

# LA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## E-NEWSLETTER



Oct - Nov 2010  
Issue 4

## Changes on the Way - DNR Website

**“Just because everything is different doesn't mean anything has changed.”**  
~Irene Peter, American Writer

To all our employees, friends, visitors, partners, and others—DNR will soon have a new look on the wild wild web! We mean the world wide web, of course.

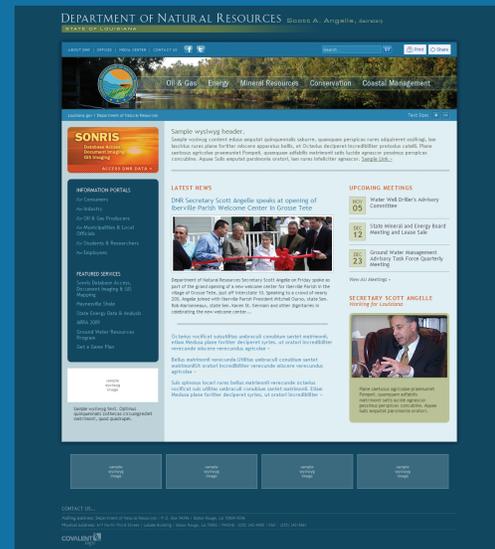
The **url** will remain the same but the look and navigation will be different. It's been well-planned out, with months of preparation, and many have had input and suggestions, so, finally the day will come. The web site launch date is set for November 19th.

One of the most exciting things about the new DNR website is the fact that “your feedback” will be requested, beginning on day one.

The primary Content Specialists are Phyllis Darensbourg of the Office of the Secretary, Bill Delmar of the Technology Assessment Division, Louis Temento of the Office of Mineral Resources, Sara Krupa of the Office of Coastal Management, and Daniel Ashford of the Office of Conservation. The contractor and designer is Covalent Logic, a local company whose philosophy is “collaboration produces the best result.”

The website contract managers have been Rizwan Ahmed and John Harrell, DNR Information Technology and Phyllis Darensbourg, DNR Public Information.

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources is one of twenty state government agencies. Its URL is: <http://dnr.louisiana.gov>



## DNR Asst. Secretary Office of Mineral Resources Jody Montelaro

A warm welcome to **Jody Montelaro**, a native of Eunice and Loyola University School of Law graduate, who has worked with the Jindal Administration since 2009. He also serves as Secretary of the Mineral and Energy Board. Below is a table of the lease sale results for the calendar year.

Classification	Nominated Tracts	Nominated Acreage	Leases Awarded	No. of Acres	Amount of Cash Payments
<b>2010 Calendar Year</b>					
State Offshore Leases	42	57,867.690	19	11,428.740	\$4,413,212.98
State Onshore Leases	253	159,317.124	146	17,290.082	\$16,745,269.30
State Dedicated Leases	26	48,606.470	6	2,480.390	\$1,064,863.75
White Lake Leases	16	16,590.970	1	350.430	\$123,351.36
State Agency Leases	96	3,361.062	72	2,086.012	\$19,207,247.01
<b>Total Year to Date</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>285,743.316</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>33,635.654</b>	<b>\$41,553,944.40</b>

## Rodi Talks to State and Parish Officials

DNR's Office of Coastal Management welcomed John Rodi, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulations and Enforcement in October to its meeting of Local Coastal Program officials. Rodi spoke to the group about the re-organization of the federal DOI-Minerals Management Services, now called BOEMRE. The bureau's new website is <http://boemre.gov/>

Rodi serves as Deputy Director for the Gulf of Mexico Region Office which is located in New Orleans.

Greg Ducote, Coastal Administrator for Interagency Affairs, and others also questioned Rodi about the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA), which is the revenue-sharing law allowing coastal states and communities monies from offshore oil and gas activities. Rodi further explained that with restructuring the agency, the newly created Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) is now responsible for revenue collection and disbursement of all royalty payments, rentals, bonuses for oil and gas leasing of onshore and offshore lands.

**For information on GOMESA,**  
[www.boemre.gov/offshore/GOMESARevenueSharing.htm](http://www.boemre.gov/offshore/GOMESARevenueSharing.htm)



**L to R: Coastal Management Administrator Gregory DuCote and Deputy Director of BOEMRE John Rodi visit after Local Coastal Program meeting in October.**

## Coastal Zone boundary study recommends additional regulated areas

DNR Office of Coastal Management presented the results of a science-based study on the inland boundary of the state's coastal zone to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) in August, with recommendations to make geophraphic changes as well as changes to management strategy. The state's coastal zone boundary was set more than 30 years ago.

