1	OFFICE OF CONSERVATION
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3	STATE OF LOUISIANA
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6	GROUND WATER RESOURCES
7	COMMISSION MEETING
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10	Report of the Commission meeting held by the
11	Ground Water Resources Commission, on Wednesday,
12	October 6, 2010, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
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14	IN ATTENDANCE
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16	GROUND WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION:
17	LT. GOVERNOR SCOTT A. ANGELLE, Chairman
18	KYLE BALKUM, Department of Wildlife and
19	Fisheries
20	ZAHIR "BO" BOLOURCHI, Department of
21	Transportation and Development
22	GLENN T. CAMBRE, Department of Health and
23	Hospitals
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1	(IN ATTENDANCE) (CONTINUED):
2	ELLIOT COLVIN, Farm Bureau Member
3	KELSEY SHORT, Department of Economic
4	Development
5	BRADLEY SPICER, Department of Agriculture
6	And Forestry
7	PAUL MILLER, Department of Environmental
8	Quality
9	CHARLES KILLEBREW, Governor's Office on
LO	Coastal Activities
11	TED MCKINNEY, Sparta Ground Water Conservation
12	District Board of Commissioners
13	WILLIAM R. DOWNS, Expertise in Ground Water
L 4	Resource Management
15	PAUL D. FREY, Louisiana Landowners Association
16	MAYOR JOSEPH D. HOLLINGSWORTH, JR., City of
L 7	Ruston
18	PAUL "JACKIE" LOEWER, JR., Louisiana Rice
19	Producers Group
20	EUGENE H. OWEN, Capital Area Ground Water
21	Conservation District
22	JAMES H. WELSH, Commissioner of Conservation
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     (IN ATTENDANCE) (CONTINUED):
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     STAFF MEMBERS:
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          GARY SNELLGROVE, Ground Water Resources Division
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          JOHN ADAMS, Staff Attorney, Conservation
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          PUBLIC COMMENTS BY:
          MS. TIFFANY CRAVENS, Department of
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          Environmental Quality
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           LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: We will go ahead and
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    call the October 6th meeting of the Ground Water
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    Resources Commission to order and ask the staff to
    call roll.
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         MR. ADAMS: My name is John Adams. I'm the
    attorney for the environmental division of the office
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    of conservation. Please sound off as I call your
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    name.
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         Lieutenant Governor Scott Angelle?
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         LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE:
                                 Here.
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         MR. ADAMS: Kyle Balkum?
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         MR. BALKUM: Present.
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         MR. ADAMS: Bo Bolourchi?
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         MR. BOLOURCHI: Here.
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         MR. ADAMS: James Burland?
          (No response.)
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         MR. ADAMS: Glenn Cambre?
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         MR. CAMBRE: Here.
         MR. ADAMS: Elliot Colvin?
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         MR. COLVIN: Here.
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         MR. ADAMS: William Downs?
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         MR. DOWNS: Here.
23
         MR. ADAMS: Paul Frey?
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         MR. FREY: Here.
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         MR. ADAMS: Mayor Dan Hollingsworth?
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         MAYOR HOLLINGSWORTH:
                                Here.
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         MR. ADAMS: James Johnston?
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          (No response.)
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         MR. ADAMS: Charles Killebrew?
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         MR. KILLEBREW:
                          Here.
         MR. ADAMS: Jackie Loewer?
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         MR. LOEWER: Here.
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         MR. ADAMS: Mickey Mays?
9
          (No response.)
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         MR. ADAMS: Ted McKinney?
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         MR. MCKINNEY:
                         Here.
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         MR. ADAMS: Paul Miller?
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         MR. MILLER: Here.
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         MR. ADAMS: Eugene Owen?
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         MR. OWEN: Here.
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         MR. ADAMS: Kelsey Short?
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         (No response.)
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         MR. ADAMS: Brad Spicer?
         MR. SPICER: Here.
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         MR. ADAMS: Jim Welsh?
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         MR. WELSH: Here.
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         MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, we have 15 members
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    present. Ten are required for a quorum so we have a
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    quorum.
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         LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: Item No. 2, Adoption of
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the meeting summary, August 18, 2010. Mr. Adams?
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         MR. ADAMS: Yes, sir. Last week, staff
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    e-mailed to you a copy of the draft meeting summary
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    from the last meeting. I received no comments or
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    questions to change anything. If you don't have any
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    additional change requests, then the staff requests a
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    motion to adopt the meeting summary from the previous
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    meeting.
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         MR. SPICER: (Makes motion.)
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         MR. MILLER: Second.
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         LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: Motion by Spicer,
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    seconded by Miller. Any questions? Any discussion?
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    Hearing none, the motion is adopted.
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         MR. ADAMS: Thank you.
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         LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: Item 3, statewide water
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    management plan update, Mr. Snellgrove. Before you
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    do that, I want to welcome Mr. Ted McKinney.
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    Certainly, good to see you Ted. I appreciate your
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    service. As I recall, you have taken Mr. Gene
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    Coleman's place.
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         MR. MCKINNEY: Correct.
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         LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: Certainly, Mr. Coleman
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    did an outstanding job representing the state on
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    water resource issues for a long, long time. You've
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    got some big shoes to fill, but I know you are up to
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Welcome and we appreciate having you. Thank
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    it.
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    you.
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         Mr. Snellgrove?
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         MR. SNELLGROVE: Lt. Governor, we also have
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    another new member, Mr. Charles Killebrew.
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         LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: Yes. Mr. Killebrew,
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    good to see you. I shook hands with you earlier.
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    Welcome and thank you. I appreciate your past
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    contributions to the state and look forward to
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    working with you in these efforts. Thank you.
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         I'm not hearing you on the microphone.
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    don't know if you're not live.
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         MR. SNELLGROVE: Can you hear me now?
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         LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: Yes.
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         MR. SNELLGROVE: Starting off here on the
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    recap of the statewide water management plan.
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    updated the timeline as I have been in the previous
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    meetings. One change to note, things are on
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    schedule. However, we had information from our
    contractor that requires that they need a little more
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    time to put together the draft following the
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    aggressive month of September with workshops and
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    questionnaires and responses. So we are going to
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    focus now on months 9 and 10 or December and January
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    putting out the draft comprehensive report and going
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through the four public meetings that we had scheduled as a part of the scope of services.

