granular activated carbon, similar to
22 what you buy for your little faucet, but these suckers
23 are 12' in diameter. And then we go through the
24 process. We've got 12 trains that we're going to put
25 in, room for two more. Then we go through the tanks
26 that Graphic Packaging is intending to give to us, if
27 we can use them, and then we pump that over to that.

28 So this tool here is how we are doing the design
29 (indicating). The design is due this week, so I won't
30 be around until too much after this meeting. But we've

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1 got to have all the designs in for the stimulus money
2 by the end of this week, and so we're completing that.
3 We had a meeting yesterday, and both consulting,
4 engineering, and design firms are on track, and we'll
5 meet that. We also have to be, actually, you know, in
6 construction November 1st. We will probably beat that.

7 So this is the nature of the equipment that we are
8 having. It is a very complex facility, but, actually,
9 it's very simple, tried, true. We've had the tests.
10 You can just give us a dozen more.

11 If there's any questions, that's fine. If not,
12 you can --

13 Yes?

14 MR. OWEN:

15 What is the approximate footprint?

16 MR. STAMBERG:

17 The total field is about six acres. The building
18 is about 200 by 450, so it's a fairly -- I think the
19 design people call it the -- "Dave Norris' Chicken
20 Coop," but, anyway --

21 So we're pretty much there. We've got some of the
22 equipment designed and bid. We are bidding the
23 equipment, and then we will use this tool to fit each
24 pipe precisely.

25 MR. HOHLT:

26 What is the height of one of those green filters?

27 MR. STAMBURG:

28 The green filters are 12' in height, 18' off the
29 floor. The eaves on the side is 22, and the top of
30 building is about 30.

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1 (Inaudible.)

2 Okay. Is this any better, and does anybody care
3 (laughter)?

4 MR. NORRIS:

5 We ought to mention that our -- project, other
6 than the funding issue, is a sewer district that is
7 contiguous to the City of West Monroe to the west, and
8 we treat wastewater for about 30,000 people, that's the
9 volume of wastewater, and it's a very efficient system.
10 We have been in compliance virtually since it was
11 built. You know, you are always going to have a little
12 upset from time to time, but it's a -- really, we treat
13 wastewater for 30,000 people for about \$600,000 a year;
14 is that right?

15 MR. STAMBERG:

16 Yes.

17 MR. NORRIS:

18 Okay. I don't think anybody treats wastewater at
19 that cost. It's --

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

21 Forty-three --

22 MR. NORRIS:

23 I'm sorry?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

25 Forty-three --

26 MR. NORRIS:

27 Forty-three, what?

28 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

29 Forty-three thousand.

30 MR. NORRIS:

1 Forty-three thousand, that's -- I forgot that
2 there are more people than that. There are about
3 30,000, and we are 14 -- 13, right, okay. I'm sorry.
4 So about 43,000 people, for \$600,000 -- between
5 \$600,000 and \$700,000 a year, and that's really John's
6 design.

7 When I took office in 1492, we had a mechanical
8 plant being designed, and we didn't have the money to
9 build it, and John came in and we did the rock filters,
10 and that's allowed us -- we also have a hydrograph
11 control release discharge permit, which is rather
12 innovative. Graphic Packaging has one of those, too,
13 but we've been very successful in operating that plant
14 for over 30 -- for about 30 years.

15 MR. STAMBERG:

16 Actually, that pond was green, and green wasn't
17 cool. It uses the air and detention time (phonetic) in
18 the ponds, so this whole system is very efficient.

19 MR. NORRIS:

20 Mr. Secretary, I would make one comment about the
21 problems -- a problem that any project like this is
22 going to be -- have to be solved. It's difficult to
23 determine whose responsibility it is to pay for this
24 and to pay for the operation of it. Everybody benefits
25 when we reduce the deficit in the Sparta, but not
26 everybody pays.

27 I think West Ouachita Parish uses about 20 mgd,
28 22 mgd, of Sparta water a day. We use 3.5 million,
29 that's how much the City uses. So we are incurring a
30 pretty big responsibility and liability, but we're

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1 going to have to figure out how to pay the operating
2 costs on it.

3 The age of cheap Sparta water is over with, as far
4 as I am concerned. It's just not going to be cheap
5 anymore. Somebody is going to have to pay.

6 MR. STAMBERG:

7 Yes, this is a comment. This whole area in north
8 Louisiana had extremely cheap water. All you had to do
9 is drill wells, unlike Chicago or Washington D.C.,
10 where they have a water system and then they have pipes
11 going out. This was cheap water, drill a hole, and now
12 it's overused. And so now what you've got to consider
13 is, not only the cost of treatment, but it can be
14 prohibitive to get the water from surface water to
15 where you need it, and I think -- well, one of the
16 things that I talked to the Mayor about is to model the
17 ground water and how it recovers. Princeton and those
18 people in the east, and the California systems in the
19 west have good modeling techniques.

20 But you have got a jewel right down here at LSU,
21 Dr. Carlson, who is capable of doing this modeling on
22 the square-mile-by-square-mile basis. And I think a
23 model like that should be developed by the State for
24 people to use, like the Mayor, the parishes, the
25 engineers, the water system people, in evaluating that
26 kind of thing. It would probably take about two years,
27 but it really gives you a balance of how much it costs
28 and what you are going to accomplish and when, and you
29 can use it to balance surface water and ground water
30 and make that your economic key to decision making, so

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1 I have been a proponent of that kind of modeling. And
2 you've got a jewel down there that should be used, in
3 my opinion.

4 Any other questions?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. NORRIS:

7 Thank you for inviting us. We are pleased to be
8 here today.

9 MR. BALKUM:

10 Mayor, a quick question I just thought of, does
11 the pipeline from the plant to Graphic Packaging, is
12 that included in the infrastructure?

13 MR. NORRIS:

14 Yes.

15 MR. BALKUM:

16 It is?

17 MR. NORRIS:

18 Before we asked for any money from the State or
19 from anybody, we paid Ford, Bacon, and Davis to
20 (inaudible), so we could go and say, we know how much
21 this is going to cost and here is what we would like to
22 do. And their estimate, so far, has proved to be very
23 accurate as we've moved down the line for buying
24 equipment and everything else.

25 MR. ANGELLE:

26 Now, I am sure that I missed this part of it.
27 What is the -- I guess, let me turn to the technical
28 folks -- the current deficit in the Sparta?

29 MR. NORRIS:

30 Seventeen million.

1 MR. ANGELLE:

2 Seventeen million?

3 MR. NORRIS:

4 Seventeen to 18 million.

5 MR. ANGELLE:

6 And this particular project represented an
7 opportunity to reduce it by eight to ten?

8 MR. NORRIS:

9 Seven to start with, ten when we improve the
10 collection system and point where waste water goes in
11 the plant.

12 MR. ANGELLE:

13 From your standpoint, does this represent the
14 single biggest -- I know if "biggest" is the right word
15 -- single, biggest opportunity for investment by the
16 State of Louisiana to reduce the deficit in the Sparta?

17 If you would, take off your West Monroe Mayor hat
18 and just put on the overall Sparta hat on that deal.

19 MR. NORRIS:

20 I think the key -- there are two keys. I was
21 going to write you a letter about this, but I'll --
22 I'll still do that.

23 From what I have studied, and what John has helped
24 me with, I think the two keys are, we -- is, obviously,
25 we are going to have surface water, and D'Arbonne Lake
26 is the best opportunity. Caney Lake is probably the
27 second best. The problem with both of them is,
28 transportation of the water is very expensive, both
29 pipelines to build them and pump them.

30 The reason that I think it is so critical for us

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1 to do the ground water modeling is, Mother Nature may
2 be able to distribute that water if we use injection
3 wells. Twenty-two states in the United States allow
4 injection wells to be used. We haven't needed
5 injection wells, because, as some of you have said, we
6 have always had plenty of water.

7 MR. ANGELLE:

8 Right.

9 MR. NORRIS:

10 But if we knew -- if you will look at that map
11 that I gave you, you will see those arrows on it.
12 Those arrows indicate which way the water is moving.

13 MR. ANGELLE:

14 Are you talking about injecting into the aquifer?

15 MR. NORRIS:

16 Yes, sir, but you only inject drinking water, you
17 would have to go to -- for example, if it were possible
18 to build a plant very similar to what we're talking
19 about on the bank of the -- of Lake D'Arbonne -- and
20 lake water works better than river water because it
21 doesn't have as much silt in it. If we could build a
22 plant similar to that on the bank of Lake D'Arbonne,
23 and if injection wells would allow that water to
24 gravitate to Ruston, if we could reverse the direction
25 of those arrows -- but we've got to have legislation
26 that allows injection wells, and we have to have a
27 model that studies how water moves in the aquifer.

28 MR. ANGELLE:

29 Sure.

30 MR. NORRIS:

1 But those two things, I think, offer the
2 opportunity in a relatively short period of time and at
3 a much-reduced cost for us to figure out a way to solve
4 the problem.

5 And Bienville Parish is one of the biggest users
6 of water. Bienville Parish has very few people, but if
7 you will look on the map, Bienville Parish is where the
8 water wells are that serve Smurfit-Stone in Jonesboro.

9 So this is the way -- this is the -- takes the
10 transportation element out of it, if it will work.

11 MR. ANGELLE:

12 Right. So the idea is, let Mother Nature, as you
13 said earlier, to quote you, move it -- just inject it
14 into one spot and have it go.

15 And you said 22 states now allow the injection of
16 water into aquifers?

17 MR. NORRIS:

18 I believe that is correct. And it started mostly
19 in the western states where there was such a shortage
20 of water, but it's going everywhere now because
21 everybody is seeing the same kind of problem.

22 MR. ANGELLE:

23 I would like to request, at our next meeting, that
24 the staff do some research and make a presentation on
25 what I would call best management practices of
26 injection, you know, from other states, and so that,
27 again, we can get that discussion going as we try to
28 bring every possible solution to the Commission and
29 expose the Commission members to everything.

30 So if one staff member would make a note when we

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1 develop the agenda for the next meeting that would be
2 on there. Thank you very much.

3 Thank you, Mayor Norris.

4 MR. NORRIS:

5 Thank you.

6 MR. ANGELLE:

7 Does anybody have any questions?

8 MR. BURLAND:

9 Yes.

10 MR. ANGELLE:

11 Mr. Burland?

12 MR. BURLAND:

13 I do, Mr. Chairman.

14 Can you review again the State and Federal funding
15 for the completion of this plant?

16 MR. NORRIS:

17 We got \$7.6 million in capital outlay last year.
18 We have \$7.6 million in capital outlay in priority one
19 this year, and we have \$6 million of stimulus money --
20 I'm sorry -- that's really \$4,750,000. It's match
21 money to all of this, and that's another great stress
22 on us.

23 For that one-year test project that we did, we
24 were able to get \$600,000 from the State. We spent,
25 the Sewer District and the City spent, about \$1.4
26 million out of our pocket to do that test. The match
27 may keep us from building this project out in the first
28 year, because we just don't have a source of coming up
29 with that much money, quite honestly.

30 We are going to do the stimulus part. There's a

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1 very low-interest loan program through DEQ, and this
2 money came through DEQ. But the State match is a
3 killer for us right now, because we've -- I mean, we've
4 just spent an ungodly amount of money so far, so -- but
5 we know we are going to be okay.