"In the three decades since the coastal zone boundary was originally set, we have seen changes in the landforms and waters of our coast; erosion has advanced and hurricanes have brought sudden, drastic changes to coastal areas. We have also continued to make use of the best science to find new processes, new programs and better understanding of the factors that impact our coastal zone," said Louis Buatt, Assistant Secretary Office of Coastal Management.

Here are some key recommendations in the study:

- Supplementing the Coastal Use Permit method of managing the Coastal Management Zone, with an "Intergovernmental Coordination Zone" that requires governmental projects or

actions involving major changes to water flow or management to obtain a determination that they are consistent with the Louisiana Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast

- The addition of a portion of Ascension Parish to the Coastal Management Zone, bringing the total number of parishes within the zone from 19 to 20

- A net increase in the area covered by the zone of almost 2,000 square miles – nine parishes would see increases of Coastal Zone area of 52 to 570 square miles ( Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Terrebonne); two would see decreases of 144 to 50 square miles (Livingston and Tangipahoa); and the rest would see no changes

In 2009, CPRA directed that a coastal zone study be science-based and that there be consideration given to existing legal issues and other state coastal programs; also consideration to economic concerns such as energy, fisheries, maritime transport and tourism, and archaeological and cultural concerns.

In preparing the report, the Office of

Coastal Management depended primarily on its experienced staff of coastal scientists and drew from the expertise of Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Comite Resources, and the Louisiana Sea Grant Law and Policy Program to assist in some portions.

The coastal zone designation can be important to parishes because they can be eligible for funding, loans and participation in coastal programs, but also take on new funding and regulatory responsibilities.

At this point in time, the CPRA has an ongoing review process of the report.

**More information on the coastal zone study can be found at**  
<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/crm>.



# Calling All Small Business Owners

The state Department of Natural Resources launched an advertising blitz to reach more home owners and businesses about its HERO program and cash back rebates.

Funding from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 (known as federal Economic Stimulus) was made available to the state of Louisiana for the Home Energy Rebate Option program.

Louisiana resident can apply online or call 877-319-1368. Participants in HERO will make energy-efficient changes in their existing homes or as they build a new home. Business owners will retrofit their buildings to improve energy output —lowering electric costs and enhancing the value of their property.

The first step requires a citizen to contact and work with a certified home energy rater. **Here is a list of raters.**

The cost of an energy rating and services are dependent upon the size and complexity of the home or business project.

Once the changes and improvements are made – raters will assist participants in receiving cash back. Up to \$3,000 for residential and up to \$5,000 for commercial.

The sponsoring agency, La. Dept. of Natural Resources, has marketed statewide newspapers and a variety of publications, and Louisiana Public Broadcasting to call attention to the program and its many benefits. Ads will run through December.

**Visit [EmpowerLouisiana.org](http://EmpowerLouisiana.org)**

**Home Energy Rebate Options**

## Be an Energy "HERO"

Save Energy, Reduce Energy Bills,  
Increase Value of Your Home

### GET CASH BACK!

Up to:  
\$3,000 Rebate for New Homes  
\$3,000 Rebate for Improving Your Home  
\$5,000 Rebate for Improving Your Business

Louisiana's HERO program is offering Louisiana homeowners and business owners cash back for making new and existing homes and existing commercial buildings more energy efficient. Get a HERO-certified rater to audit your home or business, make the suggested energy improvements within six months, and receive a rebate check for up to \$3,000 or \$5,000!

Get HERO Program details and a list of HERO-Certified Energy Raters at  
[www.EmpowerLouisiana.org](http://www.EmpowerLouisiana.org)

**EmPower Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Energy Efficiency & Conservation

**If you haven't seen our Ad – it's time you take a look at this great offer. Cash rebates are being offered to those who join the HERO program – Home Energy Rebate Option. If you make energy efficiency a priority – energy costs savings will be your long term reward. Start by calling an Energy Rater in your area.**

## It's Free! Hot off the Press - Energy Savings for the Novice

# Energy Savings For The Novice

Simple Ways To Build Family Wealth And Security

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Technology Assessment Division  
P.O. Box 94396  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

DNR Energy Office will soon distribute to a number of environmental groups and state government agencies statewide copies of a new booklet entitled "Energy Savings For the Novice- Simple Ways to Build Family Wealth and Security". The booklet's printing was funded by DNR Technology Assessment Division with monies from ARRA for the purpose of educating Louisiana citizens. This community outreach project serves to inform families on how to make responsible choices in everyday life to save the planet and save money. The booklet offers tips on energy savings measures at home and on the road. Each of the participating organizations will disseminate the booklets at no cost to the public.