This will not impact — at this point in time, we don't foresee that this will impact completion and publication of the final report still on target for February.

LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: I'd like for you to, perhaps, visit with me next week. I want to visit with the Attorney's General office. As you know, when we put this statewide management plan together, this schedule, House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 had not been adopted by the legislature. And House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 has since been adopted, request a March 1, 2012, delivery date which would add additional time to our work, not at all suggesting that if we need more time that we ought to take advantage of the time. But I want to make sure that we're not doing anything that would conflict with the issues of the legislature.

MR. SNELLGROVE: Will do. And here's a breakdown percentage by task. The only one -- here again, things are on schedule. The only thing of note would be Task 1. Last time, I reported a 95 percent completion on review of past and current data. At that time, when that was reported -- this

was back in August -- the assumption at that time was that we would not be able to obtain current data from 2005 to present. We've been working diligently with our contractor as well as with USGS, and we are now able to get that information.

So Task 1 has been adjusted as new information is coming in to fulfill that requirement under Task 1 as we are getting the data from USGS. Again, Task 9, the finality of the report is still on schedule for February 2011.

And this slide right here kind of recaps the draft plan development as we took a turn in the direction of providing the commission members and the task force members and all interested parties an additional opportunity to provide input and involvement in the draft plan prior to it being published for public hearings that are coming up in now December and January.

During this process, there was a written questionnaire that was submitted to all. In response, we received 16 responses to the questionnaire. We held two public meetings, September 22nd and 29th in Alexandria. And our meeting facilitator was — services were provided by, as I said, consultants, Dr. Christel Slaughter and

with the assistance of Dr. Williams. And at this point in time, I'd like to go ahead and hand over discussion to Dr. Christel Slaughter.

DR. SLAUGHTER: Thank you very much. Thank you, Commissioners. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor and Mr. Welsh.

We had very good response, in my opinion, from you on the questionnaires. We were not sure how many responses we would get. I think 16 is pretty good. It was a combination of commissioners and task force members. The progress report, which was prepared by ecology and environment had been posted. A link was posted. The questionnaire was designed around key elements that would be provided potentially in the final version of the statewide master plan, water management plan.

The questionnaires were really very helpful to get some insight into what some of the topics would be and some of the more controversial topics and the topics that would give us more discussion. And I want to start by thanking the staff, particularly, Gary Snellgrove, Tony Duplechin, and Charlotte Hardison as well as all the guys who stepped in and helped people get registered and helped with the logistics and making everything run smoother, getting

the Power Points ready and, actually, helping us do a good job to facilitate a meeting.

The meetings were set up more as workshops than public meetings than a traditional public meeting. We did not have people address the commission and such. Comments were in a structured sort of format so it worked out very well even with a large crowd.

I think the first day we might have had 60 plus people. On the 29th, the second workshop was a little bit smaller. But there was a lot of interest. In some cases, a little bit of tension or emotion as people spoke about issues that were important to them, which you would expect, and I think wonderful to have it in the central part of state. So we were able to get good attendance from a wide variety of people.

Some of the people who were in the audience included members of the USGS staff, representatives of the agricultural associations, people from the Sparta area, couple of people from Arkansas, and a number of people who either had personal or business interests in this particular topic.

As you can see on the slide, what we have prepared for today is really to give you some of the

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highlights of the discussion and some of the areas that received the most discussion. And at the end of each of the sessions consultants from ecology and environment were available to answer questions and talk about timeline and the next steps. So I think it went very, very well.

Here are the areas that received the most discussion or interest. In water well registration, legislation for denial of ground water use, a cryptic comment had a lot of implications to it and there were a number of comments about that, what should or should not be done. I would make a note for commissioners, that I was rather surprised at the number of questions we had for Mr. Snellgrove, our attorney, and some of the rest of the staff about what is currently being done in the office of conservation, in DOTD, in the whole area of ground water for the state. So I think it's a signal that some education needs to occur. And when we get the new plan, a lot of education is going to need to occur about what you-all actually adopt and bring forward in recommendations.

Again, under water well registration, notify local government prior to issuing response to new well notifications. Some of these are

self-explanatory. Require drillers to provide prior notification, right now this is handled within DNR and they wanted more public attention to that.

Some of the ones that came in on the questionnaires under this item, verification of well use, provide user friendly nontechnical form completion guidance, and establish one stop shop for all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Under the next slide, on evaluation, under this topic there were comments about utilizing academic federal agency resources for larger scale ground water and aquifer modeling. Especially, in the first session, quite a bit of time was spent talking about modeling, the cost of modeling. This is expensive for a state to do for a very large aquifer, but there was a lot of interest in pursuing that and getting very good data over a period of time so you could continue to make data based and scientific based decisions.