6 We would love to be able to talk to -- and I have
7 talked to Representative Fanning and Senator Kostelka
8 about using the Federal money as part of the match, or
9 using money that we have spent in the past as part of
10 the match, that will allow us to build the whole thing
11 out. I mean, we've got the money to build it out. We
12 just don't have -- the Sewer District -- and this is an
13 odd thing. The Sewer District really doesn't have a
14 horse in this race, because they treat sewer. They
15 don't provide water.

16 MR. ANGELLE:

17 Right, right.

18 MR. NORRIS:

19 And that's one of the problems is, there are
20 private providers of water that are going to benefit
21 from this that right now don't have any money in the
22 deal.

23 MR. BURLAND:

24 Well, I just wanted to personally applaud your
25 efforts and the City's and Graphic Packaging and the
26 legislature and the Governor for getting this project
27 to fruition. It has been, what, more than 15 years
28 now. And I've been very proud to be associated with
29 Graphic since only the mid-18th century. It has been
30 15 long years, and it's great to see a project come off

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1 the paper and onto the construction phase, and it's
2 just a unique accomplishment by this cooperative effort
3 of industry and the City, and again, congratulations,
4 and hope that you get help with it.

5 MR. ANGELLE:

6 Thank you.

7 Any other questions or comments for Mr. Norris --
8 Mayor Norris?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. ANGELLE:

11 Okay. At this point in time, I would like to ask
12 Mr. Gene Coleman to provide some information and
13 discuss a request that he has been working on with
14 regards to the Union County Water Conservation Board.

15 Staff members, is this particular -- copies of
16 this request within the package for the members, the
17 Union County letter; do you know?

18 MR. SNELLGROVE:

19 Yes.

20 MR. ANGELLE:

21 Is it in your package?

22 MR. SNELLGROVE:

23 Right.

24 MR. ANGELLE:

25 It is located -- yes. The Union County Water
26 Conservation Board, it is a letter dated
27 July 15th within your package, okay. Most members are
28 finding it?

29 MR. SNELLGROVE:

30 It is in the packet.

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1 MR. ANGELLE:

2 Okay. Thank you very much, good job.

3 Mr. Coleman, I appreciate the opportunity for you
4 to provide that leadership, sir. Why don't you kind of
5 take us through what you are thinking and see if we can
6 get some discussion on that matter.

7 MR. COLEMAN:

8 Union County in Arkansas has had a project up
9 there that has been very successful, and actually, they
10 have began to have recharge in the El Dorado area that
11 has bled over somewhat into Louisiana, and we are
12 appreciative of that.

13 Part of that project has involved monitoring some
14 wells, which about seven of those wells are actually
15 over in the edge of Louisiana, and then there are, I
16 think, 28 wells total, that the rest of the wells are
17 up in Arkansas.

18 And the -- what they have asked or indicated to us
19 that they would really appreciate us doing is to take
20 over the cost of monitoring those wells that are in
21 Louisiana, because they do share that information with
22 us and it is useful to us, and I think Ben Magee would
23 agree with that, that it is useful for us to continue
24 to have that information from those wells that they are
25 monitoring available for us for decision making, as
26 well as for them.

27 And, basically, their specific request was, is for
28 \$32,746, which was about a fourth of the total cost,
29 which represents about a fourth of the wells, that
30 Louisiana attempt to assume that cost and -- so that

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1 they would be able to continue to monitor those wells
2 that are in Louisiana and make that information
3 available -- to continue to be available to them for
4 their decision making, as well as ourselves.

5 MR. ANGELLE:

6 All right. A couple of questions. Is the Union
7 County Water Conservation Board, I guess by its name,
8 I'm looking at it, obviously, is located in Union
9 County, Arkansas. Is it a single-county jurisdiction?
10 It is not the same -- doesn't have the same
11 jurisdiction or authority, say, if you would, of the
12 Louisiana Ground Water Commission. Is it limited to
13 only that county? I am trying to make sure that, as we
14 move forward with perhaps signing some paperwork, that
15 we are doing it between co-equals, because I have to --
16 I have audit issues I need to worry about, if the Board
17 wants to support this and I can go get it done.

18 But can you give me a little background; is
19 anybody here perhaps that you could introduce that
20 could give me the background of what Union County's
21 Board of Conservation -- Water Conservation Board, what
22 it has jurisdiction over?

23 MR. COLEMAN:

24 My understanding is that they were created as --
25 by a legislative Act, such as the Sparta Commission or
26 the Capital Ground Water Commission.

27 MR. ANGELLE:

28 Okay.

29 MR. COLEMAN:

30 So they are an arm of the State of Arkansas, as I

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1 understand it.

2 MR. ANGELLE:

3 All right.

4 MR. COLEMAN:

5 That's my understanding.

6 MR. ANGELLE:

7 Okay. We could certainly get some research done
8 up on that.

9 MR. COLEMAN:

10 Okay.

11 MR. ANGELLE:

12 All right. You said -- you indicated that
13 Mr. Magee, and he, by his shaking of his head, however,
14 I would like for him to -- if we could get a microphone
15 on him for public record -- that -- you know, before I
16 start asking the members of the Commission to jump in
17 and ask questions, Mr. Magee, would you be able to give
18 us a -- in your own words, whether or not you believe
19 the State of Louisiana, through the Ground Water
20 Commission and the Department of Natural Resources and
21 the Office of Conservation and everybody in between,
22 that this would be money well spent, that whatever --
23 first of all, that it is appropriate for us to consider
24 this; number two, that the money that we are spending,
25 in fact, is a wise investment of the taxpayers of
26 Louisiana, that there will be some information that we
27 will be able to get from this that will perhaps help us
28 in our management of the resource. Would you try to
29 address that?

30 MR. MAGEE:

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1 First of all, the short answer is, yes, I do
2 believe that this is very useful information.

3 And just to just elaborate on what Mr. Coleman had
4 already mentioned, these wells have been monitored by
5 the State of Arkansas in response to their conservation
6 efforts in the Sparta Aquifer in southern Arkansas.
7 And they knew the Sparta water levels would rise as a
8 result of their conservation efforts, and they wanted
9 to document and measure that rise so that they could
10 show that and find out how much good they were doing,
11 basically, in a measurable amount with the conservation
12 efforts that they implemented there. Now those wells
13 are in place, and we have a continuous record of water
14 levels over that period, before they implemented the
15 conservation measures and during and now afterwards.

16 Now, as Mr. Coleman pointed out, several of those
17 wells exist in Louisiana, and we are seeing the
18 beneficial effects of Arkansas' conservation efforts in
19 the Sparta into north Louisiana, and, so, yes, I do
20 believe that the data that have been collected and the
21 data that will be collected from those wells are useful
22 to us. As you know, we have a network of wells that
23 monitor the Sparta Aquifer in our areas of concern for
24 the same reasons.

25 MR. ANGELLE:

26 Right.

27 MR. MAGEE:

28 We want to be able to show, hey, when we implement
29 a solution, it's having an effect in the field, and
30 these wells will show that very same thing.

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1 MR. ANGELLE:

2 Okay, very good.

3 Members of the -- Mr. Coleman?

4 MR. COLEMAN:

5 Yes. Let me mention that this was a request that
6 was responded to also by the Sparta Commission, as a
7 whole.

8 MR. ANGELLE:

9 Yes, sir.

10 MR. COLEMAN:

11 That we all ask -- the Sparta Commission,
12 unanimously asked that we report -- forward this
13 request to you, and I will forward it on their behalf.

14 MR. ANGELLE:

15 Sure.

16 MR. COLEMAN:

17 It's not my individual request.

18 MR. ANGELLE:

19 Yes, sir, yes, sir.

20 Members of the Commission, have any questions or
21 any discussion or debate?

22 Mr. Jimmy?

23 MR. JOHNSTON:

24 Who is going to monitor the Louisiana part, would
25 it be Arkansas' U.S.G.S. or Louisiana's U.S.G.S.?

26 MR. MAGEE:

27 Probably the Louisiana U.S.G.S. We are already
28 monitoring, on a quarterly basis, many wells in those
29 areas, so it's in our neck of the woods, so to speak.

30 MR. JOHNSTON:

1 We would want the Louisiana U.S.G.S. be the one
2 and not Arkansas.

3 MR. MAGEE:

4 That's correct.

5 MR. WELSH:

6 Ben, I have one question. About how far down into
7 Louisiana does the positive effect -- how far is it
8 seen into Louisiana?

9 MR. MAGEE:

10 Well, when Arkansas first implemented their
11 conservation measures, we only saw it basically
12 associated with the state line, just over the state
13 line, so to speak, and we have some monitored wells in
14 those locations. But as time has gone on, we have seen
15 the beneficial effect of that reaching farther into
16 Louisiana, and so we're continuing to see benefits
17 creeping, if you will, farther south from southern
18 Arkansas.

19 But to answer your question, we are seeing some
20 beneficial effects as far down as the southern part of
21 Union Parish, southern parts of Claiborne Parish, and
22 it remains to be seen, but we may actually see some
23 beneficial effects in the northern parts of Lincoln
24 Parish.

25 MR. WELSH:

26 So there's really nothing to stop that positive
27 effect from continuing, unless the ground water usage
28 increases in that area; is that a correct statement?

29 MR. MAGEE:

30 Well, at some point, the conservation efforts

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1 implemented by Arkansas will reach equilibrium, and we
2 will not see those effects. So I can definitely say
3 that the farther it gets away from southern Arkansas,
4 the more diminished we will see those beneficial
5 effects, and at some point, we won't be able to measure
6 those at all. But they are definitely measurable, I'd
7 say, from Lincoln Parish northward into Arkansas.

8 MR. WELSH:

9 Well, that tells me then that that's pretty much
10 one of the answers to helping the problem here. It's
11 not rocket science, stop using Sparta water, go to an
12 alternative source.

13 MR. MAGEE:

14 I totally agree with that.

15 MR. WELSH:

16 Thank you.

17 MR. ANGELLE:

18 Mr. Coleman?

19 MR. COLEMAN:

20 They are having about a three-foot general area of
21 recharge, I believe, aren't they, Ben? In some cases,
22 it's much more than that, and the depth of the cone is
23 like 56', but -- so as this void fills up and spreads
24 out more, then the likelihood of it -- you know, the
25 effect is going to be less.

26 MR. MAGEE:

27 Right. Oddly enough, what we see is the same rate
28 of declines that we saw at those wells for decades,
29 whatever that was. I mean, it was, typically, between
30 probably one and three and four feet a year. They are

1 recovering at that same rate, basically.

2 MR. ANGELLE:

3 Yes. I guess, when I look at what we are trying
4 to get done here, you know, success is a function of
5 either good management or good luck, and I find out,
6 the harder that I work, the luckier I become.

7 And while I am very appreciative of the efforts of
8 the State of Arkansas to do what it is that they are
9 doing, we are the recipients of that, and that's good
10 luck. It's important that we don't just say, job well
11 done, and our job here in Louisiana is, in fact, done,
12 because you are doing such a great job, we are going to
13 ride coattails on that.

14 So, again, I compliment you for reaching out. I
15 urge you to continue to do that. Perhaps you can get
16 us to Union County, Arkansas, for some demonstration
17 before too long.

18 I believe -- I can't guarantee it, but I do
19 believe that, based on this current -- this law that we
20 changed, that I addressed earlier, I believe I can find
21 the resources to fund this. It will require me going
22 through a few steps. I am prepared to do so.

23 However, I would -- believe it would be
24 appropriate, and I can draw that up here before too
25 long, at the appropriate time for us to perhaps adopt a
26 resolution expressing the support, for audit purposes,
27 that we, you know -- we just didn't wake up one day and
28 felt we ought to go spend some money in the state of
29 Arkansas, that this is a collaborative effort that
30 makes sense. So I will begin to draw that up.