**To get a free copy visit the first floor of the LaSalle Office building, 617 N 3rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or write [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)**

# WaterFest Camp Teaches Value of Aquifers

## Lincoln Parish Youth Learn About Sparta

DNR Office of Conservation joined the Sparta Commission and the Lincoln Parish School Board in sponsoring for the first time, a pilot project, called **Waterfest 2010**.

In October, Ground Water Resources Education Coordinator Tony Duplechin traveled to Lincoln Parish Park where some 600 students gathered for a two-day learning experience on the topic of **water**.

All 5th graders in the parish's school system participated. The primary focus was on educating the students about the protection of their own water source – the Sparta Aquifer. The aquifer is the source of drinking water for 14 parishes in north Louisiana and there has been concern over the years about its replenishment.

Many believe that water conservation values should begin at an early age. Shown are several of the students wearing their bright green Waterfest T-shirts and insert photo is of Duplechin in his safari hat.



**11** number of freshwater aquifers found in Louisiana



Did you know...



Global water consumption is doubling every 20 years.

Here are a few facts from **October 18, 2010 - Newsweek Magazine Cover Story "Liquid Asset - Big Business and the Race to Control the World's Water."**

'Water is essential to life' - makes it no less expensive to obtain, purify, and deliver, and does nothing to change the fact that as supplies dwindle and demand grows, that expense will only increase.

Water is not like other commodities - it's not something people can substitute or choose to forego.

Some countries already face grave water shortages. Others have an abundance, but lack the means to deliver it from lakes, rivers, and aquifers to customers.

### Educational Outreach

Ocean Commotion at LSU Assembly Center  
Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
3,000 students, teachers, and visitors



Coastal's outreach team at Ocean Commotion from left are Steve Chustz, Charles Reulet, Carol Crapanzano, and Donna Thompson.

# Balancing water use for Haynesville Shale operations

DNR Office of Conservation's Ground Water Resources Program reported in August to the Ground Water Resources Commission that nearly 80 percent of water used for drilling operations in the Haynesville Shale now comes from surface water sources.

A Ground Water Program study of the operations of more than 420 wells drilled from October 2009 through mid-July shows 1.5 billion gallons of surface water has been used in drilling operations in the Haynesville Shale natural gas formation in northwest Louisiana – making up nearly 80 percent of the total water used in those operations.

Ground Water Commission members heard that early efforts were made by the program's leaders to guide industry to alternative water sources rather than rely on nearby aquifers for water withdrawals.

In October, Commissioner of Conservation Jim Welsh provided a packed crowd, over 400 attendees of the Penn State University's Shale Summit, with a presentation on that very topic – allowing other state's officials with gas shale development to take note of Louisiana's solutions to problems encountered as a result of a flurry of drilling activity in the north Louisiana shale formation. He noted that protecting ground water and preventing water shortages is a challenge to be reckoned with but that Louisiana found solutions when all parties rallied together.

Commissioner Welsh was joined by Gary Hanson of the Red River Watershed Institute in Shreveport and Mike Mathis of Chesapeake Energy, one of the biggest producers in the Haynesville Shale.

These presentations are available online under New Reports on the DNR website at

<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/haynesvilleshale/>



*Natural gas, particularly shale gas, is an abundant U.S. energy resource that will be vital to meeting future energy demand and to enabling the nation to transition to greater reliance on renewable energy sources. Shale gas development both requires significant amounts of water and is conducted in proximity to valuable surface and ground water. (Reprint from Modern Shale Gas – A Primer, April 2009)*

## Ground Water staff collects comments at workshops Working toward a management plan

The Louisiana Ground Water Resources Program held a two-part workshop on the campus of LSU-Alexandria to hear suggestions from members of the state Ground Water Resources Commission and others for possible inclusion in the comprehensive statewide water management plan.

The contractors working on development of the plan are working to present a draft report to the Commission, in accordance with the legislative request made in HCR 1 of the most recent legislative session. That resolution calls on the Ground Water Resources Commission to provide the Legislature with a report on ground water

and surface water resources in the state, as well as recommendations for measures necessary for the optimal management of water resources in the state by March 2012.