Second item, increase water metering, water level measurements, agency inspections, and reporting and database entry. Again, this would have a fiscal note associated with it. And, earlier, when I had spoken with you-all, as commissioners, some of you had said that more resources would be needed to do a

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better job in the future and I think some of these comments reenforced that.

Increase emphasis on sustainability of aquifer recharge areas. Again, the models will be very helpful in that area and USGS was helpful in those discussions talking about what they could do and what was required, additional resources.

Provide single number for water well identification was pretty straightforward. Implement collection of data to support aquifer modeling and increasing use of existing USGS ground water well monitoring database were also noted in the questionnaire but did not bring much discussion.

Also, in terms of evaluation, exploring methods to estimate ground water use, increase ground water quality testing, use independent labs for water testing and publish data. The evaluation of aquifer sustainability over a longer period of time, that was really included in earlier ones. And define aquifer sustainability and sustainable yield criteria and establish resources to manage the same. Again, those are all very similar.

There were a lot of comments about education.

A number of people from a variety of areas of the state believe that this is essential for success in

water management of all kinds, both ground and surface water. Developing water conservation and recycling curriculum, that would go into the department of education and into the school systems. Implement a sustainable yield based conservation education for stakeholders. That was stakeholders of all kinds, agricultural, industry, and consumer, local governments as well.

Coordinate with and promote local efforts, apparently, there are some areas in the state that had done a number of things and we would learn from them in terms of best practices or learning from what they had discovered.

Implement established effective/efficient methods to reach the public, encourage public water suppliers, both private and municipal to educate customers. Expand efforts with LSU AgCenter, LDAF, and others. Those were the items under education that were most prominent in the discussion.

Again, there were other ones having to do with notifying state agencies of water management priorities and finding alternatives to public water supply lawn and gardening watering, cisterns, etc. Educating water users of rules and regulations, there was a feeling that is not done as effectively as we

could. Provide more frequent stakeholder outreach events, disseminate water conservation success stories, provide semi-annual newsletter and utilize drillers to distribute educational materials to well owners.

In terms of emergencies, this was an interesting topic. And, actually, some of the discussion focused on things that had happened in other parts of the state, particularly, Shreveport, how that was handled, how that might be handled differently in the future.

Current emergency regulations are adequate, that was one of the questionnaire items that was sent in and a number of people felt that emergency regulations were adequate. Others felt we needed improved state and local agency emergency response coordination and involvement. And there were actually some comments about having state officials on site or the people who were sent by the state to have the power to make decisions or find out who to call very quickly.

Establish a priority ranking and allowable usage system during emergencies and then the other two items was suggestions to create a parish water water management board. That drew quite a lot of

discussion, including from the Lieutenant Governor, and a lot of talk was how to combat the difference in the authority level in the commission and what would be expected in parish. And I think the conclusion or consensus was this was not an attempt to take authority away from the statewide commission. It was simply to involve parish and local officials so that in emergencies they would be able to help.

Establish agency representative standing committee to recommend water quality/quantity emergency actions. Again, that's very similar to the one above.

Under enforcement, there were four prominent items. Mandate surface water use, cooperative endeavor agreements, these would take a variety of forms. They are used in some other states and there's a precedent there. Assess violators with civil penalties to fund water projects. Interesting concerns about having violations and funding water projects and the pros and cons of that. So I think that needs to be explored a bit further. Fully fund state programs and, again, the comments that current regulations for enforcement are adequate.

Other items under enforcement were to empower parish staff and sheriff's office to issue and

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enforce citations, have water well inspections, some of which is done by DOTD be done by DNR employees. Integrate ground water resource quality and quantity management within one agency. That is related to the bullet above that and assure water well registration and notification compliance.

The last few slides, one that was very interesting had to do with incentives and you can see there were a number of interesting items that came up here. Have a trust fund for surface and ground water use fees to subsidize surface water use. And the idea of trust fund, the idea of actually putting money into a fund that could be utilized for various projects that you thought were important based on, for example, scientific modeling or data you would get later on was seen as particularly important.

Cost share funding to assist in developing surface and waste water reuse alternatives, cost sharing, again, to help offset some of the expenses that a local government or industrial user might have. Credit system for alternative users and that could be anything from tax credit to a variety of other incentives that could be put in place.

Again, provide incentives/tax reductions to encourage surface water alternatives. Incentives to

retain forests and agriculture to benefit watersheds. This was discussed, particularly, as being important in certain areas of the state. Some folks from central Louisiana said -- and I think Mr. Frey helped with that -- that we don't realize how dependent we are on those in our current system. And then provide positive publicity to water users choosing surface water alternatives. So a lot of consensus there about opportunity for incentives.

Ground Water consumption fees were mentioned in the questionnaire. Amend E&P no waste on site storage requirements to provide greater opportunity to recycle and streamlining and systemize state, local, and federal government regulatory authority was also seen as an opportunity to provide additional incentives.

Under collaboration, focus collaboration on incentives and education, including other states and local agencies in aquifer evaluation and establishing regional bodies, which was discussed more heavily in the workshop that we had on the 22nd. Those all were important areas of discussion on collaboration.

Others that came up on the questionnaire or received less discussion were to expand ground water commission to include federal agencies and others not

currently represented. Actually, federal agencies we learned are prohibited from serving, but we could certainly have them in attendance at your meetings or available as advisors and to continue to look to make sure that your commission is composed of important stakeholder groups as seen as an opportunity for improvement in the future. Encourage water district and USACE involvement, seek and retain competent and productive staff. That one drew some interesting comments on the 29th about how competent and productive our current staff was and the need to seek replacements as they retire and retention efforts there.