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1 Are there any -- does anybody have any objection,
2 would there be any concern, with what we're doing here?

3 Obviously, we have to go through the right steps.
4 We have to make sure we have an organization that is
5 qualified to enter into a cooperative endeavor
6 agreement with us, that we can go ahead and make that
7 check to them and so forth.

8 Yes, sir?

9 MR. BALKUM:

10 Commissioner, is this a one-time request to get
11 through the 2009 monitoring year?

12 MR. ANGELLE:

13 I think it is a -- I would say, it's a one-time --
14 it is a request that I would think that we will see
15 again next year and the following year, as we invest
16 in, you know, collecting data, and we will have to
17 decide when we get the request on an annual basis if
18 it's -- you know, are we getting a return on our
19 investment and giving us the data that we need to
20 manage the resource.

21 MR. BURLAND:

22 Mr. Chairman, relying on your belief that funds
23 may be available to fund this, I would make a motion.

24 MR. ANGELLE:

25 Okay. At this point in time, then, we will go
26 ahead, and we have a motion by Mr. Burland to support
27 the efforts of the Department of Natural Resources to
28 seek \$32,746 to participate with Union County Water
29 Conservation Board for the monitoring of wells,
30 pursuant to the July 15, 2009, letter from the Union

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1 County Water Conservation Board.

2 That's a motion by Mr. Burland, with a second --

3 MR. HOLLINSWORTH:

4 Second.

5 MR. ANGELLE:

6 -- by Mayor Hollingsworth.

7 Any objections to that motion?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. ANGELLE:

10 Hearing none, that motion is adopted, very good.

11 MR. COLEMAN:

12 Thank you very much.

13 MR. ANGELLE:

14 Thank you, sir, good job.

15 Okay. At this point in time, I would like to go
16 to Ms. Lindsey -- and I need a little help again on
17 your last name?

18 MR. SNELLGROVE:

19 Gouedy.

20 MR. ANGELLE:

21 Gouedy? I'm sorry, Lindsey, but I promise you,
22 you couldn't say "Angelle" right the first time,
23 either.

24 Welcome to the Ground Water Resources Commission.
25 We are happy to have you, and we are very interested in
26 hearing about the success that you are having spreading
27 the word.

28 MS. GOUEDY:

29 Thank you very much for having me. I would like
30 to begin by welcoming you all to north Louisiana and

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1 Ruston, in particular. This is my hometown, and it's
2 very special for you all to come up here and listen to
3 our concerns.

4 My name is Lindsey Gouedy. I am a graduating
5 senior here at Louisiana Tech. I will be graduating
6 next month. As many of you may know, I was chosen to
7 be this summer's intern through a cooperative endeavor
8 agreement between Louisiana Tech Agricultural Sciences
9 Department and the Sparta Ground Water Commission.

10 My task at the beginning of the summer was simple,
11 Sparta awareness. Throughout this summer, this
12 internship has turned into something that most could
13 not have anticipated how involved it has turned in to
14 be. Throughout the summer, I have been involved in a
15 number of activities geared at Sparta awareness and
16 education, and I would like to take just a few minutes
17 to highlight some of those activities at this time.

18 My first activity was with a group of
19 elementary-aged students here on Tech campus, out of
20 the Idea Place. These campers were aged between
21 probably five and twelve, and I worked in -- worked
22 together with the LSU Ag Extension Office here in
23 Ruston. That day, we worked together to prepare
24 activities to teach these children about the water
25 cycle, about ground water, and about the Sparta
26 Aquifer, in particular, mainly focusing on
27 conservation.

28 Towards the end of the activity -- we did end up
29 reaching some of the group. Towards the end of the
30 activity, a little boy left to go to the bathroom, and

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1 when he came back in, he came up to myself and the lady
2 that was helping me, and said, "I have already started
3 saving the Sparta Aquifer; I did not wash my hands."

4 So we had --

5 MR. ANGELLE:

6 Did he flush the toilet?

7 MS. GOUEDY:

8 I was terrified to ask.

9 So we learned a very important lesson, to still
10 influence hygiene, and we had to discuss that, when
11 parents say, go wash your hands, go wash your hands,
12 but my goal for that day I think was successful to get
13 these children to understand the concept of water
14 conservation and to learn about the Sparta Aquifer, to
15 get these concepts in these childrens' minds and, by
16 extension, their homes and families.

17 Since that camp, I have run into several parents
18 who blame me for turning their children into the water
19 police. Apparently, there have been some interesting
20 water discussions in the Lincoln Parish households.

21 Sparta education in the schools with this
22 younger-aged group is a big step that will pay off in
23 the future of our depleting ground water supply.

24 I have also prepared an informational PowerPoint
25 presentation this summer, which I have given to several
26 different groups within the community. I have received
27 overwhelming interest and concern and feedback from
28 these groups. Most of these Sparta consumers that I
29 have talked with about the Sparta with these
30 presentations have heard the same concerns for the past

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1 three decades and are becoming more and more
2 frustrated. I have repeatedly been asked a question
3 that I cannot answer, and that is why nothing more has
4 been done.

5 Also, as part of this summer's internship, as part
6 of my education, I traveled to Union County, Arkansas,
7 to meet with the Water Conservation Board and viewed
8 their water facilities. Their use of the Ouachita
9 River water is contributing to Sparta recovery, as we
10 have just talked about, which is increasing water wells
11 along the border into north Louisiana.

12 It's interesting, the Arkansas-Ouachita River
13 Alternative Water Supply Project, to give you a number,
14 has the ability to withdraw and treat 65 million
15 gallons of water a day, that is three million gallons
16 less than what the entire 15 parishes of north
17 Louisiana use in one day. Now, this is all used from
18 treatment from the Ouachita River.

19 Lastly, the Louisiana Tech Agricultural Sciences
20 developed the Sparta awareness "Make Every Drop Count"
21 sticker this past year from the University of --
22 University Systems Service Loan and Grant (phonetic),
23 and I actually brought some samples. I am sure local
24 residents have seen these already up.

25 Commissioners, I do have some extras, if you would
26 like see, of these.

27 It has become my goal through this internship in
28 spreading awareness and education to have these
29 stickers displayed across the Sparta-user region. The
30 Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the Convention

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1 and Visitor's Bureau here in Ruston have joined with me
2 on this endeavor with this parish for this part of my
3 internship, and we have seen great success. Our local
4 businessmen and women are where we are targeting on
5 this sticker promotion, and we have seen great interest
6 and a lot of influence coming from this community.

7 It is my goal also to have this introduced -- by
8 the end of this internship to have it introduced into
9 other parishes in the Sparta region.

10 Aquifers naturally provide potable water, which
11 can sometimes be referred to as "liquid gold." It is
12 that valuable. The Sparta Aquifer is one of the most
13 important natural resources in north Louisiana. It's
14 interesting, while we put great value on the
15 Haynesville Shale, unfortunately, we take for granted
16 something of even greater value.

17 While we live in a time and place where people
18 don't feel they should have to worry about their water,
19 they actually do. Not just in north Louisiana, but all
20 over this country, there are water shortages, and
21 aquifers are depleting at a rapid rate. In other parts
22 of the country, residents are assigned days to do
23 everyday household chores. Some receive tickets for
24 watering their lawn at peak hours or if they are
25 watering outside of an assigned hour. Perhaps that
26 won't be necessary here in north Louisiana once action
27 is taken.

28 I am hearing that our residents do want their
29 Sparta water to be conserved and managed in such a way
30 that costs and availability of potable water will be

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1 reasonable and possible. Residents want to remain
2 Sparta users, and it is through that part, through our
3 residents becoming Sparta smart and making every drop
4 count, that that will be possible.

5 On behalf of the Sparta Ground Water Commission,
6 we would like to encourage you, Secretary Angelle,
7 Commissioner Welsh, and this Commission, to reinforce
8 this education program that I have talked to you about
9 today. While education and awareness is just one small
10 part of what is needed to sustain the depleting Sparta
11 Aquifer, it is safe to assume that it will be a step in
12 the direction to implementing a management plan that
13 includes surface water development and other measures
14 to assure sustainable, good-quality water in north
15 Louisiana.

16 At this time, I would like to, once again, extend
17 my appreciation for inviting me to speak today. I
18 would also, again, like to thank you all for traveling
19 to north Louisiana to hear our concerns and meet us up
20 here.

21 MR. ANGELLE:

22 Thank you very much.

23 We do want to say, Lindsey, that you will see in
24 just a bit part of our -- one of the main components of
25 our proposed water management plan, as we move forward,
26 is education, and, you know, I sense, as we move
27 forward, that that effort is going to have to be more
28 than managing that simply from Baton Rouge. Perhaps as
29 you move forward in your career, you will want to
30 contact us about perhaps interviewing for the person

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1 who could be, for lack of a better word, Miss Ground
2 Water, and I say that with all due respect, to carry a
3 message to, you know -- for all four corners of the
4 state.

5 So we look forward to continuing to visit with you
6 and following you in your efforts, and you certainly
7 are very good, and you make me proud that Louisiana has
8 a bright future when I see the kind of students that we
9 are producing here in Louisiana. Thank you very much.

10 Okay, very well. We are going to go to Item
11 No. 4, which is the state water projects approved in
12 this session. Within your PowerPoint, we have a couple
13 of sheets there. I think that's Page 23; is that
14 correct? Can we get that up?

15 (Staff complying.)

16 MR. ANGELLE:

17 Right. Mr. Benoit, according to the agenda, was
18 to make this presentation. He had a death in his
19 family. He could not be with us today, so I am going
20 to fill in.

21 And, again, as we try to make the Ground Water
22 Resources Commission the epicenter of everything that
23 is going on with ground water, I thought it would be
24 appropriate for you to get an update in -- for the
25 regular session this past couple of months. And within
26 House Bill 2, which is the Capital Outlay Bill, the
27 annual Capital Outlay Bill, there were 49 projects that
28 were approved dealing with water system improvements
29 and expansion. Those projects total in excess of
30 \$34.5 million.

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1 As well as, in another particular bill, being
2 House Bill 881, there were 23 projects that were
3 approved for funding in dealing with water system
4 improvements and expansion.

5 Page 24 and Page 25, basically, has a listing of
6 the recipients of those funds. Again, I don't expect
7 you to do a whole bunch with this, but other than to
8 know that the Governor and the legislature, I think,
9 understands the need to invest in making sure that the
10 towns and the communities across the state have a share
11 or have a chance to compete for these funds. And as we
12 move forward, we will hopefully impact where those
13 funds go, perhaps incentivizing districts that do --
14 districts that have a great conservation plan, perhaps
15 would be entitled to maybe a bonus as a result of what
16 it is that we are doing here.

17 So, again, I bring that up for your review, and if
18 there are no questions on this, I will move to Item
19 No. 5, and ask Mr. Snellgrove to take us through what I
20 believe is the fundamental thing that we exist for, and
21 that is, to develop a comprehensive, "State Ground
22 Water," and again, that word should be a "Management
23 Plan."

24 Before he does that, I have in your package two
25 different executive summaries that I wanted to show
26 you, by way of analogy. I am not at all comparing
27 management of the state's ground water to management of
28 the Atchafalaya Basin or our coastal resources. I am
29 saying that it's appropriate for the State of
30 Louisiana, through this Commission, to take a look at

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1 these other examples -- and this is an executive
2 summary for a sustainable coastal Louisiana. The
3 backup information that goes with this is an executive
4 summary. It is probably two feet thick.