As part of that process, the program sent questionnaires to a number of stakeholders including the Commission members, members of the Ground Water Advisory Task Force and other interested parties to get their thoughts on the plan.

The questionnaire addressed the main components of the comprehensive plan, asking for recommendations for potential improvement of the program in areas such

as monitoring, enforcement, education, water well registration and emergencies.

Lt. Governor Scott Angelle, chairman of the Ground Water Resources Commission, said the workshop was a critical component in ensuring the plan is both complete and responsive to the needs of the state.

For more information, visit the state Ground Water Resources website at [dnr.louisiana.gov/cons/groundwater](http://dnr.louisiana.gov/cons/groundwater)

# Water Resources/Act 955 and first Cooperative Endeavor Completed

DNR Secretary Robert Harper is shown here with General Counsel Isaac Jackson and other staff attorneys as he signs off on the first "Surface Water Use Cooperative Endeavor Agreement" developed as part of Act 955.

The legislature mandated management and protection of Louisiana's water resources in this Act. Water users are to use best management practices and are to pay a fair market price to the state for the use of the resource.

The first agreement was completed with Shell Pipeline Company on a project in East Baton Rouge parish. The project took place in September when surface water withdrawal from the Comite River was used for excavating an old pipeline to be replaced with a new one.

The department website on Act 955 is located at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/955/955.htm>



L to R: O.C. Smith, "Ike" Jackson, Rick Heck, Sec. Harper, William Iturralde, and James Devitt.

## Reminders

As holidays approach all state employees should be mindful of the code of ethics and rules that govern holiday gift giving.

## Happy Holidays

Thanksgiving Day November 25th - 26th  
Christmas Day December 24th - 25th  
New Year's Day December 31st - January 1st

## Commissioner and staff work with STRONGER environmental team

On November 8th, Commissioner of Conservation Jim Welsh and members of his staff participated in a STRONGER (State Review of Oil and Gas Environmental Regulators) meeting at the LaSalle Office building. The goal of the meeting was to conduct a thorough review and evaluation of the state of Louisiana's program on Hydraulic Fracturing Guidelines by members of an out-of-state review committee of experts.

The STRONGER team looked at environmental issues associated with hydraulic fracturing like waste generation and disposal as well as how staff conducts its business, its inspections and enforcement. Other issues such as well construction, drilling procedures and production technology were discussed. The review team was headed by Jim Erb of Pennsylvania.

The results of the day-long review will not be known for several weeks when a complete report of the team's findings will be released. Commissioner Welsh said that he was very pleased with the presentations and participation of DNR. Joining the Commissioner were Office of Conservation staffers Gary Ross, Chris Sandoz, Gary Snellgrove, David Elfert, Blake Canfield. Also Gary Hanson of LSU-Shreveport, and Sam Phillips and Jeff Meyers of La. Dept. of Environmental Quality participated.

# For the Love of the Atchafalaya

There's no better time than a crisp cool autumn morning to gather-up the troops and do some fall house cleaning -well, the troops were the boy scouts and the old homestead was just off Interstate-10.

More than 500 Boy Scouts from the Acadiana troops helped clean-up the basin area alongside the Welcome Center at Butte LaRose and at boat launches along the western levee on Sat. October 16th. Art Hawkins of the Evangeline Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and his young scouts have begun an annual event to clean-up litter in and around the Atchafalaya Basin. Their goal to preserve a unique environment and keep it safe.

Old tires, beer cans, and plastic bags need not be the stuff birds build their nests with. These scouts have pledged to devote service projects like litter abatement to the basin region for 100 years.

In February of this year, the scouts planted 5,000 cypress trees just south of the

Welcome Center. State and local governments encourage and support these efforts. Lt. Gov. Scott Angelle said he is proud to see young people take charge, take care, and understand the value of our land and water resources.



Angelle recognizes scouts and their leaders at the October 16 event.

## About Us

ENERGY

CONSERVATION

OIL & GAS

GROUND WATER RESOURCES

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

ATCHAFALYA BASIN PROGRAM

### L-R Photos Bottom:

Scouts want a safe place for hunting and fishing.

Toni DeBosier (center), Resource Scientist for the Atchafalaya Basin program, helps manage people resources as well.

Tires, tin, and more removed from the basin swamland.