Report consistent information and data to all, increase task force membership and role in water policy and management decisions. The concept of maybe dealing with quorum issues in legislation in the next session or the one after that came up because of the task force difficulties because they are so large of getting a forum.

Utilizing institutional knowledge and research, hold more frequent and localized meetings for local government participation and seek legislation to provide for effective state and local collaboration for research, funding, planning,

oversight, resources, etc., were seen as opportunities moving forward.

Under monitoring, requiring water metering, water level measurements, agency inspections, reporting and database entry. We received a lot of discussion, again, the pros and cons of that versus self-reporting or auditing and the need for resources in order to do that effectively was part of this discussion.

Increasing surface water quantity measurement came up in a number of different ways and require water well use reporting, the pros and cons of the way DNR is currently doing that came up as well.

Some of the ones that were mentioned in the questionnaire that didn't receive a lot of discussion, specifically, were large scale continuous aquifer monitoring network, privatize water quality and quantity monitoring, water well sampling and testing by certified labs, you saw those come up a moment ago in different ways.

Provide funding to local and regional organizations, pool state, local, and federal resources, maintain monitoring at state and local levels, assess current monitoring activity and reduce duplicity, improve external sonris well data search

capabilities, improve external sonris water use and production search capabilities, and improve Louisiana water use report data reliability.

Under auditing, again, related to what you just heard about monitoring and inspections, greater accountability for self-reporting requirements. I think that the staff in the office of conservation felt that what they were asking for in applications and their ability to review, their ability to use the matrix to do an evaluation on the front end, had a lot more gravity to it than I think some of the people in the workshop maybe realized. So the concern was could somebody come in and slip through that process and there would be nothing on the back end in terms of auditing. So you saw that come up in several different ways on different slides, certainly came up here.

Other items that received less discussion was periodic inspections of parish water quality offices by other state offices, interesting comments.

Automated electronic reporting, assessing staffing needs for adequate auditing, and performing independent evaluation of water resources agency practices and data quality.

And, finally, the ambiguous "other" category

where people would put things that they are not sure of where they go. Reservoir development, that was an interesting discussion in the second workshop with the conclusion that we may not need that right now in the state but could look forward in planning a time when that may be more important.

Shift non-potable users (agriculture, industry, etc.) toward surface water resources, develop the plan on sound scientific objectives. And then some other ones, develop surface water resources, require field identification tags on water wells, ensure surface/ground water resources connection and recognition in state law, and maintain diligence on addressing critical area and area of ground water concern issues.

So those were, basically, the areas that we brought up. There were other areas that were emphasized in the group discussion as we went through it. A number of commissioners were able to attend one of the sessions. A couple of overachievers came to both and that was very much appreciated. And it was very beneficial to have you there, even those of you who were really there mainly to listen. I think it made interested and concerned citizens and agency personnel realize how important this is to you.

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I'd be happy to answer any questions,
Lieutenant Governor or Commissioners, if there are
some.

LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: A couple of things, but thank you very much for a very robust report. I would say that it would be my opinion that these two meetings or these two periods of time were probably the most robust discussions ever held in the state on giving folks representing a variety of stakeholders an opportunity to comment on what they think ought to be in the ground water management program. So I want to commend the staff. I want to commend you for providing leadership and making that happen and getting that kind of input. We, obviously, don't all agree at the beginning of a plan to sit down with people who have good ideas, which may be different from our own individual ideas, and take those good ideas and make them great. I would just like to remind the commission members what we are trying to do here is an effort to establish a management regime at least on one thing and one thing only, that is a sustainable water resource program, make sure that we protect the water resource asset of the state, doing it in a transparent way. So all of these recommendations, all of those ideas and suggestions,

in my mind, all lead to a more sustainable policy.

At the end of the day, we are charged with the responsibility of filtering out those things of which we believe have a chance to become law. We have a responsibility to filter those things out which may be left for another day because not all good ideas are worth implementing because they have certain consequences. So what I'm assuming, Dr. Slaughter, what we will begin to do now is work on these suggestions and the suggestions that our professional consultant has put together for us and we will help to push through those things of which we can agree on. And I don't necessarily think any of us have veto power over what goes in the plan, and I'm hopeful that we can find a way where we will be able to reach some agreement.

For instance, I will tell you very clearly that I am not in favor of taxing water. I will do everything I can as chairman of this commission to advocate with my colleagues that that not be a recommendation of this commission. And at the end of the day, I may not prevail. And so I think we are going to have figure out how it is that we're going to do it and would take this information and, hopefully, go through a process of coming up with a

draft and then 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, and then get to those things that we can agree on.

So having said that, thank you very much and if any other commission members have a desire to speak or be recognized, please let me know on this issue.

MAYOR HOLLINGSWORTH: One question I might ask is under reservoir development, was that an assumption that we had plenty of surface water available or was that — what was that based on? Because there are some areas, particularly, north Louisiana where we don't have any alternative except that.

MR. SNELLGROVE: Well, I can add that the comment that I recall during the workshop, particularly, the second workshop was that there are reservoirs already in existence. And before getting too far into looking at developing new ones, the comment was suggested that, perhaps, we should look at utilizing ones we already have in place in the state.

MAYOR HOLLINGSWORTH: Okay.

LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: One of the things I think was somewhat difficult, Mayor Hollingsworth, is members had an opportunity to kind of describe what

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it is they thought about certain elements of the ground water management plan, some members were more descriptive in what it is that they wanted and others were not as descriptive. But, nonetheless, I think the staff had a duty and obligation to kind of grab that information.