5 And if you look on the rear and you see -- on the
6 inside rear of this document, you see the mention of a
7 lot of powerful scientific groups and universities,
8 Federal agencies, local governments, that came together
9 to help produce this document.

10 This document is a document that was awarded the
11 -- I think it's called the Guardian Award by the
12 Federal Environmental Protection Agency. That tells me
13 that we have the ability in the state of Louisiana to
14 take a complex situation, put together a plan for how
15 we are going to get there, and submit it and have it
16 compete with all the other natural resource
17 opportunities that are going on in this nation and have
18 the EPA grant a national award for this effort.

19 The other one that I have for you is one that the
20 Atchafalaya Basin Program just recently put out. That,
21 again, as Mr. Hohlt said, I think very accurately, at
22 the last meeting, while orders of the Commissioner and
23 our efforts are -- represent and move forward, orders,
24 of and by themselves, does not a plan make, and these
25 kind of components that we have up here are at least
26 some of the component parts that we believe, in
27 consultation with the Commissioner, that represent a
28 more robust management of this resource, and I am very
29 pleased to work with the Commissioner on that and to
30 develop some of these items as we move forward.

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1 And keep in mind that 2001, was the beginning of
2 the management of ground water resources, and as we
3 move along and plow along and sometimes get stuck in a
4 rut, we have to have a goal. What works in the Sparta
5 may not be what the solution is in the Chicot.

6 We ought to know, at any one moment, in my
7 opinion, what the deficit is in each one of the
8 aquifers. We ought to know what the management plan is
9 to get out of a deficit. We ought to know what
10 resources we need to ask for to get there, and I
11 believe that that is more akin to a comprehensive
12 ground water management plan, including looking at
13 alternative surface opportunities.

14 Again, I bring this to you, not at all to compare
15 this and -- but to give you an idea that, when taken
16 seriously, the State does have the ability to put
17 forward a plan that is comprehensive, that I think we
18 can all be proud of, we can all put our names on. I'm
19 saying, if we were to follow our plan, after a public
20 vetting of that plan, that over a period of time -- we
21 didn't get in this problem overnight, and we're not
22 going to get out of it overnight, but if we will make
23 informed decisions, if when water districts are looking
24 for money, if we have a public policy that we can move
25 forward that says, as I said earlier, what have you
26 done, Mr. Water District, to enhance conservation, and
27 if you have done those kind of things, we look at you
28 in a more favorable light with regard to sharing our
29 resources with you. I'm just touching the tip of the
30 iceberg what I think can happen.

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1 Finding a solution to a sustainable coastal
2 Louisiana is a \$50 billion problem. It's a \$50 billion
3 problem, of which we have passed Constitutional
4 Amendments and which we have received support from the
5 Federal government. Why? Because we are focused. We
6 paid attention. We were held accountable with
7 timelines, I think Mr. Mays brought up a good point,
8 and that is where I think we need to start moving so
9 that we can turn to a document that the people of
10 Louisiana will look at and say, okay, here's the plan.
11 The plan will not be a static plan. It will be a
12 dynamic plan that will have to be adjusted as the wind
13 blows. We will have to adjust ourselves to meet it.
14 It has to be something that encourages economic
15 development. It ought to be something that encourages
16 conservation, education, registration, evaluation, and
17 we can continue to fill in all of the verbs that we
18 need. Having said that, that's my goal.

19 As Chairman, I indicated to you that I thought we
20 were going to start moving in that direction when we
21 first met. A lot of work has been done in that area.
22 Mr. Hollingsworth, Mayor Hollingsworth, asked at the
23 last meeting that we go and we look and search with
24 flashlights, if necessary, to find a level of funding
25 that we could use to start to begin to put together a
26 comprehensive ground water management plan. Based on
27 his leadership and his continuing following up with me,
28 we have, in fact, been able to locate a serious source
29 of money that will help us put together a plan.

30 Now, this plan here was not put together by the

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1 staff of the Department of Natural Resources
2 (indicating). This was put together, in part by the
3 staff at Natural Resources, in part by the staff at
4 DEQ, in part by the staff at DOTD, in part by staff at
5 Wildlife and Fisheries, and a lot of consultants that
6 help us come together with this on a lot, a lot of
7 issues.

8 So, as I said earlier, money is not the solution
9 to all problems, but it sure does get some wells
10 monitored in Union County -- with the Union County
11 folks. It does help us put together experts that can
12 help us on this.

13 So I am excited about this, and I think it marks a
14 turning point of where we've come and where we are
15 going. It is going to be tough. We are going to
16 disagree on what ought to be in this plan. We are
17 going to have folks saying bad and ugly things about us
18 when we disagree, but the alternative is worse. Not
19 doing anything, in my opinion, is unacceptable.

20 Having said that, Gary, would you kind of --
21 Mr. Snellgrove, would you kind of take us through what
22 -- where we are on this issue and hoping that we can
23 engage in some constructive feedback?

24 MR. SNELLGROVE:

25 Yes, sir, Secretary. As you had stated, walking
26 down through the main components of the plan and
27 following the lead here, of course, of the Secretary
28 and this Commission to develop such a plan, the main
29 components will be, of course, highlighting our
30 registration process, that's water well registration;

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1 and water well evaluation, the locations of where these
2 wells are being proposed; moving forward and continuing
3 the education efforts; addressing ground water
4 emergencies, as required under the statute; continuing
5 to enforce the statutory law and regulations; providing
6 for incentives and having a plan to address incentives
7 for alternative sources of -- from ground water;
8 collaborating with the local, State, and Federal
9 agencies in this massive endeavor; continuing the
10 monitoring efforts that we've put forth with the
11 U.S.G.S.; and, of course, auditing, as we have with the
12 enforcement, and auditing the areas such as the areas
13 of ground water concern and the Sparta.

14 One aspect of this plan as it is going to be
15 developed and put into a working document, of which we
16 will send to the Commission members in some subsequent
17 time -- we anticipate perhaps within a month, we should
18 have a working document out to get feedback and begin
19 the process here. But the plan, the idea here is, is
20 that the plan will be reviewed annually for its content
21 and updated as necessary, with a three-year
22 comprehensive review to, at that point, make any
23 revisions or necessary updates to get it current.

24 Moving more now to a specific project, that would
25 be more of a general plan, outlined with its details
26 and what have you, moving forward with the Commission
27 and the Commissioner, this effort right here, an
28 agreement between DNR and DHH (indicating) -- let me
29 back up a little bit.

30 We here recently, at the last Commission meeting

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1 here in Minden, were tasked with finding some money to
2 move towards a ground water conservation effort or
3 study or evaluation, however we want to term it, but in
4 doing so, we opened up several fronts. We, you know,
5 hurriedly went out and looked for stimulus money. We
6 tapped on DEQ's door. We tapped on DHH's door. We
7 even looked internally to our own department as we had
8 stimulus money going into the energy program. And in
9 doing so, we were able to get, in part, some funding
10 that would have been made otherwise available through
11 DEQ's stimulus, but it was nowhere near the amount we
12 felt was necessary to embark on what the challenge was,
13 which is to go out and do a statewide ground water
14 conservation study, which would follow up to the
15 previous studies, the Fenstermaker report, and here in
16 the Sparta area, the one put together by the
17 consultants Meyer and Meyer, and I forget the rest of
18 the names there, but that particular study. So this is
19 meant to be a follow up to those but to move us more
20 into to the future and looking forward from that as the
21 base on projects that can, you know, make up the
22 deficit in the aquifers in the state.

23 So we sought out these different venues for the
24 funding, and the one that we're now focused on that's
25 going to give us the greatest amount of funding is
26 going to be the money that was remaining between an
27 agreement that had been initiated a couple of years
28 back between DNR and DHH to study the effects of
29 Katrina and Rita storm surges in the areas basically
30 south of I-10, effects to ground water wells. So we

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1 had approximately \$285,000 that was remaining from that
2 \$1 million original agreement, minus the administrative
3 costs of about \$100,000.

4 So, with that being said, our Agency contacted DHH
5 and worked out the details of amending that original
6 contract, that agreement, to move towards the
7 Department of Administration (sic), DOA, to request the
8 request for proposal approval, which is where this
9 funding request is now. It's -- we are waiting on the
10 Division of Administration to approve the request to --
11 for us to go forward with the request for proposal to
12 begin the process with bidding and ensuing a contract.

13 With that said, the next step in this process,
14 what's shown here on the screen here is, you know, our
15 request, dated on May 28th, going to the Division of
16 Administration on this particular project (indicating).
17 And at this point in time, once we get approval from
18 DOA, then we will advertise the request for proposals
19 for the bidding process to begin. We will have a
20 pre-proposal meeting to answer any questions about the
21 -- you know, the scope of services and the objectives
22 of the agreement or contract, and then we'll go through
23 the process here, as it is lined out. And towards the
24 end there, you know, we will, at one point, come --
25 come back to the Commission and consult with the
26 Commission on this particular contract as it's moving
27 forward towards its conclusion; then the draft report
28 that we will receive towards the scope of services that
29 were sought out and agreed to; and then, of course, the
30 final report will be issued with recommendations.

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1 Well, that concludes the presentation on that
2 plan.

3 MR. ANGELLE:

4 Any questions or comments?

5 Mr. Mays?

6 MR. MAYS:

7 Question. I'm not following the money. If there
8 is \$285- left, \$100- in administrative, did that
9 mean --

10 MR. ANGELLE:

11 No.

12 MR. SNELLGROVE:

13 No, sir. The administrative costs to the original
14 contract between DHH and DNR for the Katrina and Rita
15 storm surge ground water well damage assessment is --
16 has already concluded.

17 MR. ANGELLE:

18 \$285-, \$285- available.

19 MR. SNELLGROVE:

20 \$285- is what we have available, at the current
21 time.

22 MR. MAYS:

23 Okay.

24 MR. ANGELLE:

25 The portion that you referenced was already taken
26 out, part of the \$1 million, with regards to the
27 efforts that we had to do on well research in coastal
28 Louisiana as a result of the storm surge, that's
29 already been taken out and not a part of the \$285-, so
30 the \$285- is what is available.

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1 MR. MAYS:

2 Okay.

3 MR. ANGELLE:

4 And I'm confident that perhaps, between the
5 \$32,000 that we passed a motion on -- or we adopted a
6 motion on earlier and this, before you know it, we're
7 starting to get a little serious about getting
8 financial resources in this effort, and, you know, it's
9 -- I think everybody knows how challenging it is, so it
10 -- while it's, you know -- everybody would say, okay,
11 the check is in the mail, where's the product, to those
12 of you who in government understand how challenging it
13 is to go through the process, get the approval, make
14 sure that you're doing it in a public, transparent way,
15 get public input and so forth. So those things are
16 working, and I want to compliment the staff for making
17 sure that we are dotting the i's and crossing the t's
18 on that.

19 What I would ask, at the next meeting, as an item
20 on the agenda, is for us to lay out a time line, and it
21 may not be a particular date, because I understand we
22 are waiting on Division approval -- the Division of
23 Administration for approval, but we ought to look at
24 month one, whether, you know -- whether we start month
25 one in September or we start month one in August or we
26 start month one in November, because I realize we've
27 got to go through some issues, but we ought to know
28 every step of the way as we're leading up to what it is
29 that we're doing. Because we are going to have to
30 manage a consultant, the public is going to have an

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1 expectation, and I want to put that out upfront, so I
2 think we need to begin to address that issue.