For instance, if there's someone here -- and you don't have to identify yourself today -- but if you were the member of the staff that wrote in your comments something about reservoir development, it would probably be a good idea for you to visit with the staff and let the staff know at a later date what exactly you meant by that. And, quite frankly, if there's anything -- that might not be a bad idea for us to provide this and I think we have a copy of it here -- for any of you who are authors of these comments, if you believe that your comments were not accurately interpreted by the staff and that needs to put a little bit more meat on the bone, it would be a good idea for you to do that within the next couple of weeks. I think, quite frankly, there are a lot of things like that that the staff had to struggle with because it was more of a subjective type questionnaire. Thank you very much.

Any other questions?

MR. SPICER: Yes. I'd like to make a comment. I think we need to look at the reservoir issue very closely. I think it's a critical part of the surface water management and there's a lot of issues there to be addressed. I don't mind visiting with you and I think we probably have some experts or other state and federal agencies that would be glad to share some information regarding reservoirs and the development part of the surface management plan. So I'd sure like to not just let that sit there and for you not to do anything with it because I think there's a lot of work to be done.

DR. SLAUGHTER: Lieutenant Governor, I would also suggest, Mr. Snellgrove and his staff have scanned in all of the questionnaire responses. These are very cryptic, sort of a sound bite to get them on the slide. And I think that if you're interested in seeing the differences of people's opinions, you may want to actually go back to the original questionnaires. I would echo what the Lieutenant Governor said, that I think if you are more interested in an area and a reasonable explanation for why you feel strongly about something, you definitely need to communicate it. Writing is not the best form of communication. And I think

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everybody was very careful in the workshop not to dominate. I commend the commissioners for that. But if you can get the staff off on the side, you can chew them up. So I think it's very important that you are well understood because you each have such interest and expertise in these matters.

LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: Right. Just, again, to follow up on what our goal is here, which is to give to the people of this state and to our stakeholders and the legislature recommendations on what we believe a sustainable ground water management program looks like, what are the component parts, what are the obstacles, what are the hurdles, what are the objectives. And some of them may be able to be accomplished very easily like investing in an awareness program. Some of them may go as far to the extreme as recommending withdrawal reductions. so if we just think of the fact that this is probably going to be the first comprehensive. I know there's some component parts out there. It's not going to be a perfect document. It's going to be a great document and a good starting point.

But I would envision much like I've been involved in coastal resources management, that this is going to be Water Management 1.0 and then we will

begin to see Water Management 2.0 and 3.0 as we evolve into time and get more information.

So, again, I'm looking forward to visiting with you about some of the issues and as members of the commission engaging on what they think ought to be in the plan and we ought to be working with our consultant on that.

MR. MCKINNEY: Mr. Chairman, I have a question. Who can explain -- since I'm new on the block here -- who can explain how and who will get this into a hard copy document?

LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: I think what will happen is we will have a draft document that will be put together by our consultant that is engaged for this particular purpose. That draft document will contemplate some of the things that were on here that there seemed to be much agreement about. And then, perhaps, there will be things that —— for those things that are highly controversial or there was not much agreement about, we will have an opportunity to debate them all but kind of go through that process. I'm not yet sure exactly how we go about doing it with the commission, but we need to do it in a transparent way, vis a vis, a public meeting. So I'll be trying to struggle with that over the next

month and try to set it up. But I think we have ample time, and I do believe it's important for us to have those debates.

MR. MCKINNEY: Okay.

MR. OWEN: Mr. Chairman, one concern I have is that because a suggestion has been made and nobody challenged it at the workshop, it comes across as a consensus suggestion. I don't think that's necessarily true. It seemed to me that the workshop was a forum for, at least, hearing those suggestions, but I certainly hope there's ample -- there's many suggestions up there that I for one do not agree with.

think it's important that, again, while we have those things in which we may all agree upon, that nothing gets into the report until we have an idea to invoke all of them. What the staff and our folks may believe is a noncontroversial issue, one of us may believe is controversial. So how we go about identifying those is certainly one thing we need to work on. But I will tell you at the end of day that we need to put eyes on everything. This ought not be Congress where we try to vote on something that we haven't read. Now we're getting into some of the

1 hard work that we get paid so well for. So I 2 appreciate your contributions. 3 I need to step out for another meeting real 4 quick. I'm going to ask that Vice Chairman Spicer 5 take over on Item 4. Is that correct, 6 Mr. Snellgrove? 7 MR. SNELLGROVE: On the agenda, Item 4. 8 LT. GOVERNOR ANGELLE: You still have a quorum 9 without me, right? 10 MR. SNELLGROVE: Yes. 11 MR. SPICER: Are you ready to take up Item 4? 12 MR. SNELLGROVE: Yes, sir. I'll continue. 13 So at this point in time we will go through 14 what we typically report as program updates to the 15 various items that are depicted here. Evolution of 16 the water well driller program that we picked up and 17 made effective March 1st of this year. And we will 18 give you an update on the LRA funding update, office 19 of community development now for water well damage 20 activity from Katrina and Rita that we are pursuing 21 funding. I'll get into that as well. I'll give you 22 an update on the water supply for frac water in 23 Haynesville area. We will go through our statewide 24 water well notification audit and enforcement 25 activities and a little bit on public outreach and

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So as far as the water well driller program, the latest bit of information at the last commission meeting I reported that we would publish draft change to Title 56, which is for the water well driller water well construction licensing procedures that we took over or that we're managing now, say, since March 1st. We did propose regulations be sent out to interested parties. This information here is a compilation of those proposed items. It was put in the state register as well as distributed via e-mail to all interested parties. And we're seeking comments on these items. And once we get that information, then we will adjust accordingly based on the comments we receive and go through a more formal rule making process where we will publish a notice of intent.