3 Yes, sir?

4 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

5 Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you on behalf of the
6 people in this region for putting the framework in
7 place to get to a place to where we can begin to do
8 some things. I understand the bureaucratic part of
9 this, you do too, and all of us in this room do, but
10 you have got to have that to get anywhere, and we
11 appreciate that. And there is an urgency here, with
12 the framework in place, perhaps we can get moving in
13 the right direction.

14 MR. ANGELLE:

15 That's what I think -- thank you for those
16 comments. I think we are, again, turning the corner.
17 I want to thank the Commissioner for his efforts in
18 helping us, but we -- it's time to put some meat on the
19 bone, and I think this is what we are doing here, okay,
20 very good.

21 We will go to then Item No. 6, which is to update
22 you on the Ground Water Aquifer Workshop that we talked
23 about. Mr. Magee had made a presentation to us at our
24 last meeting in Minden. As we saw that, we thought it
25 would be appropriate to have a workshop. The staff has
26 been working to put that together. Mr. Tony Duplechin
27 with the Office of Conservation is going to brief you
28 on that.

29 MR. DUPLÉCHIN:

30 Thank you, Secretary Angelle.

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1 At the March Ground Water Commission meeting held
2 in Minden, the Secretary thought it would be a good
3 idea to put a ground water workshop together,
4 originally focused on the Sparta Aquifer to better
5 acquaint the members of the Commission and some of the
6 public with the problems being experienced up in north
7 Louisiana. Well, since that time, we have kind of
8 broadened it to now touch all areas of the state, as
9 far as ground water is concerned and what the concerns
10 are in the different portions of the state.

11 So I have been working with several people both,
12 in academia and with the U.S. Geological Survey, and I
13 think I have come up with a pretty good faculty for
14 this workshop.

15 Is Ben still here? He stepped out.

16 Okay. From the U.S. Geological Survey, I've got
17 Ben Magee who is the director of the office that they
18 have in Ruston, and I've also Dan Tomazewski and John
19 Lovelace who are hydrologists down in Baton Rouge, and
20 they are pretty much the state experts -- the experts
21 in the state, on the Federal level, dealing with ground
22 water issues in southeast, south central, and southwest
23 Louisiana. From Louisiana Geological Survey, I have
24 Professor Doug Carlson who you've already heard his
25 name mentioned today, Thomas Van Biersel who is also a
26 professor with LSU, and Riley Milner who is a research
27 associate down there with Louisiana Geological Survey.
28 I've got Professor Clint Wilson, who is with the
29 Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and
30 he is an expert on modeling, will be part of our panel.

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1 And from the Office of Conservation, I have Jeff Jones
2 who is the assistant director of the Environmental
3 Division.

4 The workshop is going to be held in Baton Rouge at
5 the State Capital in House Committee Room 1 on
6 Wednesday, August 26th. We don't have the particular
7 start time set yet, but it will be held some -- it will
8 start somewhere in the morning. The times that they
9 gave us at the Capital for having the room is 8:00 in
10 the morning until 4:30 in the afternoon. And we do
11 have a pretty thorough agenda to go through, so I am
12 thinking that we will probably be starting around 8:30.
13 But I'm meeting with the faculty this Friday down in
14 Baton Rouge, and we're going to discuss people's
15 presentations, see just how much time they need to go
16 over each aspect of it. I want to make sure that we
17 have ample time for people in the audience and on the
18 Commission to ask questions. And it's going to be an
19 open workshop to where we won't make a presentation and
20 then wait for questions. We are going to let questions
21 be asked during the presentation. So, usually, that
22 takes up a little bit more time in putting on a
23 workshop like this, so -- and if there are any
24 questions about it, I would be glad to answer them.

25 MR. ANGELLE:

26 So we would certainly hope and reach out to all
27 the Commission members, and I would hope that the staff
28 -- I would request the staff do a very good job of
29 reminding all the Commission members about this
30 meeting. I realize that it's a sacrifice for you. I

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1 realize that it's a -- you know, the money that you get
2 paid to serve on this Commission is only exceeded by
3 the money that I'm giving you to buy lunch today, which
4 is zero, so you're doing it for all the right reasons,
5 this traveling to Baton Rouge.

6 We could look and see if we could get this perhaps
7 on some kind of webinar situation for folks who can't
8 make it that could join in by webinar, if you would
9 make a note of that, and also, if we could -- if it is
10 going to be in the House Committee Room, it's possibly
11 that it could be broadcast live on the internet as a
12 much -- much like a meeting of a legislative committee.
13 So let's work with the staff. And also, let's have an
14 overflow room in the event that we have enough people
15 that we need to put some folks in the overflow room so
16 they can see it on the video, as well.

17 So, again, I think this is positive, and I
18 appreciate your work on that, Tony.

19 Any questions for Mr. Duplechin?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. ANGELLE:

22 Are we going to reach out to Rural Water
23 Association? I think we ought to, you know, make sure
24 that we have Rural Water, we need to make sure the
25 aquifer commissions, the capital regions, and the
26 Sparta, everybody needs to know about this, because I
27 think we can learn something from folks on the
28 ground --

29 MR. DUPLÉCHIN:

30 The information has gone out so far. It goes to

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1 our general e-mail list, and we'll make sure that every
2 -- all entities are invited.

3 MR. ANGELLE:

4 Great, thank you very much.

5 Any questions?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. ANGELLE:

8 Okay. Hearing none, Item No. 7, we've recently
9 been asked to participate -- and, again, I think it's
10 appropriate for the Commission to hear this -- is the
11 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' water management resource
12 study that they're working on at a Federal level, and
13 Tony Duplechin is the DNR representative who
14 participated in a workshop, and Mr. Jim Hannon with the
15 United States Army Corps of Engineers, who I'm assuming
16 is a project manager for this, is here with us today,
17 at our request, as we again try to fulfill having
18 robust items on the agenda.

19 And we appreciate, Mr. Hannon, you being with us
20 today, sir.

21 MR. HANNON:

22 Thank you.

23 MR. ANGELLE:

24 We appreciate the contributions of the Corps, and
25 we look forward to hearing -- and I'm assuming, Tony,
26 you may want to key it up for him?

27 MR. DUPLÉCHIN:

28 Yes.

29 MR. ANGELLE:

30 Thank you.

1 MR. DUPLECHIN:

2 In June, I was privileged to be invited to a
3 meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, of the central states,
4 pretty much the Mississippi Valley states, to talk
5 about this "Building Strong Collaborative Relationships
6 for a Sustainable Water Resources Future," an
7 initiative that the Corps has been pushing. The
8 meeting in St. Louis was the third of three meetings
9 held across the United States, the previous two having
10 been held in Kansas City and Orlando, Florida. And it
11 was a two-day meeting, workshop. It was very intense,
12 and I have spent a lot of time over my years with the
13 State going to meetings with the Federal government
14 where we had states involved, and, by far, this was the
15 best experience I had ever had for a meeting of this
16 type.

17 Usually, back in my mining days, we would go in
18 and deal with the Department of the Interior, and it
19 was just the states arguing with the Federal government
20 over this, that, and the other, but this was a very
21 progressive meeting. I think we got a lot done.

22 And I'm going to let Mr. Jim Hannon, who is the
23 deputy director of regional business for Mississippi
24 Valley District and the Mississippi River Commission
25 with the Corps of Engineers, talk to you a little bit
26 more about the entire project that is going to be, I
27 would imagine, all 50 states, or maybe just the 48
28 continental --

29 MR. HANNON:

30 Fifty.

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1 MR. DUPLECHIN:

2 -- all 50 states in the United States, so, without
3 further ado, Mr. Hannon.

4 MR. HANNON:

5 I asked Tony if I had control of this computer,
6 that could be dangerous, I'm technologically challenged
7 sometimes.

8 Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I do
9 thank you for the invitation to be here today to talk
10 about -- it's a national project, and, sir, I am not
11 the project manager. I am representing the project
12 manager and our headquarters USACE here today to talk
13 about what we think is a very important project and
14 undertaking that we're sponsoring and leading an effort
15 to facilitate within the Corps of Engineers. And it is
16 -- the topic is, and the project is, "Building Strong
17 Collaborative Relationships for a Sustainable Water
18 Resources Future."

19 I want to give you a vision of the project. As
20 you can see here on the screen (indicating) -- I think
21 you all have a copy of this presentation in your
22 packets. Very simply, you know, we were just looking
23 for a way, from a Federal government perspective, to
24 support the states, better understand what the states
25 are doing, how you are developing your water resource
26 management plans, how we, as a Federal agency, can
27 better support the states collaboratively, much of what
28 has been discussed here today, looking for ways to
29 build that toolbox, put additional tools in the
30 toolbox, and come to an integrated water resource

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1 management framework.

2 As we were beginning to look at this project --
3 and I call it a project, because we started the process
4 about a year ago and the concept and how to go about
5 this, you know, so we did develop a project management
6 plan. We do have a project manager for the project,
7 who you'll see who she is and a point of contact here
8 at the end.

9 We had to think about, well, what would the future
10 look like; how do we want to approach this and go about
11 it; what are we looking for? One of the questions,
12 what's the driver for this, you know; what's really
13 driving our interest in this? And very simply, it was
14 to move towards sustainable and affordable, integrated
15 water resources planning, again, much of what you have
16 talked about already today.

17 We wanted to listen to the states across the
18 nation, understand how the water resource management
19 plans are being put together. You can see that the
20 thought process we had here, how -- develop how we can
21 promote more Federal -- national discussion of Federal
22 roles; identify opportunities to collaborate and work
23 intergovernmental strategies; look for ways that we
24 could leverage authorities and resources that are there
25 right now. And a key important part of this process
26 was bringing the Federal community together and looking
27 at efforts that we have underway, authorities, gaps
28 that might be there, and how that we could work
29 together to reduce redundancies possibly that are out
30 there.

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1 Some of the approach to putting this project
2 together and approach forward, as Tony mentioned,
3 first, we, across the nation, contacted the states and
4 solicited information regarding water resource
5 management plans. There was a number of questions. We
6 did hire a company to help, consultant, to ask certain
7 questions to be able to develop this project, putting
8 together regional trends, and we're putting together
9 some reports right now. We had three workshops, as
10 Tony mentioned already, three regional conferences. He
11 and I participated in the one last month at St. Louis
12 for the central region.

13 And then another key important point, as I talked
14 about previously, the assessment of Federal programs
15 and initiatives, how -- looking at overlap, looking at
16 how we can be more consistent and work together to
17 support the states.

18 This just gives you a geographical area, when we
19 talk about three workshops, one in the east that was
20 conducted in February of this year, one out west that
21 was conducted in April of this year, and then the one
22 that we just finished in June that was conducted in the
23 central portion, in St. Louis this year (indicating).

24 As we began to put together the goals for the
25 workshops, very simply, we wanted to have a forum where
26 we could just go together collaboratively and discuss
27 water resource needs. We saw this as an opportunity
28 for the states, non-governmental organizations, Federal
29 agencies to be able to get together, share information,
30 brainstorm, lessons learned -- I believe Tony would

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1 agree that there was some good information shared
2 between members of states that were there -- build
3 partnerships and build those relationships as we begin
4 to look at how we would move forward.

5 Some of the outcomes, you can see here, in each of
6 the regions, we -- as we kind of learned, and, you
7 know, in the process, beginning with the eastern region
8 and we got to the central region, there were some
9 outcomes that came of the -- from discussions in the
10 previous workshops that has eventually led to the
11 discussion of a national policy on water or a national
12 vision on water, and I'll talk about that in just a
13 minute.

14 This is a key outcome here that we believe that's
15 a part of this effort, again, you know, getting the
16 various Federal agencies together and looking and
17 assessing how we are supporting the states, how we are
18 -- our policies, our procedures, and, again, you know,
19 looking for gaps, looking for redundancies, and how we
20 can be more efficient in providing that support to the
21 states.

22 There's a national conference that is going to
23 result from this project, that conference, there will
24 be more details about this in the next slide, but as we
25 are -- we had the regional conferences, and we had some
26 goals there. We look towards the national conference.
27 It will be in the month of August, the 25th through the
28 27th in D.C.

29 Some of the things that we are looking for is just
30 to raise awareness within the administration, as you

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1 can see here, on water resource challenges and
2 opportunities, you know. As we cull together the
3 information from the regional conferences, what are
4 some of the common threads, you know, critical needs,
5 that were presented by the states, you know, that we
6 can pull together, and again, you know, put out there
7 for folks to see the commonality of issues and develop
8 some ways forward in how we can address those issues.

9 As I mentioned, what began in the eastern regional
10 conference through the western conference and came out
11 of the central conference was a discussion on, what
12 about a national vision -- or national water vision,
13 you know? We talk about, you know, oil as being an
14 issue, but as we've already heard here this morning,
15 you know, and discussed, you know, water is going to be
16 our -- is our issue right now. It is the -- it's the
17 issue that we need to raise awareness of. And, you
18 know, do we need a national water vision; you know,
19 what does that vision look like? We, within the Corps
20 of Engineers community, don't, you know, purport to
21 stand here and say, we know what that vision is, but
22 part of the discussion in these workshops, as we come
23 to the national meeting at the end of August is, what
24 might that vision look like? So we solicit, you know,
25 that kind of input, and -- into this as we look at
26 developing that.

27 What are strategies and actions for addressing,
28 you know, priority state and regional needs, you know;
29 what does that roadmap?

30 And then all toward moving the nation to better

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1 water -- a nation toward more integrated water
2 resources management.

3 This kind of gives you a snapshot of the national
4 conference that will be at the end of this month,
5 again, the 25th through the 27th, of August, in D.C.
6 You can see the participation, who we are expecting to
7 be there, certainly, the states that participated in
8 the regional conferences. And it's my understanding
9 that invitations, if they haven't gone out just this
10 past weekend or Friday, they are on their way out right
11 now, so people should be getting those invitations in
12 the mail.

13 There's booths there that will be available for
14 people, again, to share good lessons learned, share
15 what they're doing, you know, opportunities to share
16 just, you know, information like what was presented
17 today about that treating -- treating the water, you
18 know, to minimize the depletion of the Sparta Aquifer,
19 you know, those types of planning and participating to
20 share that information.

21 Again, presentation of a national water resources
22 vision and working to develop what that will look like.

23 What we are looking to come out of this, end
24 result? Again, to build that toolbox, to be able to
25 leverage the tools that are there to provide support to
26 the states as you are developing your water resource
27 management plans. You're talking about that, you know,
28 extensively today, and then how can we better support
29 you, as a Federal agency, or in -- as my grand-daddy
30 used to say, if I don't have a dog in the hunt, I may

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1 know who does and who I can go find and help, you know,
2 provide you information that you might need, provide
3 you support to help facilitate, you know, your being
4 able to be more successful, that's what we're trying to
5 do with this, develop the nation's will to offer, you
6 know, the states a more robust assistance, just to be
7 able to bring that Federal community together and see
8 how we can better support you in your developing of
9 your plans, not to move in or try to infringe upon your
10 rights, but if you need the help, to find a way that
11 you can come to us and say, how can we help you, how
12 can we provide some assistance to you.

13 As I said, a comprehensive strategy to inform and
14 educate folks about water issues, and then, you know,
15 again, that national vision, how can we work to unify
16 our nation, you know, as we move forward and talk about
17 the importance of water and water resource management
18 and integrated water resource management.

19 We feel that there is an imperative to act, and if
20 we can help facilitate and sponsor, again, you know, a
21 way forward, then that's where we feel like we have an
22 obligation to do that; pool our resources, knowledge,
23 and talents, you know, to solve problems; look for
24 innovative smarter water resource solutions; and
25 certainly, partnerships and relationships are key, you
26 know, on the way forward.

27 I have listed here the name of the project manager
28 for this effort, Ada Benavides. I think Tony has
29 talked with Ada, as I'm sure others may have over this
30 -- over the past year. She is located in our

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1 headquarters office in Washington D.C. Her contact
2 information is here (indicating).

3 I have some of my business cards that I will leave
4 with you. Certainly, if you have any questions, feel
5 free to give me a call. If I can't answer the
6 question, certainly, I will find someone and seek to
7 find someone who can get the answer to your question.

8 Again, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission,
9 I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to
10 represent our organization and to share with you what
11 we feel like is an important project to, again,
12 collaborate, build the relationships, and assist the
13 states in a more integrated water resource management
14 efforts.

15 If there's any questions, sir.

16 MR. ANGELLE:

17 Any questions?

18 Mr. Coleman?

19 MR. COLEMAN:

20 Are you familiar with the request for the Ouachita
21 River Valley Association and Vicksburg Corps of
22 Engineers to do a study of the Ouachita River Valley
23 and its tributaries?

24 MR. HANNON:

25 Yes, sir, I am familiar with that, that is handled
26 by our Vicksburg District Office, you know, which falls
27 under the purview of our Division Office where I work.
28 If there's something you would like to talk about, you
29 know, if I can't answer the question, I can certainly
30 find out who can within the Vicksburg District, you

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1 know, that's dealing with that with the project
2 manager. If there's a certain question you have, I can
3 certainly --

4 MR. COLEMAN:

5 It will be handled out of their office or your
6 office?

7 MR. HANNON:

8 It's handled out of the Vicksburg District Office,
9 but, again, you know, I will be glad to help you find
10 anybody that you need to talk with or find the right
11 person to answer any question you might have.

12 MR. ANGELLE:

13 Perhaps you all could visit after the meeting and
14 get some specifics on that, perhaps you could visit
15 with --

16 MR. HANNON:

17 Yes.

18 MR. ANGELLE:

19 -- get together after the meeting.

20 MR. HANNON:

21 And, again, I do have some of my cards here. I
22 will leave them here for anyone who would like to pick
23 one of these up and give me a call at any time. Again,
24 if I can't answer the question, I will certainly seek
25 to find who can.

26 And, again, thank you all for the opportunity to
27 be here today.

28 MR. ANGELLE:

29 Any other questions?

30 (No response.)

1 MR. ANGELLE:

2 Thank you very much. We appreciate your help. We
3 look to the Corps to be our partner. It was rather
4 reassuring that some of the things that we are talking
5 about doing, integrating water management resources,
6 here in Louisiana and what we do, that the Federal
7 government is running a parallel course.

8 Okay. At this point, I would like to entertain a
9 motion to extend the agenda to consider adoption of a
10 resolution on the Lake D'Arbonne and Sparta Recycle
11 Project.

12 MR. OWEN:

13 Mr. Chairman, I so move.

14 MR. ANGELLE:

15 Motion by Mr. Owen, second by --

16 MR. SPICER:

17 Second.

18 MR. ANGELLE:

19 -- Mr. Spicer to extend the agenda.

20 All in favor, indicate by saying "aye."

21 (All members indicating affirmatively.)

22 MR. ANGELLE:

23 Any opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. ANGELLE:

26 Hearing none, that motion is adopted. The agenda
27 is now extended.

28 I have a resolution that I drafted, I will read,
29 and perhaps it will be appropriate to meet what it is
30 that you indicated, sir.

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1 Whereas, areas of north Louisiana have been
2 designated as areas of ground water concern by the
3 Commissioner of Conservation; and whereas, high-quality
4 water is necessary for public health and economic
5 development; and whereas, the United States of America,
6 the State of Louisiana, the Sparta Commission, and
7 several parish and local governments have initiated
8 planning to develop a sustainable ground water plan;
9 and whereas, those initiatives include the Sparta
10 Recycle Project in the City of West Monroe and the Lake
11 D'Arbonne Initiative Project, now, therefore, be it
12 resolved by the Louisiana Ground Water Resources
13 Commission -- I'm sorry -- now, therefore, be it
14 resolved that the Louisiana Ground Water Commission
15 does hereby express a general support of these proposed
16 solutions and encourages the continued discussion,
17 debate, research, and where feasible, the construction
18 of these projects.

19 This Resolution adopted in regular session of the
20 Louisiana Ground Water Commission, on July 28, 2009, in
21 Ruston, Louisiana.

22 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

23 Thank you so much.

24 MR. ANGELLE:

25 Does that address the issues?

26 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

27 Thank you so much.

28 MR. ANGELLE:

29 And that would be a motion by --

30 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

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1 Motion.

2 MR. ANGELLE:

3 -- Mayor Hollingsworth --

4 MR. MAYS:

5 Second.

6 MR. ANGELLE:

7 -- with a second by Mr. Mays, okay.

8 Ma'am, do you think you have it?

9 COURT REPORTER:

10 Yes.

11 MR. ANGELLE:

12 Got it, good enough, okay, and I have some
13 handwritten notes here.

14 And if you noticed that we had a court reporter
15 here, and if you go back and think of -- those of you
16 involved in the Ground Water Commission, I don't even
17 know if we really had a whole bunch of minutes, much
18 less not having ground water -- and I failed to have on
19 this agenda and the previous agenda the approval of
20 those minutes, that will be on the next agenda, I
21 assure you.

22 So, anyway, having said that, it's appropriate for
23 us to vote. All in favor of that Resolution, indicate
24 by saying "aye."

25 (All members indicating affirmatively.)

26 MR. ANGELLE:

27 All opposed?

28 (No response.)

29 MR. ANGELLE:

30 Hearing none, that motion is adopted.

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1 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

2 Mr. Chairman, I might also add that that
3 Resolution in support of this organization is extremely
4 important as all these entities move forward to try to
5 get funding.

6 MR. ANGELLE:

7 Absolutely.

8 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

9 If it has the blessing of the State Ground Water
10 Commission, it carries a lot of weight and it helps us.

11 MR. ANGELLE:

12 Absolutely, absolutely.

13 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

14 And we really appreciate it, because this is a
15 state problem.

16 MR. ANGELLE:

17 Absolutely.

18 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

19 And as Mayor Norris correctly noted, the burden is
20 falling right now on those of us who have a pretty bad
21 problem. It's not so bad in the western parishes as it
22 is the easternmost parishes.

23 And on the matter of injection, let me mention
24 just briefly, when you get into that, we've found a lot
25 of mixed opinions about whether reinjection is a viable
26 alternative or not. Some maintain that the Sparta
27 Aquifer is so tight, you simply can't do that, but if
28 reinjection could be a part of this process, it could
29 really save a lot of money.

30 MR. ANGELLE:

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1 Yes, sir.