As far as the database goes, we did complete merging the DOTD database with the historical database that we have here at DNR. That information is now currently available and has been now since the last commission meeting that was in August to the public as well as for our own internal use for our evaluation purposes and registering water wells. Of course any time you merge data, you're going to have

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issues to clean up and we're actively pursuing cleaning up the data to make it more — to put it more in a consistent format that we can more easily search and use the data.

For instance, there are some instances where there's inconsistencies in the way that -- and this may not be exactly accurate, but it's a hypothetical for you to understand what we're dealing with -there may have been some inconsistencies in the way a date was reported in a particular field. So we're going through and our IT staff are writing programs or doing some things that will help to debug, if you will, those types of situations to get it consistent so that we will have better access and usability throughout the system. The latest information on our efforts with the office of community development to go out and repair or plug and abandon the 120 wells or so that have been identified as moderate risk or, say, high risk due to the damage caused by storm surges and the events of Katrina and Rita, we should be getting either today or before the end of the week before Friday an application that was put together through a consultant that works with the office of community development and the application will require the Secretary's approval of DNR. Once that

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occurs, then it will go back to OCD for their review and approval. And once they approve, they will issue a notice to proceed. So we're getting very close to concluding that process to secure the funding and to begin the project.

We've been reporting this information for the Haynesville shale frac water for probably a year now. This is a continuation of that process. And just to give you a short recap, effective October 1st of 2009 we implemented -- the office of conservation, that is, implemented an expansion of the work history reporting that occurs for permits that have been issued that include hydraulic fracturing processes. Operators are now required or have been since October 1 have been required to provide water use information in their reporting back to the agency. And what we do with that information is capture it into our database and periodically update statistics. So this slide here represents the break down on the information that we received from October 1st, 2009, to September 30th of 2010. And as you can see, we're still above on frac supplied surface water. We're still above 75 percent or at 75 percent, above 70 percent, of water being used for fracking purposes coming from the surface.

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And, of course, the graph is pretty self-explanatory, but we haven't seen any real substantive change to the data that's been reported from the onset of the project to the current in that we are still well into the 70s on reporting frac well supply coming from surface water.

At this point, we will briefly discuss the water well notification audit and enforcement activity, where we are. We set in motion effective almost now two years back a systematic or procedural way to go about it, touching every parish in the state through an audit process to compare those wells that have been known to have been registered and drilled versus those that were required to be submitted to our agency under the department of natural resources for prior notification for our evaluation. We've gone through -- this slide I'm going to show you, we've visited Carizzo-Wilcox parishes, Chicot, and SPARTA. We've gone throughout southeast Louisiana. We've gone through the Mississippi River Alluvial and now we're into the general category of "other." We're now currently auditing and near completion of September. This is a breakdown of the enforcement actions taken as a result of the audit. And you can see here that we're

now rounding third and heading home. There's been over 2600 enforcement actions since we began the audit process.

To give you a breakdown on where we are with the latest public outreach and education in consideration of the fact that, of course, the two workshops that we just went through in the entire month of September was a very large scale public education and outreach effort. I'm going to bring you up to date with where we are and what we reported in August with some of the latest for this fiscal year on our efforts.

We're in the process of developing a curriculum guide that our objective is to get out to state superintendents statewide before the end of the year, hopefully, so that all of this would be in preparation and in response to, I'd say, the ground water awareness week that comes up in the springtime. But our objective here is to get a curriculum guide out there and available for use here by the end of the calendar year.

We've been very active on pursuing public education or conservation tips or guidance through the monthly billing for both public and private water supply, public water supply providers. Obviously,

particularly, those that are withdrawing ground water and using that as part of their public supply. We've been working with our public relation folks to put something together and to get that out to reach out to all the public water suppliers. I kind of see this as more of a survey as it is a please-go-out-and-do-this effort because I think a lot of them are already doing it. We've already gotten some positive feedback from some of the more major users whereby they have already incorporated a conservation tips element to the billing cycle. But needless to say, there may be some that aren't and maybe some of the smaller scale operators could assist us with that effort.

And, thirdly, we met with -- following the last commission meeting that we held in August, we met with the LSU AgCenter and the NRCS staff to further firm up our relationship with those entities and to partner with them on their public ed and outreach when it come to ground water conservation or water conversation efforts. We shared some ideas. Our objective now is to partner predominantly with the AgCenter as they have already in place a nice distribution statewide and already very well rolling on their efforts with this.

Our first objective is to provide to them a fact sheet, a one-page handout type of deal that they can provide to the folks who are in the audience or participating in their public outreach efforts. And then we will build off of that and, perhaps, get to something more sophisticated like a Power Point presentation. And, certainly, we do intend to have a presence at some of their events where they are in areas where ground water is more of a concern where there are known issues that need to be addressed. We want to have a presence with LSU AgCenter with a more robust outreach effort through their deal.

And, finally, we had also opened up an opportunity through local colleges here in Baton Rouge to create a public service announcement. Last time I announced that would take some effort to find and to have the ability to get the production equipment to do this. It's not a cheap thing to do to pursue if you're going to do it on your own. So the objective here is to see if we could partner with LSU or Southern, and we have gotten some feedback, I believe, from LSU. But we've also received some information, I believe, here in our own building. The department of revenue has some production equipment. And we are working with our public

relation folks. They have been working on putting together -- I think there's some type of agreement that may need to be between the two agencies that would allow us to utilize that equipment and to put together a public service announcement that could then go out to the media and distribute.

So we've got some positive developments on all of those forefronts and look forward to getting those implemented here soon. And at this time, that concludes what I've had here prepared to discuss.

MR. SPICER: Thank you, Gary. Anyone have any questions for Gary on his update?

MAYOR HOLLINGSWORTH: I do. I have some experience in radio and television production. I would think it would be a lot cheaper for you to outsource that from a lot of production facilities that are available for rent and that sort of thing. I couldn't imagine investing money in production facilities when there are plenty of them available. All you've got to do is rent them and take care of them.

MR. SNELLGROVE: Yes, sir. I appreciate that. Well, I think what we have right now is a fish on the hook that really won't cost us anything. The department of revenue, I believe, has the equipment.

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Patrick Courreges didn't inform me that there would be any cost associated with it. So I think we've probably got, at least, that part of it maybe secured or close to being secured.

MAYOR HOLLINGSWORTH: Could I add another question or pose an idea, at least? And I'm sure it's not a new idea. But on the matter of reservoirs of rural water systems, that is, I think there were some regulations passed down from events about water systems, really looking into tying in to help one another, were they not? I understand that. But, anyway, I was thinking in the instance of reservoirs, Lake D'Arbonne, the lake that we're looking at as an alternative or source of freshwater for Ruston and the other two parishes, there are five months of the year that probably Lake D'Arbonne can supply all the water we need for many parishes because millions and millions of gallons go over the spillway every day. And I was wondering if anybody had thought about using that on the shared basis to take the rural water systems off the SPARTA aguifer or any other aquifer for that matter during those high yield months on the lakes that are available or reservoirs to treat the water to have that as an option or requirement, that they use that water during those

high volume months and it would be available to take an enormous load off some of our aquifers.

MR. SPICER: Thank you, Mr. Hollingsworth. Any other comments?

MR. WELSH: Mr. Snellgrove, can you tell me if you're experiencing any complaints or phone calls about the water use in the Chicot -- I mean, the Carizzo-Wilcox aquifer now that such a high percent of the fracking is done with surface water? Or are we getting those calls like we used to do two years ago?

MR. SNELLGROVE: No, sir. We are not getting the volume of calls that we used to. It has quieted down some. What we have found is a lot of -- well, what we are now getting when we do get inquiries about this area, what we found is a lot of it has to do with truck driving and not so much the ground water, but activities associated with moving water around on the roads and what have you. At least, that's been my experience. And for those circumstances where we have received a complaint, we certainly go through the evaluation process and investigate. And we have found that if there is a nearby oil and gas operator, they go above and beyond what we ask to communicate with and to meet with the

1 person that has lodged the complaint. And, 2 typically, what we found is they work it out. The 3 problem gets resolved. 4 MR. WELSH: Good. Thank you. I've just got 5 -- I guess this is kind of an announcement. Next 6 week, I have been asked to go and be on a panel at 7 the Marcellus Shale Summit at Penn State University. 8 I and Professor Gary Hanson, who you all know, and 9 Mike Mathis, who is a Chesapeake Energy water 10 manager, are going to appear on a panel at Penn State 11 to discuss the issue of how the regulatory companies 12 were using a very low yield ground water aquifer to 13 try to get enough water to frac with. 14 discovered early on that that aquifer was not 15 suitable, so we early on came up with our solution, 16 which was, basically, to ask companies to move in the 17 utilization of surface water for the fracking. 18 the slide that Gary Snellgrove showed a while ago 75, 19 78 percent of that water is now surface water. 20 That's a success story. So we want to tell this good 21 news story to another part of the country that's 22 debating their development of the shale similar to 23 our Haynesville, how the regulators, the public, and, 24 actually, the regulatory industry have all got on the 25 same page and are making this work. So we think

that's a good news story and that's what we're going to do. That's next week. Thank you.

MR. SPICER: Any comments?

MR. SHORT: Two quick questions. On that 75 percent water usage, is that primarily the Red River and can you give a breakdown of where that is coming from?

MR. WELSH: Well, it's a total of water use for fracking and for drilling. The water comes primarily from the Red River and Toledo Bend. Those are the two major surface water sources that we've estimated that there's about 300 billion gallons of excess water available from those two surface water supplies. That's enough to frac 88,000 wells a year. And the total demand for the Haynesville shale will take about 10,000 wells over 20 years. So I'd say we have a lot of surface water.

MR. SHORT: Why does St. Tammany have so many enforcements that stuck out on the list of parishes?

MR. SNELLGROVE: Yes. There's a lot of —
they are heavily dependent upon the aquifer for their
drinking water supplies. So predominantly what that
represents are a lot of private public supply water
well owners like subdivisions. And during that time
period, which is part of our evaluation, which is

1 from our audit, say, from 2001, 2003 to present 2 because Katrina and Rita and you had a lot of 3 migration towards those parishes and you had an 4 expansion of population and development and with that 5 comes water well development, etc. So that's what we predominantly are seeing. It's not so much 6 7 agricultural. It's pretty much the public supply. 8 MR. LOEWER: Can you define what action means? 9 MR. SNELLGROVE: Actions are either compliance 10 orders or notice of violations and they both have 11 different --MR. LOEWER: They would range from, what, 20 12 13 -- what, I mean, is extreme --14 MR. SNELLGROVE: Well, a compliance order is 15 one of which we implement whenever there's been a 16 violation in the audit process from 2003 to present. 17 A notice of violation is because of the way it is has 18 to do with statutory law. We issue -- we don't feel 19 like the commissioner -- it is our legal status 20 opinion that the commissioner doesn't have the 21 authority to issue anything greater than a notice of 22 violation, so it has to do with degrees of severity, 23 if you will, and what the statutory language says he 24 can do and can't do because there was a change 25 between 2001 and 2003 with authority, as I appreciate

it. So when the act was created in 2008, that gave the authority of our agency to enforce the regulations. It didn't go back and tap back into the time period between 2001 and 2003. It's somewhat confusing. I know. I understand. But that's the reason why there's a difference between the type of actions. So that's why I choose to call them enforcement actions, separate them out.

MR. LOEWER: For our use, since they go from minor to very severe, they could also be broken down between the paperwork involved, it could be an infraction or anything in the amount of paperwork that needed to be done with the well or could it be with the well itself, which would be more of a concern.

MR. SNELLGROVE: Yes, sir. This audit process that I'm reporting in these meetings is not inclusive of all actions that our agency has taken. This is by far the most and in the process a systematic approach that we go through. Very frankly, the reason we implemented this one is because we're mandated to do so. But, more importantly, in my opinion, it is almost — it's an outreach. We are notifying the public of situations that they have not complied and we are giving them the opportunity to resolve that

situation in an amicable way, in my opinion. We're not assessing civil penalties at this time whenever we go through this process. So I think it serves two purposes and both purposes are very important. So to answer your question to the other side, yes, the act that was passed that gave you the ability to enforce our rules and regulations came with a matrix and with that matrix is written into an actual act and statutory law now. If you do this, there's a range that we can assess a civil penalty.

Now, there's also some language in the act that says this is what the commissioner may -- it doesn't say he shall. So it's at the discretion of the agency to decide what is the best way to go about resolving situations that come up. We had a situation where we felt like the assessment of a civil penalty was greatly warranted, whereby, a water well driller that wasn't licensed drilled a water well pretty much knowingly and willingly. So we had gotten this through a complaint. We pursued it and, lo and behold, it became factual. So in this situation, we felt it was more than warranted than to assess a civil penalty with a compliance order. So that gives you one example of more the extreme, but there's all kinds of things as you noted in between

1 that we take case by case. We follow the statutory 2 requirements. We try to hold to that. But if we can 3 get the job done without assessing a civil penalty, 4 that is the route that we would prefer to take. 5 MR. SPICER: Any other questions? Thank you, Gary. The next item, the next meeting is scheduled 6 7 for Wednesday, December 1st, 11:00 o'clock. We 8 haven't decided where it's going to be, Gary? 9 MR. SNELLGROVE: No, sir. We will have to get 10 back with the Lieutenant Governor and discuss that. 11 But on the agenda we do have a section for public 12 comment. 13 MR. SPICER: Yes, sir. That is coming up 14 next. We will take public comments. Does anyone 15 want to speak? Anyone? I don't see anyone so with no objections, we will adjourn. 16 17 MS. CRAVENS: I want to speak. 18 MR. SPICER: Please come forward and introduce 19 yourself. 20 MS. CRAVENS: My name is Tiffani Cravens. I'm 21 with the department of environmental quality in the 22 aguifer evaluation and protection section, which is 23 upgrading the water quality assessment division. And 24 I work with two programs that I think may be of 25 interest to the commission, so I just want to tell

you about them now.

One of the programs that I work with is the the source water assessment program. And it's not a sampling program but a public education community involvement outreach type of program and it's designed to teach people where their drinking water comes from, how to protect it, and why they should protect it. We work one parish at a time. We currently work in Iberia Parish and around Concordia Parish. Basically, it is a public education campaign. I know education is important to the commission for source water purposes.

And the other program that I work with -- I had these two maps that I'm going to put on this table real quick. You have to look at them as you leave. But it's the aquifer sampling and assessment program. It is a statewide ambient ground water sampling program. We sample on a three-year rotational basis on an aquifer wide basis. We have, approximately, 200 wells that we sample every three years. And, like I said, on an aquifer wide basis, we have data going all the way back to the early '90s. This data is on the Internet. It's for public viewing. It's available. I know that several areas of the questionnaire was mentioned about the sampling

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program or aquifer data and so we do have that available. We sample for a variety of parameters, volatile compounds, pesticides, PCBs, involatiles, water quality nutrients, and all this is available and we are continuing our program. It's not on as large a scale as is necessary to include in a ground water plan because it's only 200 wells and we've sampled about one well for over 400-square miles is our goal. We would love to triple that, quadruple that amount, but with funding right now that is the amount of wells that we sample. And if you have any questions on that, we would be glad to do a full presentation at any time on either or both of the programs. MR. SPICER: Any questions? MS. CRAVENS: These are all our wells on these maps.

MR. SPICER: I don't have a question, but I have a comment. Are you familiar with the ground water testing that the department of ag and forestry conducts dealing with pesticides?

MS. CRAVENS: They do and are targeting areas, I think, where the pesticides are used. And, yes, I am familiar with that. And we do -- I don't know that we overlap, necessarily. There are probably

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    some areas that we do, but since we sample statewide,
    not just on targeted areas, and we sample all types
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    of wells. We sample ground water, but we do include
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    some pesticide data also.
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         MR. SPICER:
                       Thank you. Any comments or
    questions of the speaker? Thank you.
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         Any other comments from the public? If not,
    then I move that we adjourn. Any objections?
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         MR. WELSH: No objection.
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          (MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:11 P.M.)
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