2 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

3 So thank you so much.

4 MR. ANGELLE:

5 Very well put, thank you very much.

6 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

7 And if it couldn't be used anything but for a
8 block for the saltwater that is intruding, if it could
9 be injected just as a blocking mechanism, that is
10 something we really need to consider, because that's --

11 MR. WELSH:

12 It's called a barrier well.

13 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

14 I'm sorry?

15 MR. WELSH:

16 It's called a barrier well.

17 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH:

18 A barrier well, a better term.

19 MR. ANGELLE:

20 Now, if you're going to talk, you've got to get
21 your facts right (laughter). All right.

22 Let's go. Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

23 All right, very good. Again, I appreciate you on
24 having the leadership on that issue, Mayor
25 Hollingsworth.

26 The next meeting date, I am suggesting, Thursday,
27 September 17th, as, again, we indicated at the last
28 meeting, I think we're required to meet --

29 MR. SNELLGROVE:

30 Quarterly.

1 MR. ANGELLE:

2 -- quarterly, I think is what the statute says,
3 but the statute does not say that we can't meet more
4 often than that, and as we move forward, I am of the
5 opinion that perhaps, after the first of the year, we
6 will be meeting on a monthly basis, okay, to get into
7 this and do the heavy lifting that is necessary.

8 September the 17th, I have looked at my schedule.
9 I am trying to clear some things. I'll throw that out
10 as a date. I am looking at perhaps meeting at
11 Louisiana State University in Eunice, which is located
12 in St. Landry -- on the corner of St. Landry and Acadia
13 Parish. Anybody want to offer any comments; do we have
14 a whole bunch of conflicts with that date?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. ANGELLE:

17 We'll continue to move around the state.

18 And, please, for my friends in north Louisiana,
19 don't take this as, we're done here, you know. In
20 fact, I see a situation where we'll be rotating between
21 south and north Louisiana, and I think it's good for us
22 to get out, okay.

23 So I'll go ahead -- and it's not necessary for us
24 to adopt it by a motion, in the event that there's a
25 scheduling problem, but I'm just letting you know that
26 I am going to call a meeting on September 17th, that,
27 again, is subject to change, you know. Our schedule
28 has to remain flexible, and many of you do, as well.

29 Okay. Having said that, we will go to the part of
30 the item (sic) that deals with public comments. We

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1 have a microphone, I believe. In the spirit of
2 cooperation, we will ask everybody to limit their
3 comments to four minutes or so. I don't want to be the
4 police department up here saying, we've got to cut you
5 off. I believe that we ought to give people the
6 opportunity to do so. I want to just manage time for
7 everybody, and if we can get through that, then that
8 would be really, really great.

9 If you would go, sir, identify your name and
10 begin. Thank you very much.

11 MR. BERRY:

12 My name is Harold Berry, and I have lived in
13 Ruston for the last three-and-a-half years. I
14 evacuated here because of Hurricane Katrina, and as you
15 know, we didn't have a water problem in New Orleans,
16 where I evacuated from.

17 But it sounds like you all have been studying and
18 talking about this problem for quite a few years, and I
19 was reading this State of Louisiana, Office of
20 Conservation --

21 MR. ANGELLE:

22 If you would, sir, put the microphone up to you.

23 MR. BERRY:

24 -- I was reading this Order AGC-1-05, back in
25 2005, effective June 29, 2005, Act 225 of 2005 changed
26 the term "critical ground water area" to "an area of
27 ground water concern." It's sounds like "critical" is
28 more urgent than "concern." I want to know why it was
29 changed.

30 MR. ANGELLE:

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1 Well, I certainly can't address that issue. The
2 legislature did pass that action.

3 MR. SPICER:

4 Actually, there was extensive discussion
5 concerning using "concern" versus "critical," and
6 there's a lot of folks from across the state felt that
7 it was important not to damage an area, for economic
8 reasons, by calling it "critical" rather than "an area
9 of concern," so that was discussed relative to the
10 legislature changing it.

11 MR. BERRY:

12 Wouldn't you have gotten more information and help
13 if it remained "critical" rather than "concern"?

14 MR. SPICER:

15 Well, it wasn't my decision, that was the
16 legislature's decision, and a lot of folks had input
17 into it, so that's how it come about. It was changed
18 because of potential impact of economic development,
19 and the folks up in the Ruston area, I think --

20 MR. ANGELLE:

21 Regardless --

22 MR. MAYS:

23 We were strongly supportive of "critical" --

24 MR. ANGELLE:

25 Regardless of whether folks were for "critical" or
26 folks were for some other thing, the Louisiana
27 legislature spoke to that issue and adopted that.

28 If, for whatever reason, we believe that, during
29 the next legislative session, there needs to be some
30 discussion, debate, on that, I think that that would be

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1 an appropriate thing. Whether or not it ends up being
2 the thing that the policymakers decide on, I certainly
3 can't address a -- none of us can address what was in
4 the minds of the legislature when they did it, but it's
5 a very good point, and I appreciate it.

6 MR. BERRY:

7 Thank you.

8 MR. LITTLE:

9 Mr. Secretary, he could bring that up with
10 Representative Fanning. Representative Fanning was the
11 one that made that change in the 2005 legislature.

12 MR. ANGELLE:

13 Thank you, thank you.

14 MR. LITTLE:

15 I'm Sam Little. I forgot to say that.

16 I do appreciate a comment that you made a while
17 ago, Mr. Secretary. I look down there at you
18 gentlemen, I see Elliot Colvin, who is over in the
19 Mississippi Alluvial Aquifer, his problems are
20 different than Mr. Gene Coleman's, who is in the
21 Sparta; but then, I look at you, who is in the Chicot.
22 Someone finally recognizes, yes, we do have an
23 abundance of water here in Louisiana, but each area is
24 different, and these issues have to be addressed and
25 it's better addressed through this Commission, I think,
26 than going through the legislature. The legislature,
27 sometimes, they get off track.

28 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

29 (Inaudible.)

30 MR. LITTLE:

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1 Well, I understand that, sir, okay.

2 But you've got a diverse group there, sir, to work
3 with, and we will try to work with you.

4 Like I say, that resolution, that thing was
5 Mr. Fanning's deal in 2005.

6 Thank you all very much for being here.

7 MR. ANGELLE:

8 And, again, as I said earlier, Representative
9 Little is a member of the Natural Resources Committee,
10 does a really great job for the protection of the
11 resources. I had the occasion to visit with him at his
12 office in Bastrop; is that right?

13 MR. LITTLE:

14 Yes.

15 MR. ANGELLE:

16 And that was the first time I had been to
17 Morehouse Parish, and I appreciate the opportunity to
18 visit with you there, sir, and certainly your passion
19 for natural resources. After we got through talking
20 about deer hunting, we were able to talk about some of
21 the other things that you are concerned about, but I
22 appreciate you being here.

23 And, you know, perhaps one of our slogans as we go
24 forward will be, you know, ground water management, one
25 size doesn't fit all, or one solution doesn't fit all.
26 I appreciate it.

27 Yes, sir, Mr. Hohlt?

28 MR. HOHLT:

29 He was next.

30 MR. ANGELLE:

1 I'm sorry.

2 MR. NEILSON:

3 I am John Neilson from DeSoto Parish.

4 MR. ANGELLE:

5 Thank you for being here, John.

6 MR. NEILSON:

7 Yes, sir. I applaud the Committee on your work
8 and on the progress that's being made, but as you know,
9 in DeSoto Parish, we are very concerned about the
10 depletion of our ground water due to the Haynesville
11 Shale drilling, and we continue to be concerned about
12 that.

13 At a presentation earlier, I believe it was
14 revealed that there were 540 well registrations in the
15 fiscal year '08-'09, I believe I am correct in that
16 statement.

17 MR. ANGELLE:

18 Was it for the period '08-'09; is that correct?

19 Would you come to the microphone?

20 Those were the ones --

21 MR. NEILSON:

22 It may have been 560, but it was in the mid-500
23 range.

24 MR. ANGELLE:

25 Yes. Let's give the time period, and those,
26 again, are -- we certainly believe, before you answer
27 that question, that we don't have everybody complying.
28 I can assure you of that.

29 Go ahead.

30 MR. SNELLGROVE:

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1 Okay. Those reports -- you're referring to the
2 statistics that was -- that I reported back -- on the
3 number of wells on the performance indicators, I
4 believe, is that correct, Mr. Neilson?

5 MR. NEILSON:

6 You had it listed by quarters of fiscal year
7 '08-'09, I believe.

8 MR. SNELLGROVE:

9 Okay. As I recall, the number was up in the --

10 MR. ANGELLE:

11 It is 560. It is on Page 9 of the PowerPoint in
12 the performance indicator, number of prior
13 notifications of new ground water wells.

14 MR. NEILSON:

15 Okay. The last time I checked on my Louisiana
16 geography, we had 64 parishes in the state, that leads
17 to less than ten wells per year per parish that have
18 been preregistered.

19 The Department of Natural Resources have been good
20 enough to provide me, through the Water District
21 No. 1, of which we have control of the water in DeSoto
22 Parish, copies of registrations of wells in DeSoto
23 Parish, and in the first six months of '09, we have had
24 142 wells that have been registered in DeSoto Parish.
25 Of those 142, 140 have been permitted for frac water
26 supply, this leads to a potential impact of 1.3 billion
27 gallons of water out of the Wilcox Aquifer.

28 It continues to be an issue of concern to us, and
29 I know the Committee is doing everything they can to
30 look at this, but we really are requesting some action

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1 in the Wilcox Aquifer before it becomes Sparta No. 2
2 and we're looking at how we can recover it.

3 MR. ANGELLE:

4 Yes, that's great. I am glad you brought that
5 up, because one of the things that we are -- you know,
6 I think that we need to understand here, as part of
7 what we're doing -- and I'll suggest, again, at the
8 September meeting that we have a presentation on the
9 Haynesville. I know we had one the last time we met.

10 And there is -- I'm sure you saw the issue that --
11 the press release last Friday about using recycled
12 water, and we have a challenge in Louisiana, and unless
13 we meet that challenge, then we won't be successful
14 with the development of all of our natural resources.
15 And certainly, I think everybody believes that water is
16 going to be the thing that, if we have to make a
17 choice, if we are forced to make a choice, water
18 resources will be the thing that -- obviously, water is
19 the source of life in a lot of areas.

20 The question that we have is, can we, in fact,
21 have it all? Can we have the development of our
22 mineral resources without having a negative impact on
23 the sustainability of our water resources? And the
24 Commission's job is to provide public -- help us
25 develop public policy that addresses that situation.

26 You are feeling it more than anybody in this room
27 in terms of the number -- I think the last number I saw
28 about wells being drilled, DeSoto Parish finds itself
29 in the gut of the Haynesville, that's obviously a very
30 positive thing, economically, but can -- it does bring

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1 us challenges.

2 So I appreciate you being here, and I think we're,
3 again, working towards something that we can make sure
4 that we don't have a negative impact on those water
5 resources, but, at the same time, allowing us to
6 develop the mineral resources of the state.

7 MR. NEILSON:

8 Yes, sir. We are just interested -- and we want
9 to recover one natural resource without depleting the
10 other --

11 MR. ANGELLE:

12 Correct.

13 MR. NEILSON:

14 -- and that's what we want to do.

15 And I appreciate the Commission's work, and I
16 don't point these numbers out to fault at anybody.
17 It's just that we all know there's a -- there were more
18 than ten water wells per parish drilled in one year in
19 Louisiana, so we've got a long way to go toward getting
20 all the wells registered --

21 MR. ANGELLE:

22 Right.

23 MR. NEILSON:

24 -- and then the large amount that was drilled in
25 DeSoto Parish, and I appreciate you all's efforts.

26 MR. ANGELLE:

27 They were exempt. They do not have to be
28 registered, so you're absolutely right. It's trying to
29 get our arms -- you know, it reminds me of Wall Street
30 and having the ability to have all of the numbers in

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1 front of the managers, as opposed to, well, we invested
2 in this deal, but that's an off-balance-sheet
3 situation, and we didn't know that we had that done.
4 And we make decisions here, and, ultimately, we are
5 going to have to get our arms around all of the
6 withdrawal, and again, it comes through enforcement and
7 other things. But the Haynesville Shale, the
8 development of the Haynesville Shale, accelerates that
9 for us, because, without it, we may not be in such a
10 hurry, but I think we need to get there.

11 MR. NEILSON:

12 And I do think that the allowance of letting the
13 reinjection of the saltwater is a very positive step,
14 and I applaud the Department of Natural Resources on
15 allowing that. I know that will be policed very well,
16 too.

17 I thank you for your work, gentlemen. Thank you
18 very much.

19 MR. ANGELLE:

20 Thank you.

21 Yes, I think Mr. Hohlt was next.

22 MR. HOHLT:

23 My name is Rick Hohlt. I am with the *Ruston*
24 *Leader*. And I just wanted to say, it's very
25 encouraging to hear what you all have said today. A
26 plan is what we've been asking for, for a long time,
27 and it's going to take all of us working together to
28 get to a point to where we can resolve these problems.

29 I -- there's one very ambiguous part of all this
30 that I want to point out. I am a manager, and when a

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1 manager has a problem, you have to identify the
2 problem, then you have to come up with possible
3 solutions, and then you have to enact those solutions
4 for a resolution.

5 The part that is very ambiguous to me and many
6 people in north Louisiana is the fact that we have no
7 real criteria for the grading of an aquifer. There's
8 only one person in the state that can make that
9 determination, and that, of course, is Commissioner
10 Welsh. I don't -- if we think about it for just a
11 second, if we resolve the overusage of our Sparta and
12 it gets back down below 50 million gallons a day, I
13 think everybody in this room would agree that we could
14 take away the area of concern and it would be a
15 healthy, sustainable Sparta. You're going the other
16 direction and nobody has a clue, and that's the part
17 that is going to be missing from this vital plan.

18 We need to be on board. We need to all understand
19 that this is the point that it is determined to be
20 critical. How on earth can we all work toward common
21 goals when we don't know when that point is? And I --
22 that's just something for you all to consider.

23 It was a criteria before. In 2005, when the law
24 changed -- and I'll go back just to clarify that just a
25 little bit. Whenever we reported that, all of our
26 legislators said it was at the direction of
27 Commissioner Welsh to change the law, that is what they
28 told us, that is what Jim Fanning told us, that is what
29 Hollis Downs told us, that is the reason that the law
30 changed. So when you say it is the legislature that

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1 changed the law, it was at your direction, so, please,
2 consider, please, consider, using criteria where we're
3 all on the same page. And it would help us, as
4 advocates of solutions, to at least know, at what point
5 will it be critical; at what point do we need to
6 understand that we have to do something more and have
7 to get more Federal assistance for it to be critical?

8 There are Federal legislators that have that
9 opinion, that, without it being critical that we're not
10 going to get \$70 million for the D'Arbonne project. If
11 it's an area of concern, yes, it's concerning to us,
12 but there are Federal representation (sic) that do not
13 believe that we will get the money.

14 So I would hope that you all would at least
15 consider the criteria, whatever it is. Talk to
16 hydrologists, talk with experts at the workshop, and
17 ask, what is the Federal guidelines for a critical
18 aquifer? If we want to have three gradings, that's
19 fine, but let us know what the criteria is.

20 I appreciate it.

21 MR. ANGELLE:

22 Thank you, very good.

23 Yes, sir?

24 MR. LANE:

25 My name is Phillip Lane from Keithville,
26 Louisiana.

27 I would like to extend my congratulations on the
28 next meeting. I think you have conducted a very good
29 meeting, but I -- this gentleman that was talking about
30 the gradings, the critical or area of concern, I would

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1 just like to get the Caddo Parish-DeSoto area labeled
2 an area of concern, as opposed to being kind of in the
3 -- floating, at this point. We have requested that
4 through our Parish Commission in the past and -- with
5 no response.

6 Our water didn't seem to concern me a whole lot
7 until the Haynesville situation started in our parish,
8 and I was aware that the water table was dropping.
9 Even prior to drilling, it was going on in the
10 Caddo-DeSoto Parish area. Just from my experience, the
11 water has dropped one-and-a-half to two feet a year
12 since 1974. Now, I think, in -- also, there was a well
13 drilled on my grandfather's place in 1954, and that one
14 has dropped at about the same rate, and they are about
15 five miles apart. This is south and southwest of
16 Shreveport.

17 Whenever the Haynesville drilling started, I was
18 told that -- approximately how many million gallons of
19 water they would use to frac a well, and at that time,
20 we were told that there would be about four fracs per
21 well. I have recently been hearing that they was up to
22 11 fracs per well. Now, that tells me that the water
23 usage on each well is going up.

24 Also, just recently, in the newspaper, Chesapeake
25 said that they would be in this area for up until 2029,
26 at least, and they, being one of the major oil and gas
27 industries, are wanting to drill approximately 10,000
28 wells.

29 Now, gentlemen, I agree with this person behind
30 me, too. We can't wait until we are out of water to do

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1 something about it, and I just -- I think -- I see some
2 progress being made, but it's awful slow.

3 And the Red River solution, the fact that the
4 Corps of Engineers have allowed the companies to use
5 Red River for fracing and for drilling purposes, is a
6 step in the right direction, the reuse of frac water,
7 but, so far, I haven't seen anybody use it, either one
8 of them.

9 And then, when I heard T. Boone Pickens -- and I
10 think you all know who he is -- was buying up water
11 rights in Texas several years ago, I thought to myself,
12 why would he be buying water rights? I think I know
13 the answer to that.

14 MR. ANGELLE:

15 Thank you, sir.

16 MS. CROWLEY:

17 I guess I'm next. Nara Crowley, Save Lake
18 Peigneur, I am representing the group that is involved
19 with the Chicot Aquifer. We have been battling, as
20 most of you know here, the efforts that have been --
21 for two natural gas storage caverns and the extraction
22 of millions of gallons of water per day for a period of
23 -- at the minimum of three years.

24 I commend you for being here and your efforts.
25 This is a very good progress I have seen over the past
26 year, but I concur with the gentlemen that have just
27 spoken, that we really are faced with a very critical
28 issue, and there are alternatives. And one of the
29 alternatives that were brought up this evening -- this
30 afternoon, rather, that converting wastewater, and even

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1 sea water, might be a solution for maintaining the
2 mineral resources that you want to use for development.
3 Rather than taking the drinking water from humans,
4 convert the water that we don't consume and use that
5 for industrial purposes, that's resolving a problem on
6 both ends.

7 We are very concerned -- nothing was mentioned
8 about the Chicot Aquifer today, and I know that you are
9 going to be going from place to place doing that, and I
10 look forward to the next meeting so that it will be
11 brought into the discussion.

12 But all of us -- it seems to me that every single
13 aquifer in Louisiana is facing some kind of crisis.
14 The Chicot, the Wilcox-Carrizo, and the Sparta Aquifer,
15 all have a crisis going on, and we can't waste time,
16 really.

17 And you're doing a great job. I hope you continue
18 to move forward. We really need that. Thank you.

19 MR. ANGELLE:

20 Thank you.

21 MS. STEWART:

22 I'm Alice Stewart from Claiborne Parish. I serve
23 on the Sparta Commission.

24 Typical of the water discussions to date, our
25 focus has been on industry and municipal demands, but
26 what is often forgotten is that water supply is largely
27 rural, and rural people have a lot to offer in terms of
28 protecting our waters. As you, Secretary Angelle, put
29 it, the State can't do it all in terms of water supply
30 or water demand, and as Mr. Snellgrove's slide listed

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1 today, stakeholders need to be engaged.

2 Mr. Hanson with the Corps has outlined what's
3 needed, I think, if we may substitute Federal/State for
4 State/local. So, as you work towards a comprehensive
5 State water policy, I respectfully ask you to look
6 closely at models that provide for State/local
7 cooperative water management.

8 Due representation is a founding principal of our
9 nation, that citizens may have a say in the vital
10 matters in the disposal of our property and what
11 happens to the water we depend on for life and for the
12 economic health of our community.

13 The principal, is -- is respected at the Federal
14 level, as I think we heard in Mr. Hanson's Corps
15 presentation. Louisiana would balk if Washington D.C.
16 gave away Louisiana's water with no consultation, no
17 explanation, no compensation, and no recognition of the
18 cost to Louisiana citizens to replace it. Yet, for a
19 lack of other policy nor criticism that that's the
20 policy to date, Baton Rouge may decide, and has
21 decided, the fate of water in our declining Sparta
22 Aquifer in just such an unaccountable, top-down way
23 when the State recently permitted another million
24 gallons of water, Sparta water, to be used by the
25 natural gas industry. Again, the Sparta Commission was
26 not informed, though it is nominated by parish and
27 municipal governments and industry to study and
28 recommend Sparta water use in the public interest.

29 That Sparta use has been included in the
30 permitting decision, they may well have asked the

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1 natural gas industry to pay a mutually-agreed upon fee
2 which would help pay for the alternate water sources
3 the withdrawals will necessitate. The solution would
4 have been thoughtful, that the burdens imposed by
5 current use would not fall upon others' shoulders.

6 There's a general principal, I think, that most
7 would agree with, the best way to assure that water
8 decisions are responsive to the people who are affected
9 is to assure that decision making is as close to those
10 people as possible at a level that is effective in
11 implementing the decisions.

12 Successful models coordinate decision making among
13 multiple sectors of the community and multiple levels
14 of government, participatory is one term used. They do
15 so in the interest of science-based planning,
16 accountability, innovative decision making, timelines,
17 and great use of local initiatives and resources.

18 So Louisiana's -- we all know how vulnerable
19 natural systems are to overextraction and how difficult
20 it is to intervene upon ongoing practices, but Union
21 County, Arkansas, is an example of an area that
22 overcame this hurdle and is now in fresh water supply,
23 economically competitive. Louisiana lags years behind.
24 Louisiana's water policy needs, I think, as Arkansas'
25 has, a place for a high level of stakeholder
26 involvement. Working together, State and local
27 stakeholders can do the right thing for north Louisiana
28 and for Louisiana, as a whole.

29 Thank you.

30 MR. ANGELLE:

Michelle S. Abadie, CCR

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1 Thank you.

2 Okay, very well. I appreciate everyone's
3 comments. We have a court reporter taking that
4 information down.

5 We look forward to seeing Commission members at
6 our September 17th meeting, unless otherwise notified.
7 We will get you time and place.

8 At this time, it is appropriate for us to consider
9 a motion to adjourn.

10 MR. DOWNS:

11 Motion.

12 MR. SPICER:

13 Second.

14 MR. ANGELLE:

15 Motion by Mr. Downs, second by Mr. Spicer.

16 Any objection?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. ANGELLE:

19 Hearing none, that motion carries.

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CERTIFICATE

I, MICHELLE S. ABADIE, Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing meeting of the Ground Water Resources Commission was heard before the Honorable Scott Angelle, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources, on July 28, 2009, in Ruston, Louisiana; that I did report the proceedings thereof; that the foregoing pages, numbered 1 through 125, inclusive, constitute a true and correct transcript of the proceedings thereof.

MICHELLE S. ABADIE, CCR #24032
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER