CARE for St. Bernard

Pollution Reduction Plan

September 16, 2008

A Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Received and Conducted by
St. Bernard Parish Government
Chalmette, Louisiana

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SUMMARY

St. Bernard Parish is surrounded mostly by water, it continues to be a prime location for several large-scale industries, and it underwent hurricane damages unimaginable before Hurricane Katrina. Lined with wetland marshes and coastal inlets, residents know their home is special not only due to its beauty and vast natural resources, but also because of its limitations on human inhabitance. The St. Bernard Parish Council is addressing the coexistence of conflicting land uses by engaging in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Corrective Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. This is a public participation process to identify environmental issues impacting the quality of life of its residents. St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) Community Development office, with assistance from Toxicological & Environmental Associates, Inc. (TEA) conducted five public meetings and multiple, focused meetings resulting in a citizen supported pollution reduction plan. Meetings focused on identifying and prioritizing the issues, educating Parish participants on these issues and identifying solutions.

Approximately 70 different residents and business representatives participated in the planning process that began in February 2008. A focus group of about ten participants provided additional time meeting to discuss more specific environmental problems. Their work, along with expert advice from government and private practice professionals resulted in a community-based plan of prioritized environmental issues linked to actions addressing the most important problems related to water quality, air quality and recovery. Unlike most communities taking on the CARE planning process, St. Bernard Parish residents found it difficult to focus on one or two environment problems. Participants identified and prioritized eight water quality, eight air quality and five recovery issues. The top three from each problem area and associated actions are listed below.

Water Quality

- Issue: Polluted stormwater runoff
  - Integrate nonpoint source pollution best management practices into Parish development permitting process.
  - Investigate projects that could utilize and filter contaminated runoff.
  - Increase enforcement of dumping violations and non-removal of debris.
  - Conduct a nonpoint source reduction public education campaign through multiple media sources.

- Issue: New drinking water treatment plant and staff shortage
  - Utilize and possibly adjust pre-storm plan for new facility.
  - Construct a new facility.
  - Hire additional staff.

- Issue: Outreach and education
  - Identify and alert teachers about existing educational programs and curriculum guides.

- Promote the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)'s Enviroschool for Communities training program.
- Organize a quarterly educational workshop series that addresses water quality protection.
- Develop Public Service Announcements to be aired on radio and television stations.

Air Quality

- Issue: Homes located close to industrial emissions
  - Update the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance.

- Issue: Respiratory problems including asthma and allergies
  - Implement EPA's Community–Based Childhood Asthma Programs.
  - Identify methods for residents to test for mold inside their homes.
  - Request annual indoor air quality education workshop involving the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH).
  - Address indoor air quality inside schools.
  - Keep abreast of HEAL project results.

- Issue: Permitted emissions from industry
  - Work with industrial sectors to implement EPA's Design for the Environment program.
  - Interest industries in the EPA National Partnership for Environmental Priorities program.
  - Provide monitors to residents and/or businesses to test emissions and report to industry and LDEQ.

Recovery

- Issue: Blighted and/or contaminated property
  - Demolish or restore blighted properties following the appropriate parish process.
  - Apply for EPA Brownfields funding to conduct a brownfields inventory.
  - Conduct brownfields education workshops for property owners and other interested groups.
  - Apply for EPA Brownfields assessment and revolving loan funding to begin remediation and redevelopment process.

- Issue: Industrial land use encroaching on residential land use
  - Update parish zoning ordinance and official map.

- Issue: Household hazardous waste
  - Provide education programs on household hazardous waste.
  - Identify existing disposal options.
  - Identify options to using products that become household hazardous waste.
  - Establish a "Free Use" online site to exchange over purchased products like fertilizer or stain.
  - List potential private industry partners who could help host a collection day.

- Investigate how other nearby parishes accomplished this task.
- Coordinate a collection day.

Although participants prioritized the issues, they believe all of the issues are important and must be addressed to improve health and quality of life in St. Bernard Parish. The Public Meeting 2: Issue Identification section of the plan provides a complete list and explanation of issues. The Recommended Actions section offers descriptions for all of the action items that fall under each issue. Equally important to establishing ways to ameliorate environmental problems are providing methods for plan implementation. At the final CARE for St. Bernard (level I) meeting, participants were willing to continue to meet along with Parish grant writers to make actions happen, including searching for funding opportunities like EPA's CARE level II.

ST. BERNARD PARISH HISTORICAL AND CURRENT CONDITIONS

Overview

With colonists from France and the Canary Islands, St. Bernard Parish was founded in 1778 by Bernard de Marigny, the Parish namesake. St. Bernard Parish was officially designated by Governor William C. C. Claiborne, eight years before the Battle of New Orleans occurred in 1807, perhaps the most historic event in St. Bernard's history. The boundaries of the Parish changed on seven occasions from its inception until it assumed its current boundaries in 1842.

The first decennial census in 1810 estimated the population of St. Bernard Parish to be 1,020 persons. Until the early 1940s, St. Bernard remained principally a pastoral and agricultural economy with relatively low growth. Improved roads opened eastern St. Bernard Parish to inhabitation in the early 1900s. In the mid-20th Century, the trend towards an industrial economy became pronounced, with St. Bernard Parish increasing both its industrial employment base and population from industrial related jobs. The rise of the industrial corridor along the Mississippi River created the structural framework for land use in the Parish (Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc., 2002).

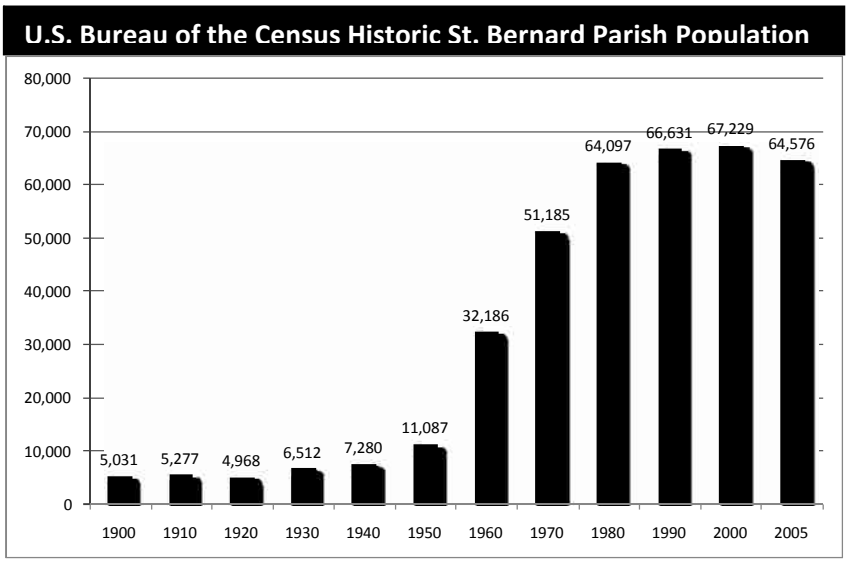
Industrialization and urbanization began in St. Bernard during the 1940s and 1950s when the American Sugar Refinery, Kaiser Aluminum's Chalmette Works and the Tenneco Oil Refinery (now Exxon/Mobile) were developed on the riverfront from the Orleans Parish line in Arabi to Chalmette. Other industrial developments included the Murphy Oil Refinery, natural gas processing plants and ship building in the area between Meraux and Yscoloskey (St. Bernard Parish.Net, 2003).

Industrial development, as well as the flight to suburbia from New Orleans, resulted in tremendous population growth and expansion of the economic base of the Parish. With these increases came the development of wholesale, retail and service related businesses to support

the population. By the 1970s portions of St. Bernard Parish had transformed from a sleepy, rural place to an urbanizing area.

Population

Population growth in St. Bernard Parish as a whole was relatively slow throughout the first half of the 20th Century. However, between 1950 and 1980, the Parish experienced rapid growth. In the following decade the Parish grew by approximately 2,500 persons or a 4% increase. Parish population remained stable in the following decade. Just two months before Hurricane Katrina transformed St. Bernard Parish, the population estimate released by the U.S. Census Bureau revealed a 4% decrease in population since the 2000 census had been taken.



A review of population within census designated areas of the Parish reveal Chalmette and Arabi as the most densely populated areas. However, between 1990 and 2000, the Chalmette area population grew marginally (.66%) and Arabi lost population (-7.90%). Of all the Census Designated Places of the Parish Meraux experienced the greatest growth at 15.18%. The table presents population change for the Census Designated Places between 1990 and 2000.

Population Change by Designated Place, 1990 - 2000

	1990	2000	% Change
St. Bernard Parish	66,631	67,229	0.90%
Arabi	8,787	8,093	-7.90%
Chalmette	31,860	32,069	0.66%
Meraux	8,849	10,192	15.18%
Poydras	4,029	3,886	-3.55%
Violet	8,574	8,555	-0.22%
Non-Designated Area	4,532	4,434	-2.16%

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census 1990 and 2000

Hurricane Katrina flooded more than 97% of the housing in St. Bernard Parish forcing residents to relocate temporarily until FEMA trailers became available. The U. S. Bureau of the Census performed a special count in January of 2006, estimating 3,361 persons. In October 2006, the Louisiana Health and Population Survey Report estimated a population of 25,296 people living in the Parish. Claritas, a private demographics research company has also tracked population

for St. Bernard Parish. Additionally, The Brookings Institute in association with the Greater New Orleans Community Data center has pursued population counts for St. Bernard Parish. The table below provides the various post-Hurricane Katrina population estimates for St. Bernard Parish. The most recent U. S. Census Bureau estimate (July 2007) shows Parish-wide population just below 20,000 people, 31% of its pre-storm population. St. Bernard Parish has officially challenged this latest census estimate. Anecdotal evidence suggests the population could be higher.

Post-Hurricane Katrina Population Estimates		
Date	**Estimate**	**Source**
July 2005	64,576	U. S. Census
October 2005	2,685	Claritas
January 2006	3,361	U. S. Census
January 2006	7,292	Claritas
July 2006	15,483	Claritas
July 2006	13,875	U. S. Census Bureau from Greater New Orleans Data Center
October 2006	25,296	LA Department of Health and Hospitals
June 2007	21,183	Greater New Orleans Community Data Center
July 2007	19,826	U. S. Census Bureau from Greater New Orleans Community Data Center

In October of 2006, the Greater New Orleans Data Center began estimating the number of residences actively receiving mail as an indicator of population recovery. In July 2005, that number was estimated at 25,604 for St. Bernard Parish. In October 2006 the estimate was 6,736 or 26.3% of the pre-storm residences. Current estimates (May 2008) indicate that 44.5% of the pre-storm residences are now actively receiving mail. The May 2008 report of the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center indicates that there has been continued population growth in St. Bernard Parish.

Date	# of Residences	% of total
July 2005	25,604	100%
October 2006	6,736	26.3%
January 2007	7,379	28.8%
July 2007	9,350	36.5%
January 2008	10,866	42.4%
May 2008	11,392	44.5%
Source: Greater New Orleans Data Center		

Housing

According to the 2000 U. S. Census there were 26,790 units in St. Bernard Parish of which 94% were occupied. Over 77% of the housing units were single-family structures, nearly 15% were multi-family units and about 8% were mobile homes. Of the 94% occupied housing units, approximately 75% were owner-occupied and the remaining 25% of the units were rented. Nearly every housing unit in St. Bernard Parish experienced damage from the hurricane. FEMA data reports indicate that only 1% of the total housing units had no damage.

In January of 2005, the average sales price of a single-family home in St. Bernard Parish was $113,846. In August of that same year, the average sales price for a single-family home had risen to $115,741. By August of 2006 that number had fallen to $43,703. In August of 2007,

the average selling price for a single-family home in St. Bernard Parish increased to $92,112. The most recent data available (February 2008) indicates the average selling price as $95,228 (Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, July 2008).

In terms of home sales (not including Road Home buyouts), the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center's July 2008 report indicates that the following number of sales occurred in St. Bernard Parish:

- January 2005 34
- August 2005 49
- January 2006 3
- August 2006 31
- January 2007 37
- August 2007 26
- January 2008 20

Social and Institutional

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, St. Bernard Parish had a single library, one community college, one hospital and approximately 20 elementary and secondary public and private schools. Nunez Community College has re-opened. Following the hurricane, one public high school and one public elementary school re-opened for the start of the 2006 to 2007 school year, as well as one Catholic elementary school. Mid-way through the year the middle school started up again. Prior to the storm, school enrollment was estimated at nearly 9,000 students. Current estimates are around 4,500.

The St. Bernard hospital has been demolished and the Parish currently remains without a hospital. A temporary library has been opened.

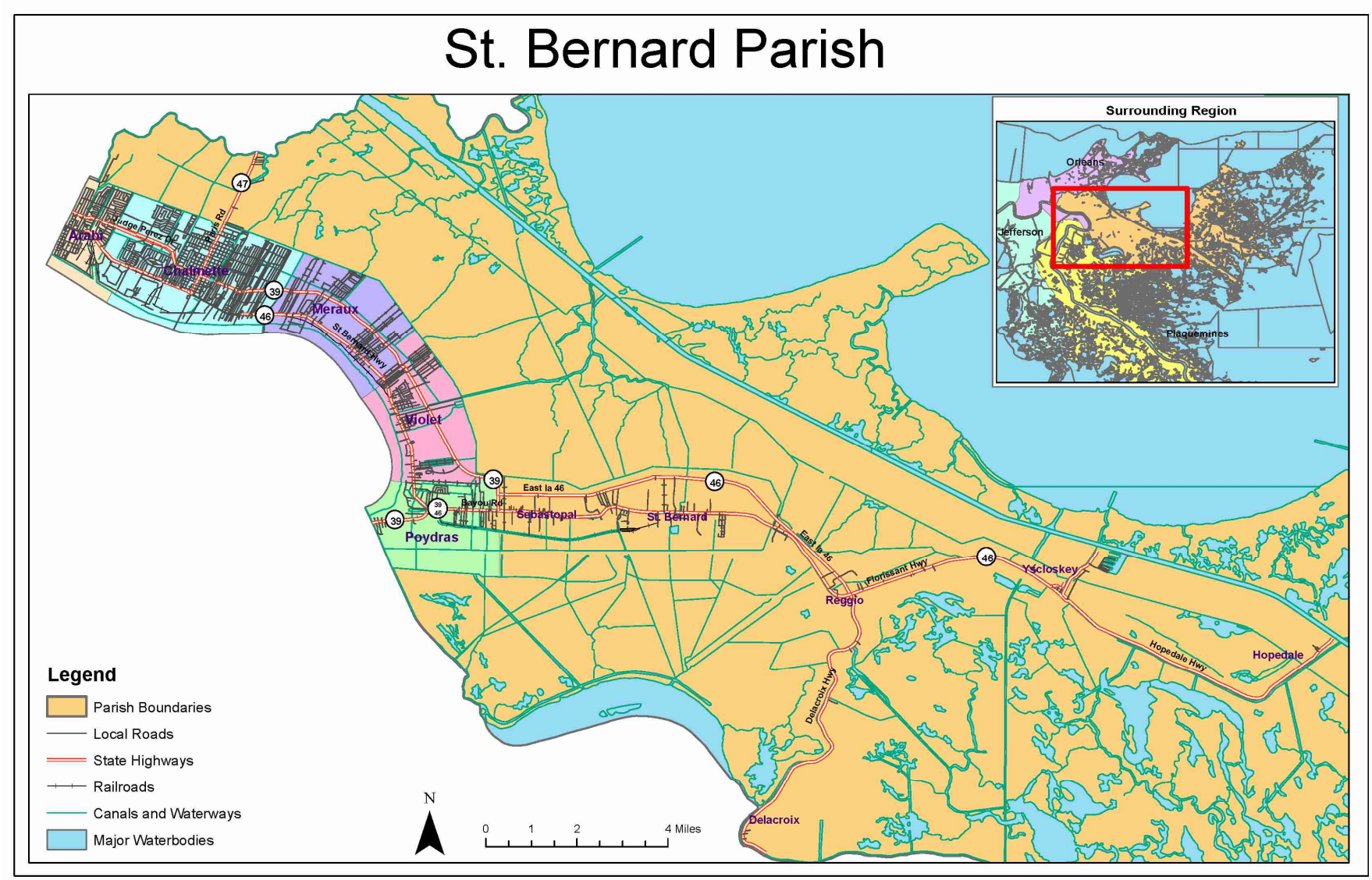
Employment

According to the 2000 U. S. Census, there were approximately 3,500 businesses in St. Bernard Parish with approximately 3,000 employees aged 16 or older. The largest concentrations of workers were in the sales and office occupations or management/professional or related occupations, 31% and 24%, respectively. The rest of the workforce was split equally between construction, material moving and service occupations (St. Bernard Parish.Net).

Nearly all businesses were forced to close as a result of the flooding and damaged utilities caused by Hurricane Katrina. Larger industries were able to revive fairly rapidly using their own resources. The Home Depot was the first large retail store to re-open (February 2006) and two grocery markets have been revitalized. Small, locally owned service businesses (restaurants) have also re-opened, as well as banks.

Development Patterns

St. Bernard Parish forms the southeastern corner of the New Orleans Metropolitan Statistical Area and directly abuts Orleans Parish to its north and west (illustrated in the St. Bernard Parish



map on page 7). Plaquemines Parish lies to its west and south. Its northern border is dominated by Lake Borgne and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet that spans from the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal to Breton Sound in the Gulf of Mexico. The Florida Walk and Forty-Arpent Canals establish the developable northern boundary and form a ring around the boot-shaped section of St. Bernard Parish from Arabi to lower St. Bernard.

Northwestern and southeastern sections of the Parish differ in character. The northwestern area of the Parish includes Arabi, Chalmette and Meraux and is more densely populated with commercial development dominant along the major roadway corridors and industrial activity along the Mississippi River. The southeastern area of the Parish includes Poydras, Violet, St. Bernard, Verret, Yscoloskey, Hopedale, Shell Beach and Delacroix. While Poydras resembles residential development patterns to that of the northwestern area of the Parish, the remaining areas are principally rural.

The St. Bernard Zoning Ordinance was adopted in 1965 and outlines the regulations and restrictions required for development. The zoning ordinance is a Euclidean model, meaning that it is based on the separation of uses first and foremost, followed by prescriptive rules. The specific districts, of which the boundaries are defined on the St. Bernard Zoning Map, are:

- Non-Residential:
    - A-1 Rural District
    - C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District
    - C-2 General Commercial District
    - I-1 Light Industrial
    - I-2 Heavy Industrial
- Residential:
    - R-1 Single-Family Residential District
    - R-1 (MS) Residential District
    - R-1 (M) Residential District
    - R-1 (P) Party-Wall Doubles Residential District
    - R-2 Two-Family Residential District
    - R-3 Multi-Family Residential District
    - R-4 Mobile Home Trailer Parks
    - RO Residential Office

Additionally, the ordinance includes a Suburban Agriculture District, the St. Bernard Village District, Planned Unit Districts (PUDs) and Rural Community Unit Plans (RCUPs).

St. Bernard Parish Subdivision Regulations were also adopted in 1965 and updated in 2007. The regulations require proposals for the subdivision of land to be platted with provisions for public utilities, streets, drainage, water and sewerage improvements.

The most recent land use analysis/study completed for St. Bernard Parish was in 2002 by Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc., URS Corporation and Fernandez Plans, LLC entitled *St. Bernard Land Use Study.*

The land use study catalogued the existing land uses throughout the Parish. The study however, only considered the area of St. Bernard Parish inside the hurricane protection levee system. The study did not include the areas of Yscoloskey, Hopedale Shell Beach and Delacroix. The study area further broke the Parish into planning areas including: (1) Arabi/Chalmette, (2) Meraux, (3) Violet/Poydras, (4) Lower/Eastern St. Bernard, and (5) Paris Road Corridor. The table below presents the land use catalogue prepared in the study.

2002 Land Use - Project Study Area (in acres)							
Land Use	Arabi/ Chalmette	Meraux	Violet/ Poydras	Lower/Eastern St. Bernard	Paris Road	Total Acreage	% of Study Area
Agriculture	0.0	467.8	57.0	606.4	0.0	1,131.2	6.32%
Residential							
Single-Family	2,359.9	1,231.2	670.7	525.9	96.3	4,884.0	27.27%
Multi-Family	160.8	8.2	16.3	0.0	3.8	189.1	1.06%
Mobile Home	77.8	46.8	81.3	142.6	0.0	348.5	1.95%
Public/Semi Public							
Parks & Recreation	85.0	16.4	197.7	0.0	9.9	309.0	1.73%
Schools & Libraries	115.4	56.2	111.0	12.0	8.2	302.8	1.69%
Government	78.9	0.0	21.9	3.7	5.6	110.1	0.61%
Church	8.7	11.7	5.0	0.0	1.4	26.8	0.15%
Funeral Home/Graveyard	15.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	16.0	0.09%
Commercial							
Local Business	324.3	109.9	28.9	37.6	203.3	704.0	3.93%
Hospital/Medical	31.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.9	0.18%
Transportation							
Ports & Harbors	436.3	0.0	44.2	0.0	61.0	541.5	3.02%
Air Strip	0.0	0.0	8.9	0.0	0.0	8.9	0.05%
Industrial							
Warehouse & Distribution	52.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.9	84.0	0.47%
Powerline ROW/Power Plant	0.0	0.0	4.0	16.4	11.5	31.9	0.18%
Manufacturing & Refining	510.0	273.0	51.7	140.8	101.1	1,076.6	6.01%
Other							
Wetland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	164.2	164.2	0.92%
Woodland	471.0	1,326.3	2,119.1	3,765.2	3.4	7,685.0	42.91%
Waterways/Lakes	0.0	49.9	39.5	11.2	7.3	107.9	0.60%
Vacant	11.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.9	0.07%
Historic Preservation Site	142.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	142.4	0.80%
Museum	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.01%
Total	4,881.7	3,597.4	3,458.8	5,261.8	708.9	17,908.6	100.00%
% of Study Area	27.3%	20.1%	19.3%	29.4%	4.0%	100.0%	

Source: *St. Bernard Parish Land Use Study, 2002.*

Challenges

On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina caused widespread destruction throughout all of St. Bernard Parish. Hurricane Katrina pushed the marsh and the Gulf of Mexico in like a funnel through the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet with over 12 feet of water and marsh that did not recede for more than two weeks and longer in some areas of the Parish. While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officially de-authorized the shipping channel it is awaiting congressional approval to close the waterway to navigation which will help with environmental protection by reducing coastal erosion and saltwater intrusion.

Further damage was caused when an above ground oil storage tanker at Murphy Oil Refinery ruptured and leaked benzene and other toxic chemicals releasing approximately 25,000 barrels of oil in the Chalmette area of St. Bernard Parish.

Nearly one month later, Hurricane Rita's storm surge inflicted additional damage on a weakened or destroyed levee system, re-flooding areas of the Parish despite the fact that it made landfall near the Texas-Louisiana state border.

In addition to nearly every residential and business structure sustaining damage, critical life lines that support every day human life were also impacted including:

- two water treatment facilities,
- eight sewer treatment plants,
- the utility system including electricity and natural gas services,
- 17 elementary, middle and secondary public schools,
- seven private and parochial schools,
- one community college,
- the only comprehensive medical care facility,
- the sheriff's department building (which was condemned),
- seven fire stations, and
- the emergency medical service (EMS).

While major progress has been made including an operable water treatment facility, sewer treatment plan, re-opened schools, new sheriff's facility, three of seven fire stations have been renovated and EMS, St. Bernard Parish and its residents still face overwhelming challenges in their day-to-day lives. Perhaps the greatest challenges include no medical hospital, blighted and/or abandoned property and a lack of retail facilities. St. Bernard Parish has taken an aggressive approach to eliminating blighted property, worked toward rebuilding a hospital and worked to attract redevelopment of basic retail services. Since June 2008, approximately 7,000 residential structures have been demolished. A complimentary program overseen by the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) is currently transferring properties acquired through the Road Home Program to the Louisiana Land Trust (LLT). Once LLT has demolished the existing structures and removed slabs, the properties will be ready for transfer to SBPG.

One of the options for the disposal of these properties is the "Lot Next Door" Program. Property owners who reside and claim their homestead exemption in St. Bernard Parish will have the opportunity to purchase half or all of any adjacent LLT/Parish Property. An appraisal will be done and properties will be sold at fair market value.

Since the hurricane, residents, community activists, business owners and leaders have gallantly rallied and dedicated countless hours to help rebuild their community attending numerous

planning meetings. In addition to this EPA CARE effort, several public involvement efforts were undertaken post-Katrina including:

- St. Bernard Citizens' Recovery Committee – Consisting of 38 Parish residents and organized into sub-committees prepared and presented a report on projects necessary to the long term recovery of the Parish. Projects are categorized into several groups including:
  - Infrastructure and transportation,
  - Coastal protection,
  - Housing,
  - Redevelopment and quality of life,
  - Economic development,
  - Public health and healthcare,
  - Environment and public safety,
  - Financial outreach and fiscal stability, and
  - Education and workforce development.

- FEMA Interim Recovery Planning – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided technical assistant that created an action plan and catalogued damage including:
  - Population and economic recovery,
  - Principles and planning,
  - Flood protection and coastal restoration,
  - Transportation and infrastructure,
  - Land recovery, and
  - Design guidelines.

- Long Term Community Recovery (LTCR) – the LTCR Plan, or the Parish Planning Tool for the Louisiana Recovery Authority's (LRA) Louisiana Speaks Planning Process identified recovery goals including:
  - Acquisition of property to enhance existing and public open spaces through the Parish,
  - Restoration and enhancement of landscaping and vegetation along public corridors,
  - Update of land use and development regulations,
  - Update of local codes, and
  - Improve existing transportation network to assist in emergency preparedness, economic recovery and neighborhood vitality.

- St. Bernard Parish Charrette Report – As part of the LRA's Louisiana Speaks process, a Charrette Report was prepared and included the following goals:
  - Create predictable development outcomes by introducing a practical plan and code,
  - Protect the Parish's open space from suburban sprawl,
  - Resolve access issues and initiate an urban pattern that supports transit,

- Facilitate homeowners' decisions regarding the condition of their post-Katrina residences,
- Redesign the water's edge to be truly conducive to public use,
- Renew the Jackson Barracks to their original historical prominence, and
- Take advantage of opportunities created by the Gulf Coast Opportunity Zone program.

Collectively, these efforts have helped residents express short term and long term redevelopment in their Parish. There are still many challenges facing St. Bernard Parish and its residents and it is virtually impossible to focus on a few, as so many are interrelated. Specific CARE related challenges and issues are presented in this document.

CARE FOR ST. BERNARD GOAL

The CARE for St. Bernard project intended to bring the community of St. Bernard Parish together in a five phase process to identify and reduce pollution in the community through collaboration building, issue identification, issue education, issue prioritization, and reduction planning.

PLANNING PROCESS

The CARE for St. Bernard planning process was community based and framed by citizen input received during five public meetings and three focus group meetings, managed by government, planning and environmental professionals. This section of the plan describes the CARE team, participation strategies and results, issue education and an overview of each meeting including resultant issues, problems and goals identified by participants.

The CARE Team

CARE team members were responsible for managing, coordinating, facilitating, implementing a participation strategy, writing for and overseeing the CARE for St. Bernard planning process. The team was comprised of EPA CARE representatives, SBPG staff and officials, and consultants with and in association with Toxicological & Environmental Associates, Inc.

Participation

Strategy

The goal of the participation strategy was to reach and interest as many potential residential, commercial and industry participants as possible to attend public meetings. Using mail, email, press releases, advertising, appropriate meeting locations, dates and times, and explaining the

process as citizen based were the methods the CARE team implemented. Once participants attended meetings, the CARE team made efforts to encourage continued involvement and commitment.

A large scale mailing effort started the outreach process. Based on water bill information, about 11,000 invitations from St. Bernard Parish President, Craig Taffaro, were sent to residents and 1,000 to businesses. Invitations included an explanation of the CARE program and who was involved, a "save the dates" postcard for all of the five future meetings, and a stamped RSVP postcard with a survey requesting information about possible CARE participation and most pressing environmental issues (Appendix A). Approximately 3,000 invitations were returned by the United States Postal Service, while about 100 people mailed their RSVP postcards.

All of the meetings were advertised through various means. CARE team members sent press releases to newspaper, radio and television media sources. Email reminders were sent and phone calls were made to all past participants. Posters and flyers advertising meeting dates, times, location, website and contacts were placed in population centers like Nunez Community College, a furniture store and coffee café. Flyers were distributed to 3,000 public school students and their parents, and placed on cars parked at The Home Depot and Winn Dixie supermarket. SBPG hosted a website, http://www.sbpg.net/care, displaying meeting minutes, presentations, agendas and other documents related to the CARE planning process.

The CARE team selected a venue for the five meetings based on familiarity, access, space and technical needs. Chalmette High School, located on one of two major roads traversing the Parish, held the appropriate amount of space and visual aid facilities. Although the meeting room was located on the second floor, there were elevators that could be accessed. Parking was ample and close to the meeting space, and maintenance personnel were always available to help with on site issues. Once participants arrived at the school, AmeriCorps volunteers assisted people unsure about the meeting room location.

Each of the five public meetings were held on Saturdays beginning at 10:00 am on February 23, March 29, May 31, June 28 and July 26, 2008. More specific input was received during three focus group meetings held on Mondays from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm on May 5, 12 and 19, 2008. These meetings were held at the SBPG Complex in the Council Chambers, temporarily housed in a trailer. Meetings catered to: (1) understanding environmental issues that residents explained are affecting their lives; (2) providing educational opportunities to learn about the reality and dispel myths linked to the issues; and (3) ultimately making decisions about how to ameliorate the problems.

Results

Over the five public meetings and three focus group meetings, 66 different people participated in the CARE for St. Bernard planning process. At the first public meeting on February 23rd, 39 people attended composed of 28 residents, two industry representatives, one St. Bernard

Parish Council member, one SBPG staff person, three LDHH representatives and speaker, one LDEQ support person, one videographer and two CARE team facilitators.

At the second meeting, held March 29th 26 people attended of which 15 were residents (nine attended the first meeting in February), one Chalmette Battle Field National Park Service representative, two LDHH representatives, two LDEQ representatives, one representative from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, two Parish staff members and three facilitators.

Eighteen people attended the May 31st meeting of which eight were residents (three who had not attended previous meetings), one Chalmette Battle Field National Park Service representative, one EPA representative and invited speaker, three LDEQ representatives, one representative from a private air purifier company, two Parish staff members and two facilitators.

On June 28th 13 people attended the fourth public meeting of which seven were residents (one who had not attended previous meetings), one Chalmette Battle Field National Park Service representative, two LDEQ representatives for informational support, one SBPG staff member and two facilitators.

Nineteen people attended the final July 26th meeting, of which ten were residents (five who had not attended previous meetings, two who did not leave their contact information), one guest speaker who teaches environmental education to children and adults and lived in St. Bernard Parish before Hurricane Katrina, one LDEQ representative for informational support, three AmeriCorps volunteers, two Parish staff members and two CARE facilitators.

Outside of the meetings there were potential partnerships being pursued with industrial and institutional entities. The CARE team including Parish staff, EPA and consultants met with the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District, Director of Operations and toured the facilities. EPA voluntary programs that would reduce diesel emissions were discussed and resulted in significant interest from the Port. The team also met with the Cultural Arts Coordinator for the St. Bernard Parish Public School System who was receptive to indoor air quality programs and environmental education opportunities for the schools. CARE team members spoke with industry representatives about partnerships for household hazardous waste collection days and potential recycling programs. They too were receptive to these ideas.

Issue Education

Understanding environmental problems is challenging. Hence, it was important to provide experts in the fields of interest that would arise during the planning process. Throughout the February 2008 to July 2008 CARE for St. Bernard planning process, meeting participants were exposed to many government and private entity experts who provided knowledge and written materials about the issues voiced by residents. Issues were identified through RSVP cards returned in the beginning of the process and during all conversations transpiring at public

meetings and by phone. All of the information learned is located in the meeting minutes placed in Appendices B-G. Issues related to three main environmental areas of concern: water quality, air quality and recovery.

Water Quality Education

Water Quality Education consisted of permitting, drinking water quality and infrastructure and nonpoint source pollution. At the second CARE for St. Bernard public meeting, Aimee Killeen of the LDEQ Water Permits Division discussed water discharge permit basics and ambient water quality monitoring.

At the same meeting, John Williams, P.E. LDHH Regional Engineer described drinking water quality and facilities in the Parish. Mr. Williams works in the Office of Public Health, engineering services where he enforces the sanitary code. Chapter 12 of the code is water supplies. He discussed how this relates to the St. Bernard Water Treatment Plant. Steve Lombardo, Operations Superintendent, Department of Public Works, Water & Sewer followed Mr. Williams' discussion by providing an update on Parish water and sewage facilities. Mr. Lombardo described the status of repairing and replacing facilities. Meeting notes and contact information for Ms. Killeen, Mr. Williams and Mr. Lombardo are located in Appendix C.

During the May 31st public meeting, Chris Piehler, Clean Waters Project Director for LDEQ, gave a Power Point presentation on nonpoint source pollution (Appendix E). Mr. Piehler provided support on several water quality issues throughout the planning process. He attended a focus group meeting and the last three public meetings (Appendices D-G).

Air Quality Education

Air Quality topics included permitting, monitoring, respiratory health and EPA voluntary program solutions. Keith Jordan of the LDEQ Air Permitting Division provided an overview on air permit basics during the March 29th meeting. Sak Supatanasinkasem, P.E. of the LDEQ Air Analysis Section followed Mr. Jordan's presentation by providing ambient air monitoring data from three St. Bernard Parish locations.

After Mr. Supatanasinkasem's presentation, Dr. Kenneth Paris, M.P.H., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Division of Allergy-Immunology, from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center discussed the causes, treatment and prevention of allergy and asthma problems in St. Bernard Parish. Following Dr. Paris' discussion, Melanie Wearing, MSPH, a LDHH Environmental Health Scientist Coordinator provided her expertise in mold epidemiology and toxicology. Complete discussions with Mr. Jordan, Mr. Supatanasinkasem, Dr. Paris and Ms. Wearing are located in Appendix C.

During the May 31st public meeting, Patrick Kelly, an EPA Region 6 Coordinator, provided an overview of several programs that aim to reduce diesel emissions: the National Clean Diesel Campaign (www.epa.gov/cleandiesel), EPA's Clean Construction USA

(www.epa.gov/cleandiesel) and Clean Ports USA (www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/ports.htm). More explanation of these programs may be found in Appendix E and at the referenced online locations.

Recovery Education

Recovery issues related to blighted and/or abandoned properties, waste management, zoning and sustainable building. Jerry Graves, SBPG Community Development Director, provided consistent updates to Parish activities regarding blight, demolition, abandoned pools, Road Home property and buffer zone issues. Thorough notes of these discussions are in Appendices B-E. Mike Bayham, SBPG Grant Writer, described the Parish's tree replacement program during the second CARE meeting (Appendix C).

On May 31st, the third CARE for St. Bernard public meeting, Mr. Kelly gave overviews of EPA sustainable building programs: GreenScapes (www.epa.gov/greenscapes/), Waste Wise (www.epa.gov/wastewise) and ENERGY STAR (http://energystar.gov). Descriptions of these programs are in Appendix E. More information about Green Building Programs may be found online at www.epa.gov/greenbuilding.

CARE team members brought a solid foundation of land use and environmental planning experience and research capacity to provide education on zoning and waste management throughout the process. A CARE team member reached out to two parishes which are involved in household hazardous waste collection activities, and reported lessons learned to participants during the third CARE meeting (Appendix D).

Other Education

During the fist CARE for St. Bernard public meeting on February 23rd, Dianne Dugas showed a Power Point presentation on behalf of LDHH, Office of Public Health. Ms. Dugas based the presentation on ten statewide programs that deal with Epidemiology and Toxicology (Appendix B).

Sue Ellen Lyons, Holy Cross High School teacher since 1978 and adjunct professor at Herzing College provided a Power Point presentation on July 26th explaining why we should care about the environment. She listed three overarching reasons: (1) Everything is connected to something else; (2) There's no such thing as a free lunch; and (3) Mother Nature bats last. A complete description of her presentation is located in Appendix G.

LDEQ's Enviroschool for Communities program began in May 2008. The CARE team emailed CARE participants invitations to this program. The program is a series of two-hour meetings that changes each month providing training sessions designed to educate communities and encourage participation in the regulatory process. The first three sessions were "DEQ 101: Understanding the Agency," "Public Participation 101: Understanding the Process" and "Access 101: Navigating DEQ."

Public Meeting 1: Collaboration Building

The February 23rd meeting, focused on collaboration building by listening to, documenting and setting future meetings based on input received from all participants. Collaborative processes allow people with differing views to work and learn together and ultimately to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. To ensure a collaborative effort, residents, business owners and industry representatives were encouraged to attend, and ample time was provided for all participants to ask questions and make comments.

During this first meeting, EPA, the Parish President and the Director of Community Development introduced the CARE for St. Bernard program and its potential community benefits. A LDHH expert provided a Power Point presentation describing the agency's focus, and various epidemiology and toxicology studies conducted in the state and region. The CARE team encouraged dialogue among the invited speakers and residential and business participants. Following the discussion, a survey was taken to begin identifying the most pressing environmental issues. Participants used sticky dots to vote for one or more of the approximately 20 EPA voluntary programs that address air quality, water quality, sustainable building, waste reduction and energy efficiency. A full account of the discussion is located in Appendix B.

Public Meeting 2: Issue Identification

Issue identification was the main purpose of the March 29th meeting. A meeting goal was to better understand issues discussed during the previous meeting. CARE team members organized issues into three main areas of concern: water quality, air quality and recovery. Another goal was to encourage participants to commit to specific environmental interests by joining a focal group which would meet independently to pinpoint environmental needs, problems and solutions.

Participants heard from LDEQ experts regarding water and air permitting processes and ambient air quality monitoring. A LDHH regional engineer and a SBPG Department of Public Works engineer presented water quality information regarding the Parish's drinking water facility. Air quality impacts on health were described by a doctor of pediatrics with the LSU Medical Center. Mold issues were presented by a LDHH scientist. Other recovery interests such as blighted and abandoned housing were discussed with the Parish Community Development Director, a member of the CARE team. An agenda and meeting notes from this meeting are in Appendix C.

Drawing from resident input during the first two public meetings, numerous and more specific issues were identified, discussed and researched in preparation for focus group meetings. Lists and descriptions of water quality, air quality and recovery issues follow.

Water Quality Issues

The issues, also considered needs, are described in no particular order. This is a list of the issues which are further described.

- **Safe drinking water**
- **Decrease waste of potable water**
- **New drinking water treatment plant and staffing shortage**
- **Residential improper waste disposal into sewerage system**
- **Polluted stormwater runoff**
- **Poor drainage, storm drains clogged**
- **Accountability**
- **Outreach and education**

Safe drinking water is an essential need and impacts all ages and interests. Drinking water in St. Bernard Parish was an issue for two reasons. One is that residents routinely received notices from the Parish Department of Public Works about a non-compliant factor of carbon in their drinking water. A second reason is that the source of drinking water is the Mississippi River which contains effluent and drainage from not only several local industries but also from 31 states in the United States and two Canadian provinces. These two reasons caused uncertainties about the quality of the Parish's drinking water. During the second public meeting, the Department of Public Works and LDHH explained the realities of the Parish's drinking water system, addressing the above mentioned first concern. LDHH had just conducted an evaluation of the plant and was able to describe many aspects they scrutinized and alleviate worries about drinking water safety.

According to John G. Williams, P.E. Regional Engineer for LDHH's Office of Public Health, the St. Bernard water plant treats its source water via conventional treatment. Conventional treatment is defined as a series of treatment processes which includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration. Conventional treatment results in substantial particulate removal. Particulates can be pollutants and/or toxins, but some chemicals or toxins may be dissolved in solution or be too small to be removed by conventional filtration. Based on Mr. Williams' March 2008 inspection, drinking water quality meets LDHH standards.

As stated by Mr. Williams, the St. Bernard water supply was (March 2008) in violation of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code for failure to achieve the required minimum percent reduction of total organic carbon (TOC) in the water being treated. This type of violation is referred to as a treatment technique violation and was the reason residents received letters from the Department of Public Works about their drinking water.

EPA sets drinking water standards and requires the disinfection of drinking water. TOC has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). Where disinfection is used in the treatment of drinking water,

disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in water to form DBPs. These byproducts include trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the maximum contaminant level standard may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer. In order to reduce the formation of DBPs, the Parish uses chloramines for disinfection, instead of free chlorine. Chloramines are formed when free chlorine is combined with ammonia.

The second concern, the Mississippi River as the source of drinking water is more complex. The river provides vast quantities of fresh water which mixes with effluent and drainage from land and connecting water bodies throughout the United States. Industries that line the river are required to get permits to pump waste products into the water, limiting the amount in order to protect water quality. The list of compounds that follow represent pollutants that were allowed to be discharged into the river in St. Bernard Parish during 2005. LDEQ permitted these discharges as they were to remain under a specific tonnage based on protecting water quality. These chemicals are on the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) provided by the EPA, because they produce acute human health risks, cancer or chronic (non-cancer) human health effects, and/or environmental effects if more than the permitted amounts enter bodies of water. The TRI is available to the public online at www.epa.gov/tri.

1,2,4-TRIMETHYLBENZENE
1,3-BUTADIENE
AMMONIA
BENZENE
CERTAIN GLYCOL ETHERS
CHLORINE
COBALT COMPOUNDS
COPPER COMPOUNDS
CRESOL (MIXED ISOMERS)
CUMENE
CYCLOHEXANE
DIOXIN AND DIOXIN-LIKE COMPOUNDS
ETHYLBENZENE
ETHYLENE
FORMALDEHYDE
HYDROCHLORIC ACID
HYDROGEN CYANIDE
HYDROGEN FLUORIDE
LEAD & COMPOUNDS
MERCURY & COMPOUNDS
METHANOL
MOLYBDENUM TRIOXIDE
NAPHTHALENE
N-HEXANE
NICKEL COMPOUNDS
NITRATE COMPOUNDS
PHENOL
POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC COMPOUNDS
PROPYLENE
STYRENE
SULFURIC ACID
TETRACHLOROETHYLENE
TOLUENE
VANADIUM COMPOUNDS
XYLENE (MIXED ISOMERS)
ZINC COMPOUNDS

LDEQ collects monthly ambient surface water data at approximately 125 sites throughout Louisiana waterways. This data is used for establishing water quality criteria or standards, assessing conditions, and developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). TMDLs are a means of establishing water quality discharge permit limits and nonpoint source pollution reduction recommendations for the protection and improvement of surface water quality in the state (http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=2421).

There was some discussion about leaks and water conservation regarding the need to decrease **waste of potable water**. There are many leaks in the drinking water distribution network due to Hurricane Katrina damages, pockets of uninhabited areas and ongoing soil subsidence. Steve

Lombardo, Operations Superintendent, Department of Public Works explained that before Hurricane Katrina they were pumping ten million gallons of water per day, and with a one third of the population requiring water, seven million is being pumped per day now.

Water conservation was briefly described by the CARE team as it generally is not an issue when the source is so vast. It was explained that a lot of energy goes into drawing, treating, and distributing the water. This affects home and business owners' monthly water bills.

Needing a **new drinking water facility** and **more staff to run the facility** was linked to safe drinking water issues. Although drinking water quality meets LDHH compliance standards, the plant was found to be aging and will not be able to meet further capacity without upgrades. The lack of staff was an actual non-compliance issue for which LDHH cited the Parish. Before Hurricane Katrina, a new plant was already approved. With post-Katrina population changes, plant development plans must change as well. There was also the issue of using FEMA funds for something new as opposed to reestablishing pre-Katrina conditions. This issue will be worked out among FEMA, Parish and State officials.

During the water quality focus group meeting, **residential improper waste disposal** into sewerage system was discussed. In particular, people are improperly disposing of pharmaceuticals and household chemicals. Residents were unclear of which items were hazardous and if so, where to bring them.

Overlooked during the first two public meetings, focus group members revealed a concern for **polluted stormwater runoff** which drains into their wetlands and coastal waterways including Lake Borgne. Stormwater runoff, also known as nonpoint source pollution is responsible for 60% of all water pollution. It does not originate from an easily identifiable source like a drainage pipe, but instead comes from multiple sources. These sources drain into storm drain systems during rainfall events. Residents brought up Parish practices as sources including pest and weed control. CARE team members and LDEQ representatives pointed out construction runoff, automobile culprits, litter and residential sources of stormwater runoff. Other types of nonpoint source pollution include resource extraction including oil and gas activities, septic tank and sewage leakage. The results of this pollution are unhealthy wetland and estuarine systems that support fisheries and waterfowl.

Related to stormwater runoff issues is **poor drainage and clogged storm drains** due to litter running off of streets and illegal dumping of yard waste materials into ditches and canals. Blocked storm drains directly result in street flooding during rainfall events, as seen during recent storms that occurred in early May 2008.

Accountability was an issue among residents, industries and regulatory agencies. Residents were unclear about who is responsible for water quality, who to contact when there is a concern or emergency and what they can do to preserve existing quality and improve standards. This was not an issue directly discussed. It was assessed due to observations of residents unhappy with government enforcement capacity and the lack of communication from

industries adjacent to their communities. The CARE team discovered that some information that residents stated as facts were untrue and unraveled by LDEQ and industry representatives at meetings. On the other hand, there were many legitimate questions that residents have been asking for years without any real responses.

Industries have made efforts to communicate with the public in the present and past, although not much during the CARE planning process. Residents stated that citizen panels had been formed, but the industry selects who will be on the panel and the public cannot attend meetings.

Due to the multiple, water quality issues facing St. Bernard Parish residents, they often indicated a need for **outreach and educational** opportunities to inform children and adults about the problems and become part of the solutions. Participants recommended providing school activities for students and outreach avenues such as public service announcements and continuing education for adults.

Air Quality Issues

This is a list of air quality issues which will be further described in no particular order.

- **Respiratory problems including asthma and allergies**
- **Permitted emissions from industry – relating to health impacts and disconnect among residents, industries and regulatory agencies**
- **Diesel emissions**
- **Greenhouse gas emissions including ozone**
- **Homes located close to industrial emissions**
- **Air quality education for children and adults**
- **Regular interface with LDEQ enforcement**

Many participants mentioned high **allergy and asthma** rates in the Parish. Particulate Matter (PM) coming from a variety of sources including diesel exhaust can trigger allergies and asthma. PM of 2.5 ppm gets trapped in the lower respiratory system, while PM of 10 ppm gets trapped in the upper respiratory system (Appendix C).

LDHH received 2,300 calls regarding environmental health from throughout the state since Hurricane Katrina. About 75% of calls were questions about mold. Mold is a natural part of the environment including mildew, mushrooms, yeast, cheese, etc. Humid environments and porous materials are ideal for mold growth. Mold needs water, oxygen, food (sheet rock, insulation, clothing, etc) to grow. Toxic mold, also known as Stachybotrys or black mold is actually a stage of growth that several species of mold go through during its life cycle.

Health effects from mold include non-specific respiratory irritations, allergic reactions or rashes, miscellaneous infections, and other conditions resulting from mold and its byproducts and

particulates. Also, health problems have been associated with cleaning product misuse. Populations most affected by mold are the elderly, youth, people with pre-existing health problems, and those who have weakened immune systems (Appendix C).

Health studies have been started because of the storm, St. Bernard Parish included. The Head-off Environmental Asthma in Louisiana Study (HEAL) is being funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and conducted by Tulane University and the City of New Orleans. They enrolled patients, ages four to twelve from the New Orleans area including St. Bernard Parish. Patients will be followed for about a year. Their conditions will be studied and compared to other parishes. Homes of patients were sampled for environmental conditions (Appendix C).

Permitting issues regarding emissions were a great concern to residents. Discussed in detail at the March 29th meeting with experts from different air quality and health fields, St. Bernard Parish residents may be exposed to more air pollutants than the average American citizen. The many industries lining the Mississippi River in the Parish, including but not limited to Murphy Oil Company's Meraux Petroleum Refinery, Exxon Mobil and Domino Sugar, have been issued air permits which allow them to emit pollutants such as Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2), Carbon Monoxide, Nitrogen Oxides, PM and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). The combined emissions from all these facilities can exceed thousands of tons per year.

LDEQ collects ambient samples and analyzes them for comparison to EPA standards. As a result of negotiations between LDEQ and Chalmette Refining, LLC, an Administrative Order on Consent was adopted May 25, 2005. Chalmette Refining agreed to implement the "St. Bernard Parish Enhanced Ambient Monitoring Program" including the purchase and installation of ambient air monitoring equipment by December 31, 2005 (LDEQ, 2008, St. Bernard Parish). Due to Hurricane Katrina, the project was delayed until April 2006. Through this administrative order there are three stationary monitoring sites: Algiers, Chalmette High School and Vista. LDEQ samples for Ozone, SO_2, PM and VOC. PM sampled are fine particulates that can remain in your upper respiratory system. Sampling methods for Ozone and SO_2 provide instant data. To measure PM, LDEQ uses a federal reference method, and sends samples to a lab for analysis. LDEQ also uses a tapered element oscillating microbalance technology, which provides immediate results. For VOC there are 24 hour canisters and trigger canisters which automatically sample when hydrocarbons reach a certain level. Most significant levels of compounds are typically found at the Vista site.

During recent years Exxon Mobil was charged by the Eastern District of Louisiana (Federal Judge Sarah Vance) to have violated the Clean Air Act 2,629 times. The Concerned Citizens Around Murphy group delivered "notice of violation" letters to the Meraux Petroleum Refinery, the LDEQ and the EPA noting "more than 130 dates, beginning Oct. 15, 2003, and ending Jan. 30, 2008, in which they allege the plant violated the Clean Air Act by releasing pollutants such as sulfur dioxide in excess of its permit limits" (Warren, July 3, 2008).

Citizens seemed to take legal actions due to a lack of clear communication from industry representatives and government regulators. A spokesperson for the Concerned Citizens group stated in *The Times-Picayune* article that, "Our neighborhood association would really rather use this (lawsuit) as a last resort." They would prefer to end this amicably. This effort supports a desperate need for real and regular interaction among citizens, industry managers and LDEQ regulators.

Diesel emissions that are not already regulated in St. Bernard Parish stem from ships idling at port, construction trucks and equipment and any other modes of transport or manufacturing that operate by diesel engine. Nationwide “These emissions are linked to thousands of premature deaths, hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks, millions of lost work days, and numerous other health impacts every year” (EPA, 2008, National Clean Diesel Campaign).

Greenhouse gases including ozone can damage the respiratory tract, cause inflammation and irritation, and induce symptoms such as coughing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, and worsening of asthma symptoms. Exposure to levels of ozone above current ambient air quality standards leads to lung inflammation and lung tissue damage, and a reduction in the amount of air inhaled into the lungs. EPA recognizes that ozone causes significant health risks especially for children with asthma.

According to LDEQ, Ozone levels in the area are not getting worse and have not changed. Levels have been consistent with readings throughout the state, with the exception of Kenner and the Baton Rouge areas which have worsened. The level that EPA calls nonattainment has changed. EPA has changed the attainment level from 84 parts per billion (ppb) to 75 ppb. The standard requires three years of data for comparison, and there is only one full year of data in the St. Bernard area. Therefore, St. Bernard Parish cannot be designated for attainment or nonattainment until there is a full three years of data.

An interesting, but unfortunate pattern of development occurred in St. Bernard Parish as industrial growth was mimicked by population growth. Before air permits were required and LDEQ even existed, **housing and institutions were built immediately adjacent to industries** that emit thousands of tons of pollutants into the air. Although the only answer for those already living in those areas is to move, residents believed it is important to disallow this type of development pattern in the future. Even after Hurricane Katrina, FEMA trailer parks were placed close to these industries.

This problem has occurred partly due to an outdated Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, adopted in 1965 with amendments made in the 1980s. Current needs have changed, including separation of or at least buffering industrial land uses from residential land uses. An updated code and associated map needs to take into account current and potential land use development patterns and sensitive areas like buffer zones, low-lying areas and wetlands.

Even more so than water quality issues, problems associated with air quality are complex and widely unknown by St. Bernard residents. This process, in addition to people directly requesting

more information, supports the need to bring **air pollution education** to the schools and to adult learning centers.

Monitoring and enforcement of industrial emissions was of great importance to residents who understand the implications of flaring and particulate coatings and recognize health symptoms related to excess SO_2 and other chemicals. These people requested **more interaction with LDEQ enforcement** personnel, which they have received since the CARE process began. It will be important to continue this interaction, which LDEQ supports and is evident through its new Enviroschool program.

Recovery Issues

This is a list of issues and needs in no specific order which will be further described.

- **Hazardous household waste**
- **Landfill space and cost**
- **Blighted and/or contaminated property**
- **Industrial land use encroaching on residential land use**
- **Sustainable Rebuilding**

Residents expressed concern about disposal of **hazardous household waste** including medical waste. Some residents indicated they simply dispose of such items in their daily garbage for collection or in toilets. Household hazardous wastes include paint, cleaning chemicals, landscaping care chemicals, used automotive fluids, electronics, batteries, pharmaceuticals, etc. Often, these waste materials end up in landfills, or in water bodies through stormwater or sewerage effluent.

Hazardous household collection activities have been occurring throughout the United States, including Louisiana to address this problem. Many areas will hold one or two days per year to collect these items from residents. St. Tammany Parish has been conducting annual collection days since October 2006, while Plaquemines Parish had its first collection day in summer 2008. Main lessons learned imparted from experienced parish staff follows.

- Working with LDEQ is essential and required.
- Educating residents about what household hazardous wastes are is an initial step.
- Forming partnerships with area industries and businesses is essential for funding.
- Coordinating these events takes time and resources.
- Deciding on items that may or may not be collected is based on identifying available recycling companies.
- Selecting a location is paramount to access and liability.
- Hiring a hazmat team is required.
- Gathering and training resident volunteers will garner interest and reduce costs.

Landfill space and cost was also a major concern expressed during the meetings particularly in light of the amount of debris generated in the aftermath of hurricane clean up. Residents used to pay a $4.50 monthly fee for garbage pickup. This fee was replaced with a half-cent sales tax in 1989. Recently, the parish administration introduced an ordinance to institute a $20 monthly fee per household. Currently, SBPG pays their contractor $40 per household plus landfill disposal fees for its current collection. Post-Katrina reduction in the tax base has caused Parish government to consider a collection fee.

Blighted and/or contaminated property will be a continued challenge for residents that have returned and rebuilt their homes in St. Bernard Parish. While parish government has undertaken an aggressive demolition program, it is a slow and cumbersome process involving private property owners, the Louisiana Recovery Authority, FEMA and insurance companies. During this planning process, about 8,700 blighted homes were condemned for demolition, 6,000 already demolished and 1,200 approved for demolition. The Parish had an August 29, 2008 deadline with FEMA who until that date covered the cost of demolition. The Parish expected to receive no more than a six-month extension on this deadline. Included in this concern were pools left unattended which were not only dangerous but also becoming breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The Parish wrote hundreds of citations against these problem pool owners. Pools that were abandoned containing water and have no fence were the biggest priorities. SBPG also imposed fines on property owners for simply not maintaining their property. Similarly, Parish government pursued owners of blighted commercial properties, although there is no FEMA assistance for this type of demolition or upkeep.

Some blighted property is either **contaminated** or perceived to contain pollution due to previous uses. These properties are often classified as brownfields. Brownfields are properties which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Possible sites include, but are not limited to gas and service stations, dry cleaners, incinerators, illegal dump sites, or structures containing lead or asbestos. These sites pose specific problems to owners who are either responsible for the contaminants and/or cannot afford to conduct a required assessment and remediation process to bring the property back into commerce. There were potentially about 100 or less brownfields sites in St. Bernard Parish.

In the days following Hurricane Katrina further damage was caused when an above ground oil storage tanker at Murphy Oil Refinery ruptured and leaked benzene and other toxic chemicals releasing approximately 25,000 barrels of oil in the Chalmette area of St. Bernard Parish. Residents expressed extreme concern over **industrial land use encroaching on residential land use.** While a settlement lawsuit was rapidly brought to closure with property owners impacted by the oil spill, there were several areas in which parish residents feel that industrial land uses continue to expand and encroach to a dangerous point on nearby residential land uses. Residents expressed a desire to update the zoning code and zoning map. For example, during the Murphy settlement it was agreed that homes bought by the refinery would remain in a buffer zone in which no expansion of refinery activities would occur. Many residents felt this buffer zone was referred to as green space whereas Murphy Oil Refinery agreed it would not

include refining activities. However, the St. Bernard Parish Council recently approved a re-zoning of the property to industrial classification to allow for a Murphy Oil Refinery testing laboratory. Additionally, residents expressed extreme concern over air quality as it relates to several industrial activities.

In May 2008, David Jon Boehlke, a national expert in planning and revitalizing distressed communities, visited with St. Bernard Parish officials to help with efforts to market the community (SBPG, May 2008). The experts were funded by a $50,000 grant from the St. Bernard Community Foundation, an offshoot of the Greater New Orleans Foundation. Boelhke was joined by Donald Poland, who is expert on codes and legal and administrative issues regarding SmartCodes. SmartCodes are transect-based development codes. Using a transect approach strongly considers natural environmental conditions while planning for the human built environment. Transects divide landscapes into zones from rural to urban distinguished by appropriate development regulations including setbacks, building heights, street design, etc. These codes will need to be enabled and enforced by the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance.

As residents return and rebuild, there are many opportunities and benefits to learning and implementing **sustainable rebuilding** techniques. Although, much focus was paid to essential needs like clean air and water, residents wanted to make their homes and neighborhoods better than they were before Hurricane Katrina. Sustainable building techniques include using solar panels, energy efficient heating and cooling equipment and appliances, bamboo flooring, hardy plank siding, etc. Benefits to consumers are lower energy bills, longer lasting materials, and often tax credits from the federal and/or state government.

Focus Group Meetings: Identifying the Problems

After the March 29th meeting, three focus group meetings were scheduled in early to mid-May to concentrate on water quality, air quality and recovery issues. Participants from the first two public meetings were invited to become focus group members. Purposes of these meetings were to ensure appropriate representation of the issues, create problem statements, continue education and prepare for the next public meeting. During those meetings, focus group members reviewed all of the issues that had been discussed on February 23rd and March 29th and a couple of other environmental issues such as stormwater runoff that seemed important but had not directly emerged from past meetings. Issues were transformed into problem statements and goals to enable linkage to solutions. Focus group members made sure that this transformation still represented their concerns and did not omit any needs. LDEQ experts attended and provided support and education during the water and air quality focus group meetings. Appendix D contains the materials from all three focus group meetings.

As a result of these meetings, the following table titled “Problem Statements” links problems to water quality, air quality and recovery issues.

PROBLEM STATEMENTS		
Water Quality	**Air Quality**	**Recovery**
Residents are unclear about the safety of their drinking water.	Asthma rates in St. Bernard Parish are high.	Residents are unaware of common household wastes and how to dispose of them.
Potable water is being wasted.	There is continued disconnect among industries, regulators and citizens regarding responsibility for maintaining good air quality.	There is a lack of available landfill space for parish waste and collection is costly.
St. Bernard Parish drinking water treatment facility is aging and there is not enough staff.	Emissions of air pollution impact human health.	Blighted and contaminated properties impact economic development.
Residents lack understanding of disposing of common, but hazardous wastes.	Diesel emissions impact respiratory health.	No defined buffer zones surrounding industry.
Stormwater runoff negatively impacts wetlands and coastal waters.	Greenhouse gases that are emitted trap heat within the atmosphere, causing environmental and health problems.	Residents and business owners are unaware of sustainable rebuilding opportunities.
Rainwater does not drain sufficiently.	Current zoning laws inadequately separate incompatible uses.	
There is continued disconnect among industries, regulators and citizens regarding responsibility to maintain good water quality.	Children and adults do not understand air quality issues.	
Children and adults lack water quality knowledge, protection and appreciation.	There are odors and stack emissions that concern residents.	

Public Meeting 3: Issues to Goals

The May 31st public meeting focused on turning issues into goals. The objective of the meeting was to present focus group supported issues, problems, goals and actions to the public for review and comment. The meeting also provided an opportunity for further environmental education. CARE team members presented matrices which list the issues and associated problems, goals and actions in a table format. A water quality specialist from LDEQ provided a Power Point presentation about nonpoint source or stormwater runoff pollution problems. A Region 6, EPA representative discussed several voluntary EPA programs that address some of the problems. Programs include GreenScapes, National Clean Diesel Campaign, Clean Construction USA, Clean Ports USA, Waste Wise, ENERGY STAR and Green Building Programs. All meeting materials, including the matrices are located in Appendix E.

The work of the focus group members and input from the public resulted in a list of goals associated with water quality, air quality and recovery issues and problem statements listed in the table titled "Goals."

GOALS		
Water Quality	**Air Quality**	**Recovery**
Provide and improve information for residents about the quality of their drinking water.	Improve respiratory health.	Educate residents about household hazardous waste and disposal.
Reduce the loss of potable water.	Establish a working relationship among industry, government regulators and citizens that discusses, clarifies, acknowledges and addresses concerns and needs.	Establish an annual household hazardous waste collection day.
Upgrade the drinking water facility and increase the number of staff.	Reduce toxic air emissions.	Reduce landfill waste.
Educate residents about hazardous wastes and provide opportunities to properly dispose of these wastes.	Reduce diesel exhaust.	Reduce the number of blighted and contaminated sites.
Reduce stormwater runoff.	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Establish clearly defined buffer zones between conflicting land uses.
Improve rainwater drainage capacity.	Prevent future incompatible land use situations.	Educate residents and business owners about sustainable rebuilding options and related economic benefits.
Establish a working relationship among industry, government regulators and citizens that discusses, clarifies, acknowledges and addresses concerns and needs.	Provide air quality education programs for children and adults.	
Provide water quality education opportunities for children and adults.	Establish consistent relationships between citizens and environmental regulators.	

Public Meeting 4: Issue Prioritization

The fourth public meeting on June 28th concentrated on prioritizing environmental issues based on importance. Prioritization was necessary in order to begin identifying funding sources, particularly since the process resulted in too many problems to monetarily address at one time.

CARE team members briefly reviewed water quality, air quality and recovery issues and participants prioritized issues based on their views, information presented and additional information requested from LDEQ representatives in attendance. Prioritization occurred after each focus area was reviewed. Each participant was given sticky dots (number of dots = number of issues) to place next to one, several or all issues printed on poster-sized paper and hanging on the walls. Several issues were ranked equally due to an equal amount of votes received. More details from this meeting are found in Appendix F. The table titled "Prioritized Issues" presents the resulting priorities for each focus area.

	PRIORITIZED ISSUES		
Rank	**Water Quality**	**Air Quality**	**Recovery**
1	Polluted stormwater runoff	Homes located close to industrial emissions	Blighted and/or contaminated property
2	• New drinking water treatment plant and staffing shortage at the plan • Outreach and education	Respiratory problems including asthma and allergies	Industrial land use encroaching on residential land use
3	• Safe drinking water • Poor drainage, clogged storm drains	Permitted emissions from industry; Emissions of air pollution impact human health	Household hazardous waste
4	Accountability	Air quality education for children and adults	Landfill space and cost
5	Residential improver waste disposal into sewerage system	Regular interface with LDEQ enforcement	Sustainable rebuilding
6	Decrease waste of potable water	• Permitted emissions from industry: there is continued disconnect among industries, regulators and citizens regarding responsibility for maintaining good air quality • Diesel emissions (not directly regulated • Greenhouse gas emissions including ozone	

Public Meeting 5: Draft Pollution Reduction Plan

The purpose of the July 26th meeting was to present a Draft Pollution Reduction Plan to the public and request oral and written questions and comments. An environmental science educator provided an inspirational presentation discussing why to care about the environment. The speaker provided an overview of the issues facing individuals in St. Bernard Parish to those facing the entire world. The CARE team presented an outline of the draft plan and highlighted the Recommended Actions section describing methods to reduce pollution in the Parish. There was discussion among participants and CARE team members about moving forward with the plan. Implementation of the recommended actions was ultimately the participants' main interest. Appendix G offers all of the materials from this meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Actions were based on how to best address the problem associated with the issues or needs identified by the public and how to meet the goal linked to solving the problem. Each issue was listed by priority, along with the associated problem and goal, followed by a description of the actions. Note that several issues were prioritized at the same level due to even voting during the prioritization process.

Water Quality Actions

Issue 1: Polluted stormwater runoff
Problem: Stormwater runoff negatively impacts wetlands and coastal waters.
Goal: Reduce stormwater runoff.

WQ Action 1.1: Integrate nonpoint source pollution best management practices into Parish development permitting process.

The Parish would require best management practices for developers to implement where lot clearing and grading is involved. One practice is to utilize barriers to prevent soil erosion and runoff during clearing and construction activities. SBPG would implement this process with assistance from LDEQ, which manages the Louisiana Nonpoint Source Management Program funded by the Clean Water Act, Section 319. LDEQ's goal is to educate people about best management practices to reduce runoff. LDEQ could possibly cover education costs and the Parish would need to endure the costs related to more time spent on property development permit applications. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources may be interested in assisting with this endeavor as well. Their coastal management division created guides for coastal programs to follow regarding this issue.

WQ Action 1.2: Investigate projects that could utilize and filter contaminated runoff.

This action involves indentifying both proven and innovative methods of reducing nonpoint source pollution before it reaches open waterways. One potential method is to introduce a boom system in canals that collects litter before it enters pumping stations. This project was recently piloted successfully in Orleans Parish. Another method, illustrated at the Gore Pumping Station, is utilizing wetland flora to absorb pollutants and trap sediments aiding in both pollution reduction and wetland building. This is an action that may be taken on by Parish government, but also by environmental nonprofit organizations, universities and partnerships among the three entities. Funding possibilities include the Pontchartrain Restoration Program from Senator David Vitter's office, and the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) program.

Another approach to this action is for all interested groups and individuals to support larger scaled projects in writing. SBPG and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans have been

working on a wetlands treatment project that will not only help prevent pollution from reaching water bodies, but will also assist in wetland rebuilding.

WQ Action 1.3: Increase enforcement of dumping violations and non-removal of debris.

On a local level, this action will require SBPG to increase its staff and work side by side with the Sheriff's Office which would likely be linked to increased Parish revenue via population growth, tax levies or by increasing utility fees. Some dumping violations, particularly those involving hazardous waste, necessitate LDEQ and their enforcement capacity. If such a violation is witnessed or discovered, the public can assist LDEQ by calling the hotline number 225-219-3640.

WQ Action 1.4: Conduct a nonpoint source reduction public education campaign through multiple media sources.

This action requires creating and implementing an outreach plan that reaches children and adults and possibly large-scale industries, specific types of businesses and institutions. This process may be conducted by local government, citizen groups or nonprofit organizations partnering with private entities. A potential funding source for this action is the EPA National Nonpoint Source Management Program. Stated in the Community Guide to EPA's Voluntary Programs, the purpose of this program is to help communities reduce polluted runoff entering rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. The program provides financial help and outreach materials to prevent and clean up pollution. There may also be funding and/or informational support available from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources since their coastal division encourages this type of education.

Issue 2a: New drinking water treatment plant and staff shortage
Problem: St. Bernard Parish drinking water treatment facility is aging and there is not enough staff.
Goal: Upgrade the drinking water facility and increase the number of staff.

WQ Action 2a.1: Utilize and possibly adjust pre-storm plan for new facility.

SBPG is already working on an adjusted plan for a new facility. The plan will have to be approved by LDHH before the Parish can request proposals for bids.

WQ Action 2a.2: Construct a new facility.

Funding will depend upon local finances and negotiations with FEMA and the state of Louisiana.

WQ Action 2a.3: Hire additional staff.

Adding additional payroll and benefits to the SBPG budget will require increased Parish income from population growth, tax levies or increased fees for water and sewerage services. This is a priority of the Parish due to staffing requirements mandated by LDHH.

Issue 2b: Outreach and education
Problem: Children and adults lack water quality knowledge, protection and appreciation.
Goal: Provide water quality education opportunities for children and adults.

WQ Action 2b.1: Identify and alert teachers about existing educational programs and curriculum guides.

A full inventory of available programs and guides may be created and presented to the St. Bernard Parish School Board for distribution to interested teachers. Many opportunities for the inventory have already been identified. The Pontchartrain Institute provides a coastal education program that involves water quality as it relates to wetland loss. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation has a water watch program for high school students to conduct regular water quality sampling. They organize the annual Beach Sweep program where people throughout the Pontchartrain Basin volunteer to clean up trash along waterways. They also created an educator's guide called *Lessons on the Lake*. The LSU Ag Center's 4-H program is doing wetland planting projects in the Parish. Teaching Responsible Earth Education provides outdoor educational experiences to 3rd through 7th grade students concentrating on life science concepts. This program requires funding sources other than the organization itself. The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program funded a curriculum guide that combines science with art titled *Spirit of the Estuary*. Nationally utilized curriculum guides, which have state sponsors include: Project W.E.T. (Water Education for Teachers), Project Learning Tree, and Project WILD. All of these guides have great hands on activities that bring students closer to understanding how the physical world works and how humans impact this world.

School projects that create water quality awareness or improvement and that could be incorporated in St. Bernard schools include: Coastal Roots, the Fundred Project, Project FUR, Go MAD for the Coast and Wetland Watchers. The Coastal Roots program involves growing wetland plants for coastal planting projects. The Fundred Project allows students to design their own $100 bill based on rebuilding the coast. There are collection centers that help provide gallons of used cooking oil to power armored trucks. These alternative fuel trucks deliver the fundreds to Congress in Washington D.C. Sue Ellen Lyons started Project FUR (Fighting Urban Runoff) at Holy Cross High School where they recycled used motor oil and provided presentations on the effects of urban runoff. Now they are concentrating on Go MAD (Make a Difference) for the Coast. Wetland Watchers has been successfully implemented on behalf of the LaBranche wetlands in St. Charles Parish. The contact there is Barry Guillot of Harry Hurst Middle School.

WQ Action 2b.2: Promote LDEQ's Enviroschool for Communities training program.

Residents who already receive an email announcement for Environschool can forward the invitation to others. SBPG can post a link to the schedule online. This program began May 2008. There are monthly, one to two-hour sessions scheduled through August 2009 at the regional office, 201 Evans Road, Building 4, Suite 420, Harahan, on every second Thursday at 10am. These free sessions are designed to educate communities, encourage participation in the regulatory process and to inform them on how to access information. LDEQ will cover topics including understanding regulations, permits, emissions, surveillance, remediation standards, etc.

WQ Action 2b.3: Organize a quarterly educational workshop series that addresses water quality protection.

There are numerous water quality experts and organizations located in the region that can share their knowledge and experience with the public. A workshop series may be organized by citizen groups, school groups, local government, corporations, individuals or a partnership among different entities. If speakers require a fee, people attending the event could purchase a reserved seat or a corporation or foundation could sponsor the event.

WQ Action 2b4: Develop Public Service Announcements to be aired on radio and television stations.

Public Service Announcements are short messages, usually about 30 seconds, produced on film, video, or audiocassette and given to radio and television stations. They are fairly inexpensive since air time is often donated and production can be efficiently managed. A nonprofit, school or local government entity would clearly identify the message they want to get out, the audience they want to reach and the media outlets best suited for the audience. Funding may be provided through corporate or foundation giving.

Prioritized Issue #3a: Safe drinking water
Problem: Residents are unclear about the safety of their drinking water.
Goal: Provide and improve information for residents about the quality of their drinking water.

WQ Action 3a.1: Clarify what pollutants are eliminated by the drinking water facility.

This action has already been accomplished through information provided by LDHH.

WQ Action 3a.2: Identify pollutants discharged into the water that may cause human health problems.

This action has already been accomplished through information provided by the TRI.

WQ Action 3a.3: Mail a newsletter with residential and commercial bills explaining water and sewage issues.

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans mailed a report to all residents and business owners on the state of the city's drinking water titled, "Quality Water 2007." The eight-page report required by EPA, provided educational sections including source and treatment, recovery from Katrina, how contaminants can get into source water, definitions, a flow diagram of the water purification process, a table of drinking water quality results, who tests the water, lead, cryptosporidium and oil spill issues and frequently asked questions. On a smaller scale, SBPG could produce a similar report, alleviating fears, educating their residents and garnering support for needed improvements.

WQ Action 3a.4: Organize quarterly interviews and question and answer sessions with talk radio hosts about drinking water quality and sewage issues.

Talk radio is an important source of outreach that has become even more popular since Hurricane Katrina. Local and/or state government engineers and regulators would likely be welcomed onto talk radio shows on a regular basis to discuss regional water and sewage issues. This effort would cost the time of government staff and there must be willingness from both government and radio to participate.

WQ Action 3a.5: Implement an EPA Volunteer Water Monitoring Program.

The purpose of this program is to encourage support of volunteers who become trained to monitor water quality conditions and share water quality data with local and state governments. EPA will provide guidelines and instructions for monitoring processes and provide lists of local monitoring groups. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation manages a Canal/River Watch program that typically involves high school classes. LDEQ conducts monitoring programs in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin funded by the Clean Water Act. This program would require community group or school initiation and coordination.

WQ Action 3a.6: Request that LDEQ set up an ambient monitoring site in St. Bernard Parish in the Mississippi River.

There is already one monitoring location on the Mississippi River in Belle Chase near the west bank ferry landing. St. Bernard Parish residents want a specific site in their Parish due to the effluent being pumped out by several industries aligning the river. An official request would need to be made by a citizen's group and/or local government to LDEQ in order for a St. Bernard Parish ambient monitoring site to be considered. The cost would be taken on by LDEQ.

WQ Action 3a.7: Reestablish a gas chromatograph at the drinking water intake which measures volatile organic compounds.

Based on information provided by LDEQ, the type of compounds a gas chromatograph tests for in water are termed volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Because of their carcinogenic and/or toxic nature, EPA has set maximum contaminant levels in drinking water for some of these compounds. The gas chromatograph unit was part of LDEQ's Early Warning Organic Chemical Detection System (EWOCDS). Although the St. Bernard Parish location was not designated as an official EWOCDS site, the Parish received a unit on loan as well as technical assistance. The unit was damaged and remains in disrepair since Hurricane Katrina. According to LDEQ, they are working on rebuilding the EWOCDS program and including more official sites supported by standards of the Safe Drinking Water Program. The Parish Council could send a letter to the LDEQ Secretary requesting reestablishment of this apparatus at the water plant. Usage and maintenance agreements would need to be established between LDEQ and the SBPG Department of Public Works. More information about the EWOCDS program is located online at http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/285/Default.aspx.

Issue 3b: Poor drainage, storm drains clogged
Problem: Rainwater does not drain sufficiently.
Goal: Improve rainwater drainage capacity.

WQ Action 3b.1: Establish neighborhood street captains who organize storm drain clean up days.

Neighborhood organizations can orchestrate this process first by identifying volunteer captains for particular streets or designated areas. Captains would need to be in charge of safety, materials needed to conduct the clean up and organizing volunteers into small teams. Along with materials that volunteers can bring to the event, waste hauling companies, local government and/or nonprofit organizations could supply clean up needs and help solicit volunteers. The neighborhood organization and captains would be responsible for setting a date, time and reaching volunteers. This would be conducted as often as needed.

WQ Action 3b.2: Increase enforcement of illegal dumping into drainage ditches.

On a local level, this action will require SBPG to increase its staff and work side by side with the Sheriff's Office which would likely be linked to increases in Parish revenue through population growth, tax levies or by increasing utility fees. Some dumping violations, particularly those involving hazardous waste, necessitate LDEQ and their enforcement capacity. If such a violation is witnessed or discovered, the public can assist LDEQ by calling the hotline number 225-219-3640.

Issue 4: Accountability
Problem: There is continued disconnect among industries, regulators and citizens regarding responsibility to maintain good water quality.

Goal: Establish a working relationship among industry, government regulators and citizens that discusses, clarifies, acknowledges and addresses concerns and needs.

WQ Action 4.1: Pursue a Community-Industry-Government "cooperative group" that would meet regularly to build three-way relationships and understanding among groups.

According to participants, there are groups that involve these different entities, but thus far the results have not satisfied residents. A determination of whether or not to try to improve existing groups or to start a new group needs to be made. Once that decision has been executed, the group would need to ensure that appropriate representatives from the community, industries and government get involved and committed. These representatives need to be informed of local issues and be able to bring concerns to those who make decisions. This group would need to devise a set of working objectives, ground rules and regular, future meeting dates. The group may be formalized through local government or other legal structuring. The cost of this endeavor will be the time spent by organizers to coordinate and attend meetings.

WQ Action 4.2: Interest industries in the EPA National Partnership for Environmental Priorities program or other programs that improve the community while benefiting the industries.

EPA's created this program to encourage the elimination or minimization of 31 priority chemicals (EPA, 2008, NPEP) found in products and wastes. This program must be initiated by an industry interested in using innovative solutions to produce, reuse or recycle these chemicals. This program offers industries technical assistance and opportunities to save money, get ahead of continually tightening, environmental standards and receive public and government recognition. The costs would be incurred by interested industries, but would likely pay off in returns from reducing chemical output.

Issue 5: Residential improper waste disposal into sewerage system
Problem: Residents lack understanding of disposing of common, but hazardous wastes.
Goal: Educate residents about hazardous wastes and provide opportunities to properly dispose of these wastes.

WQ Action 5.1: Provide a yearly education series on household hazardous wastes.

This action involves working with LDEQ and area household hazardous waste recyclers. A starting point is contacting the LDEQ Household Hazardous Waste office at 225-0219-3266 and by contacting other parish recyclers to help identify local recyclers. The East Baton Rouge Parish Recycling Office has a list of local, household hazardous waste collection facilities that may link to New Orleans metropolitan area recyclers. *Recycle New Orleans!* is a community guide to recycling in the area created in 2006 by The Green Project, Tulane University and MWH. This is

an excellent resource to begin identifying people who may be able to share their knowledge about these everyday hazardous wastes.

WQ Action 5.2: Identify places that dispose of hazardous wastes and provide information online.

Recycle New Orleans! is the current guide to follow. A link could be provided on the SBPG website to this online guide at http://www.richardsdisposal.com/Recycle_Book.v2.2006%20Fall.pdf. The Green Project located in New Orleans (www.thegreenproject.org), is a nonprofit organization that reuses or recycles: art supplies, paint, housing materials, used and new lumber, plywood, doors, windows, tools, masonry, plumbing fixtures, electrical fixtures, cabinets, electronics, and hardware.

WQ Action 5.3: Set up a "Free Use" online site to rid of over purchases.

Baton Rouge and Bossier/Shreveport areas have established free use online sites to exchange or give away over purchased household items that would otherwise become waste. The forum is similar to Craigslist, but focuses on household waste items. Baton Rouge's site is located online at http://www.redstickfree.com/. Based on a conversation with the LDEQ, these sites work well if they are maintained by a webmaster that keeps track of members and offers. This process requires a community effort spearheaded by an individual or organization and supported by local government by creating an online link on the SBPG website.

WQ Action 5.4: Conduct an annual or biannual household hazardous waste collection day.

This activity will require at least implementing the first action (WQ Action 5.1) by providing education about household hazardous waste and who recycles it. Identifying partners will be paramount to conducting successful and ongoing collection days. Quite a bit of coordination is necessary and is usually managed by local government. Identifying funding sources, locating a site, coordinating volunteers, establishing partnerships with LDEQ and area businesses, identifying waste recyclers and recruiting a hazardous materials group are the main tasks to organize this event. Sometimes partnerships can occur with companies who have disobeyed environmental regulations and have agreed through LDEQ to spend money on local environmental clean up efforts. This saves the organizer money, but is not a reliable source of assistance each year. Other partners could include local industries and businesses especially those involved in waste management and hauling. Additional funding sources may be found through government and foundation giving programs.

Issue 6: Decrease waste of potable water
Problem: Potable water is being wasted.
Goal: Reduce the loss of potable water.

WQ Action 6.1: Reconstruct drinking water infrastructure.

This action will need to be implemented by SBPG and is linked to negotiations with FEMA and state government to improve the drinking water plant and infrastructure as opposed to simply bringing it up to pre-Katrina conditions. Funding may be linked to increases in fees or taxes to residents and/or developers.

WQ Action 6.2: Implement the EPA Water Use Efficiency Program.

The EPA will provide technical assistance and information to government and homeowners in order to improve management practices, utilize better science, provide planning and coordination services, identify market incentives and educate the public (EPA, 2008, Water Use Efficiency Program). The goal is to reduce the costs and energy required to pump, distribute and treat water and sewage. This program may be initiated by state or local government or by individuals or community groups.

WQ Action 6.3: Implement the EPA GreenScapes program.

The EPA GreenScapes program aims to provide cost-effective and environmental solutions to government and/or community groups for large-scale landscaping activities. A typical partnership is between government and industry to make conservation-minded decisions about uses of land, air, water and energy resources. This program would enable less dependency on water usage based on appropriate landscaping materials and construction. A possible course of action would be to divert stormwater runoff to areas of landscaping and green space. Typically, implementing tools of this program will save the coordinating entity money and time, but will need to provide funding and labor for implementation.

WQ Action 6.4: Identify methods to reuse rainwater and grey water for irrigation.

Grey water is water that has been used for washing dishes, laundry or bathing. Any water other than toilet wastes draining from a household is grey water. Grey water is suitable for irrigating lawns, trees, ornamentals, and food crops. Recycling grey water can increase water efficiency at home and reduce the use of drinkable water for non-consumption purposes. According to Go Green NOLA, one can install cisterns above ground to collect and store runoff from rooftops as well as from laundry machines, dishwashers, bathtubs and sinks. Treatment and filtration systems can be installed with the cistern depending upon the resulting use (Go Green NOLA, 2008). However, grey water storage and use would require a variance from LDHH which would be in opposition to the State Sanitary Code (Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 51).

LDHH supports use of rainwater for irrigation. For areas like New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish, where the water table is high, levees impound drainage, and mold and algae growth is prevalent, LDHH has found that grey water recycling cannot meet sanitation policy standards. LDEQ also requires the quality of reclaimed water to meet certain standards and to be tested daily. Rainwater is not considered to be grey water and use for irrigation is not subject to LDHH

or LDEQ reviews. It will require adherence to local plumbing and mosquito/pest abatement ordinances. Grey water containment, transmission and distribution are heavily scrutinized against the *Louisiana Reclaimed Water Law* (R.S. 30:2391-2399). Due to difficulty in reaching these standards, grey water recycling by government bodies in these low lying and humid areas remains unattractive.

Air Quality Actions

Issue 1: Homes located close to industrial emissions
Problem: Current zoning laws inadequately separate incompatible uses.
Goal: Prevent future incompatible land use situations.

AQ Action 1.1: Update the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance.

This action requires land use planning expertise, from which the Parish has already sought advice through a St. Bernard Community Foundation grant. Other funding opportunities include applying for EPA Smart Growth grants outlined by their Smart Growth Program. The purpose of this program is to help communities understand the impacts of development patterns and recognize the benefits of growing in a sustainable way (EPA, 2008, Smart Growth Program).

Issue 2: Respiratory problems including asthma and allergies
Problem: Asthma rates in St. Bernard Parish are high.
Goal: Improve respiratory health.

AQ Action 2.1: Implement EPA's Community–Based Childhood Asthma Programs.

Community-Based Childhood Asthma Programs address both indoor and outdoor asthma sources including air toxics. This program aims to improve the health of people with asthma by: (1) teaching the importance of working with a doctor, creating an asthma action plan and identifying triggers of asthma; (2) increasing ability to acquire new skills and behavior changes that reduce exposure to triggers; and (3) affecting the kind and quality of care provided to people with asthma (EPA, 2008, Community-Based). A program can be initiated by community, medical or government groups.

AQ Action 2.2: Identify methods for residents to test for mold inside their homes.

This action entails identifying methods for individuals to pursue procedures to receive comparative counts of mold spores inside and outside of homes and/or businesses. There are professional companies that provide these services for a fee. Some businesses sell self testing kits and will process samples in a lab and return the results. These companies can be found online or in the phone book. A private company or community group could organize an open house for these businesses to advertise their services to St. Bernard Parish residents or to the region.

AQ Action 2.3: Request annual indoor air quality education workshop involving LDHH.

During a presentation made by LDHH, it was noted that they will provide such workshops. This endeavor may be spearheaded by community or government groups. Time will be spent coordinating the event, but there are no monetary costs if a location and advertising is free. It should be noted that residents' asthma related health concerns were reported to the LDHH Asthma Program. Additionally, LDHH is currently working on a health consult to address these health concerns. Once a report has been completed and reviewed, LDHH will share its findings with residents.

AQ Action 2.4: Address indoor air quality inside schools.

Indoor air quality in schools may be addressed by implementing two EPA voluntary programs: Indoor Air quality Tools for Schools and The Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign. These are inexpensive methods of improving indoor air quality in schools. The Tools for Schools program provides a kit that instructs schools how to implement a plan of action using basic activities and already existing staff (EPA, 2008, Indoor Air Quality). This program requires time for training, but will ultimately save schools time and money and involves both staff and students. The Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign includes establishing policy within the school system to cleanout and prevent chemical hazards. There has already been one meeting with the St. Bernard Parish School System which resulted in interest in integrating these programs into maintenance schedules and with high school student projects. Both programs involve technical assistance from EPA.

AQ Action 2.5: Keep abreast of HEAL project results.

The Head-off Environmental Asthma in Louisiana (HEAL) Project is "a collaborative research project conducted by the Tulane University Health Sciences Center and the New Orleans Department of Health. The purpose of the project is to learn about the effects of mold and other indoor allergens on children with asthma in post-Katrina New Orleans" (Tulane University, 2008). Children from St. Bernard Parish are involved in this study. Results will be known in 2009. This is an action to be taken on by individuals, but results could also be placed on the SBPG website for easy access and awareness.

Issue 3: Permitted emissions from industry
Problem: Emissions of air pollution impact human health.
Goal: Reduce toxic air emissions.

AQ Action 3.1: Work with industrial sectors to implement EPA's Design for the Environment program.

The purpose of the Design for the Environment program is to provide tools for businesses and communities that will combine environmental and health considerations into business decisions (EPA, 2008, DfE). EPA offers technical support and advice to interested parties, usually

involving industries, to promote the use of alternative processes, safer product formulations and innovative technology that can reduce emissions and exposure. This action requires a community-industrial partnership to initiate the program with EPA. The industry would take on the costs, but would reap economic and social benefits from improving environmental conditions.

AQ Action 3.2: Interest industries in the EPA National Partnership for Environmental Priorities program.

EPA established this program to encourage the elimination or minimization of 31 priority chemicals (EPA, 2008, NPEP) found in products and wastes. This program must be initiated by an industry interested in using innovative solutions to produce, reuse or recycle these chemicals. This program offers industries technical assistance and opportunities to save money, get ahead of continually tightening environmental standards and receive public and government recognition. The costs would be incurred by interested industries, but would likely pay off in returns from reducing chemical output.

AQ Action 3.3: Provide monitors to residents and/or businesses to test emissions and report to industry and LDEQ.

Residents often call LDEQ in response to an odor. However, odors tend to dissipate by the time LDEQ is able to reach the site of the complaint. Residents would like to have immediate access to air quality monitors that can sufficiently test for compounds like SO_2, CO and hydrogen sulfides. There are color detection tubes provided by industrial hygiene companies that cost several hundred dollars, but are better suited for high concentrations of compounds usually found in more isolated environments. Hand held monitors, which are much more efficient, cost about $2,000 each. Based on one company, SKC Gulf Coast Inc., a portable particulate monitor costs $4,095, while a gas detection instrument costs $2,016. Wipe sampling kits are also needed to identify films found on homes close to industries. A kit from SKC Gulf Coast Inc., tests for metals (arsenic, chromium, lead, etc.), carcinogenic amines, radionuclides, corrosives, dusts (no solvents included) and pesticides, costing $285. Funding for these monitors and wipe kits could be raised by community groups through fundraising events and by writing grant proposals to corporations and foundations.

Issue 4: Air quality education for children and adults
Problem: Children and adults do not understand air quality issues.
Goal: Provide air quality education programs for children and adults.

AQ Action 4.1: Identify and alert teachers and other organized groups about existing educational programs and curriculum guides.

Although a few programs and guides have been identified, a full inventory should be conducted and brought to the St. Bernard Parish School Board to approve and distribute to teachers. One program for the inventory is the Clean Air Challenge, which provides an online site for

educators to access information. The mission of Clean Air Challenge is "to provide a high quality, substantive, curriculum-based air quality education program for teachers and students around the world" (Clean Air Challenge, 2008). They offer curriculum, materials, and teacher training to 7th through 12th grade classrooms for free. Louisiana was one of the first states in the original program funded by Exxon. However, funding ended after two years of implementing the program. It may be possible to approach Exxon Mobil about reinstating the program.

Another opportunity to place on the inventory comes from a nonprofit organization, Teaching Responsible Earth Education. They provide outdoor educational programs to 3rd through 7th grade students focusing on life science concepts, including the air cycle. Their programs require funding sources other than from the organization itself, usually through school fundraisers and/or grant proposals. Both opportunities were shared at a meeting with a staff member from the St. Bernard Parish School System, who was receptive to integrating such programs into school curriculum.

AQ Action 4.2: Incorporate EPA programs like Tools for Schools into high school curriculum.

This program aims to include students in the process of improving indoor air quality. The staff member with the St. Bernard Parish School System suggested that high school students coordinate a class project while initiating this program.

AQ Action 4.3: Attend LDEQ's Enviroschool for Communities training program.

Under the 2008 to 2009 Enviroschool for Communities calendar there are several sessions relating specifically to air quality.

- Air Permits 101: Understanding the Process, October 2008
- Air Permits 101: Understanding the Types of Permits, November 2008
- Air Quality 101: Understanding Emissions, December 2008
- Air Quality 101: Nonattainment & You, January 2009

Each session is held on the second Thursday of each month at 10am in the LDEQ Regional Office, 201 Evans Road, Building 4, Suite 420, Harahan.

Issue 5: Regular interface with LDEQ enforcement
Problem: There are odors and stack emissions that concern residents.
Goal: Establish consistent relationships between citizens and environmental regulators.

AQ Action 5.1: Create a list of regulators for St. Bernard Parish and post on the Parish website.

SBPG can update its website by adding state and regional office links to LDEQ and LDHH.

- LDEQ state link: http://www.deq.louisiana.gov

- LDEQ regional office link: http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/62/Default.aspx#regional%20offices
- LDHH state link: http://www.dhh.state.la.us
- LDHH regional Health Unit: http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/page.asp?id=223&detail=5516

AQ Action 5.2: Request that regulators provide annual workshops that allow citizens to meet and greet regulators.

An opportunity for any individual or group to meet and greet LDEQ regulators is to attend an Enviroschool for Communities training session. They are being held at the regional offices of LDEQ every month until at least August 2009. There are plans to continue these sessions beyond 2009. SBPG could advertise these sessions online. If the location and time of these sessions are prohibitive, community groups could request alternatives from LDEQ.

Issue 6a: Permitted emissions from industry
Problem: There is continued disconnect among industries, regulators and citizens regarding responsibility for maintaining good air quality.
Goal: Establish a working relationship among industry, government regulators and citizens that discusses, clarifies, acknowledges and addresses concerns and needs.

AQ Action 6a.1: Pursue a Community-Industry-Government "cooperative group" that would meet regularly to build three-way relationships and understanding among groups.

According to participants there are groups that involve these different entities but thus far the results have not satisfied residents. A determination of whether or not to try to improve existing groups or to start a new group needs to be made. Once that decision has been executed, the group would need to ensure that appropriate representatives from the community, industries and government get involved and committed. These representatives need to be informed of local issues and be able to bring concerns to those who make decisions. This group would need to devise a set of working objectives, ground rules and regular future meeting dates. The group may be formalized through local government or other legal structuring. The cost of this endeavor will be the time spent by organizers to coordinate and attend meetings.

Issue 6b: Diesel emissions (not directly regulated)
Problem: Diesel emissions impact respiratory health.
Goal: Reduce diesel exhaust.

AQ Action 6b.1: Establish an EPA National Clean Diesel Campaign.

The purpose of the National Clean Diesel Campaign is to reduce exposure to diesel exhaust by EPA providing information, technical support and assistance funding (EPA, 2008, National Clean Diesel). Strategies include changing to cleaner fuels, retrofitting, repairing, and reducing idling. This campaign requires partners from all different sectors and involves more specific, targeted projects.

AQ Action 6b.2: Implement the EPA Clean Construction USA program.

Falling under the National Clean Diesel Campaign, this program focuses on reducing public exposure to diesel fumes resulting from construction equipment by integrating emission control technologies into engines (EPA, 2008, Clean Construction USA). Due to the large amount of reconstruction occurring after Hurricane Katrina, and with the appropriate partnerships in place, these innovations would help reduce diesel emissions. There is federal and state grant funding available to make these changes. There is a current request for proposals from the EPA "Clean Diesel Emerging Technologies Program." The proposal deadline is September 21, 2008.

AQ Action 6b.3: Implement the EPA Clean Ports USA program.

Clean Ports USA is a program under the National Clean Diesel Campaign focusing on reducing emissions from diesel engines at port facilities (EPA, 2008, Clean Ports USA). The EPA uses two main approaches with this program: using operational strategies like anti-idling policies, and retrofitting and replacing equipment to use cleaner fuels. The Director of Operations at the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District participated in the planning process and met with EPA to discuss potential changes that could improve the port facility while benefiting the environment. The Director was receptive to a process of reducing diesel emissions from ships idling at port.

Issue 6c:	Greenhouse gas emissions including ozone
Problem:	Greenhouse gases that are emitted trap heat within the atmosphere, causing environmental and health problems.
Goal:	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

AQ Action 6c.1: Implement the Natural Gas STAR program to reduce methane emissions.

The Natural Gas STAR Program is a voluntary partnership between EPA and the oil and natural gas industry (EPA, 2008, Natural Gas STAR). EPA works with companies that produce, process, transmit and distribute natural gas to reduce emissions of methane through innovative strategies. Exxon Mobil Corporation and Production Company and Murphy Exploration and Production Company are already partners in this program on a national level. EPA incorporates best management practices and innovative technologies to reduce methane emissions

including identifying and repairing leaking distribution pipes or converting gas starters to air. On a local level, this program needs to be initiated by an industry.

AQ Action 6c.2: Follow progress on the LDEQ ozone plan.

In April 2008, LDEQ began a new statewide effort to combat ozone and improve air quality. A statewide, broad-based Ozone Steering Committee is being established to ensure air quality education and awareness (LDEQ, 2008, Latest News). The purpose of this process is to promote early-action measures to address the impact of new standards and to work with the Congress on Clean Air Act reforms. St. Bernard Parish needs to act immediately and become part of this process and keep up with comments and plan formation. Active participation can come from citizens, government representatives or nonprofit organizations.

Recovery Actions

Issue 1: Blighted and/or contaminated property
Problem: Blighted and contaminated properties impact economic development.
Goal: Reduce the number of blighted and contaminated sites.

R Action 1.1: Demolish or restore blighted properties following the appropriate parish process.

This action is being implemented by SBPG and will be an ongoing process.

R Action 1.1: Apply for EPA Brownfields funding to conduct a brownfields inventory.

In order to begin bringing these properties back into commerce it is important to identify the exact location, condition, value and ownership of all sites. An inventory would also include photographing the site and assessing whether the property is primed for redevelopment. The result would be a priority list for the Parish and a database of properties that interested buyers could access. The EPA offers assessment grants which "provide funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites" (EPA, 2008, Brownfields). A grant of $200,000 would cover the costs of conducting an inventory, providing community education and assessing contamination at one or more sites.

The EPA Brownfields Program provides assistance to owners who are not responsible for past contamination. Voluntary participation in and fulfillment of the requirements of a brownfields program provides the owner with a break from future liability, allowing them to redevelop their property dependent upon the level of past contamination.

This program is attractive because many sites are in prime locations for redevelopment. In particular, abandoned gas stations are appealing. A gas station is a brownfields site because of underground storage tanks located below the surface that may be leaking.

R Action 1.2: Conduct brownfields education workshops for property owners and other interested groups.

Once an inventory has been conducted, property owners may be invited to learn about opportunities to restore their contaminated sites. Under an assessment grant from EPA, educational workshops could be funded. A workshop would typically involve defining brownfields, explaining the process to receive grants or low interest loan assistance to assess and clean up their properties. The state of Louisiana also provides tax rebates on a percentage these activities. There are also potential insurance claims that could be made on these properties.

R Action 1.3: Apply for EPA Brownfields assessment and revolving loan funding to begin remediation and redevelopment process.

If the Parish finds that there are numerous brownfields property owners interested in assessment and clean up then they could apply for revolving loan fund or clean up grants to further encourage redevelopment. A property must undergo two phases of assessment which requires engineers and scientists to identify sources and spill area of contaminants. Clean up can then occur within a particular time period after the second assessment. Larger sites usually involve multiple funding strategies including using historic tax credits and/or tax increment financing.

Issue 2: Industrial land use encroaching on residential land use
Problem: No defined buffer zones surrounding industry.
Goal: Establish clearly defined buffer zones between conflicting land uses.

R Action 2.1: Update parish zoning ordinance and official map.[1]

This action requires land use planning expertise, from which the Parish has already sought advice funded by a St. Bernard Community Foundation grant. Other funding opportunities include applying for EPA Smart Growth grants outlined by the Smart Growth Program. The purpose of this program is to help communities understand the impacts of development patterns and recognize the benefits of growing in a sustainable way (EPA, 2008, Smart Growth Program).

Issue 3: Household hazardous waste
Problem: Residents are unaware of common household wastes and how to dispose of them.
Goals: Educate residents about household hazardous waste and disposal.
Establish an annual household hazardous waste collection day.

[1] A recovery action was combined with R Action 2.1: Implement EPA's Smart Growth Program.

R Action 3.1: Provide education programs on household hazardous waste.

Recycle New Orleans! is a community guide to recycling in the area created in 2006 by The Green Project, Tulane University and MWH. This is an excellent resource to begin identifying people who may be able to share their knowledge about these everyday hazardous wastes. Another education source is the LDEQ website under "Hazardous Waste Resources," at http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/83/Default.aspx. If SBPG plans to conduct a waste collection day this will be a first step in realizing that objective. To get this process started, community groups could organize education programs.

R Action 3.2: Identify existing disposal options.

A starting point is contacting the LDEQ Household Hazardous Waste office at 225-0219-3266 and by contacting other parish recyclers to help identify local recyclers. The East Baton Rouge Parish Recycling Office has a list of local, household hazardous waste collection facilities that may link to New Orleans metropolitan area recyclers. *Recycle New Orleans!* provides a list of recyclers in the area as well. SBPG could provide an online link to this document.

On June 24, 2008, The Home Depot announced an expansion to its Eco Options program by offering consumers a place to return any expired, unbroken compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. A store associate behind the returns desk will take the bulbs and an environmental management company will coordinate CFL packaging, transportation and recycling to maximize safety and ensure environmental compliance (The Home Depot, 2008).

R Action 3.3: Identify options to using products that become household hazardous waste.

There are chemical-based household and home improvement products that can be substituted with non-toxic alternatives such as using vinegar instead of chemical surface cleaners or using compost material instead of fertilizers. Several websites reference The Tennessee Valley Authority Regional Waste Management Department's "Safe Substitutes at Home: Non-toxic Household Products." These websites take excerpts from this document creating an online resource detailing common chemicals used and how to effectively replace them with non-toxic alternatives. Some example sites include:

- http://www.inspiredliving.com/health,
- http://ecomall.com/greenshopping/nthouseholdproducts.htm, and
- http://www.hytechsales.com/toxicProducts.html

R Action 3.4: Establish a "Free Use" online site togive away over purchased products like fertilizer or stain.

Baton Rouge and Bossier/Shreveport areas have established free use online sites to exchange or give away over purchased household items that would otherwise become waste. The forum is similar to Craigslist, but focuses on household waste items. Baton Rouge's site is located

online at http://www.redstickfree.com/. Based on a conversation with the LDEQ, these sites work well if they are maintained by a webmaster that keeps track of members and offers. This process requires a community effort spearheaded by an individual or organization and supported by local government by creating an online link on the SBPG website.

R Action 3.5: List potential private industry partners who could help host a collection day.

First on the list would be any area companies that have violated environmental regulations and have agreed to assist communities on environmental projects as part of a settlement with LDEQ. The second group of potential partners to approach is companies involved in waste collection and hauling. A third group is the larger industries like Murphy Oil, Exxon Mobil and the St. Bernard Port. Once the Parish has planned a collection day, this action would be required for funding and labor purposes.

R Action 3.6: Investigate how other nearby parishes accomplished this task.

This action has been accomplished by contacting St. Tammany and Plaquemines parish staff with experience in holding household hazardous waste collection days. Information gathered is discussed in the section titled *Recovery Issues* in this document.

R Action 3.7: Coordinate a collection day.

Once the first six actions have begun, SBPG can coordinate a collection day identifying partners, working with LDEQ, locating a site, finding recyclers, organizing volunteers and a hazmat team and advertising. Funding sources include government grants, foundation and corporate giving.

Issue 4: Landfill space and cost
Problem: There is a lack of available landfill space for parish waste and collection is costly.
Goal: Reduce landfill waste.

R Action 4.1: Investigate possible parish-wide recycling options (delivery site or curbside collection).

The Unified Government of Lafayette has been addressing waste reduction, including recycling since 1988 and has gradually become more sophisticated over time. The Department of Public Works has a list of activities related to waste reduction that may be viewed online at http://www.lafayettela.gov/publicworks/dpt573.asp. SBPG could follow their model, beginning with a drop off site that is minimally staffed and efficiently transferred. Transfer of recycling is a limiting factor in the Parish, because there are no nearby facilities that provide those services at this time. This may be an economic development opportunity for entrepreneurs to address, since the entire New Orleans metropolitan area is suffering from this problem. Another option is for community groups to approach private recycling companies like Phoenix Recycling. This company charges Orleans Parish residents $15 per month for collection of most recyclables

every two weeks. They may be approached to provide services in the Parish, but cost would be prohibitive for some.

R Action 4.2: Look into existing education programs that focus on the three R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and bring it to the schools.

There are numerous programs and guides that schools may incorporate into their curriculum. Adult education opportunities also abound. This list includes a few of the websites:

- http://www.epa.gov/osw/students/school.pdf
- http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/83/Default.aspx (Solid Waste & Recycling Resources)
- http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson308.shtml
- http://eelink.net/pages/EE+Activities+-+Solid+Waste
- http://www.kab.org

R Action 4.3: Implement EPA's Waste Wise program intended for businesses and government.

EPA helps businesses and governments identify savings and increase efficiency by implementing waste reduction innovations (EPA, 2008, Waste Wise). EPA provides technical support while partners receive financial savings and public recognition. One method to reduce waste is to purchase recycled-content goods. SBPG could set an example for industries and businesses in the Parish by taking on this endeavor.

R Action 4.4: Implement EPA's GreenScapes program which involves efficient use of materials for landscaping needs including composting.

The EPA GreenScapes program aims to provide cost-effective and environmental solutions to government or community groups for large-scale landscaping activities. A typical partnership is between government and industry to make conservation-minded decisions about uses of land, air, water and energy resources. This program could enable SBPG to reuse landscaping debris as mulch, or the school system to compost its food waste and use as fertilizer for landscaping and a school garden. Typically, implementing tools of this program will save the coordinating entity money and time, but it will need to provide funding and labor for implementation.

Issue 5: Sustainable Rebuilding
Problem: Residents and business owners are unaware of sustainable rebuilding opportunities.
Goal: Educate residents and business owners about sustainable rebuilding options and related economic benefits.

R Action 5.1: Implement EPA Green Building Programs.

Green Building Programs include many different programs that offer tools to address energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable building materials and methods, waste reduction, etc. (EPA, 2008, Green Building Programs). One great resource for contractors, architects and home owners who want to create sustainable developments is the *Federal Guide for Green Construction Specs* available online at http://fedgreenspecs.wbdg.org. This guide provides a comprehensive approach to green building. SBPG could provide a link on their website to this resource.

R Action 5.2: Implement the EPA's ENERGY STAR Program and benefit from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' "Home Energy Rebate Option" (HERO) program.

EPA supports the ENERGY STAR program by helping businesses and individuals establish green purchasing power resulting in reduced energy costs. ENERGY STAR is a label on more than 40 different types of products indicating that they provide the same performance as their competitors but offer energy efficient capacity (EPA, 2008, ENERGY STAR). Individual homeowners, businesses and institutions like school systems can become ENERGY STAR partners by purchasing products with the label. EPA will provide technical personnel to guide interested individuals or groups.

The Louisiana Home Energy Rebate Option (HERO) provides cash payments to Louisiana residents who make energy improvements to existing homes (not new homes). HERO is a component of the Home Energy Loan Program of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Payment amounts depend on the level of energy savings, called the Energy Efficiency Premium (http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/techasmt/programs/residential/hero/). Earning a maximum of $2,000, payment is 20% of the Energy Efficiency Premium. The Energy Efficiency Premium is determined by a home energy rating that is required on all homes participating in the program. The rating is assessed by contracting a Certified Home Energy Rater. A list of raters is provided on the website, as well as steps on how to apply. Not only do participants save money but they also reduce cumulative tons of CO_2, SO_2 and nitrous oxide emissions.

R Action 5.3: In rebuilding situations, design for the climate, following guidelines such as those found in the LSU Ag Center's resource, Building Your Louisiana House

The Louisiana State University Agriculture Center (LSU Ag Center) offers a building guide specific to properties located in Louisiana that are likely to endure hurricane events. *Building Your Louisiana House: Homeowners' Guide to Shaping the Future for Louisiana Living* is a comprehensive planning tool for homeowners, not a technical guide for construction. It provides basic principles of home design and construction that fit in a humid climate. This resource is available online at http://text.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/32990B79-A3B8-4E6E-A581-30B6E8C55551/10859/FULL.pdf, or may be ordered online at

http://text.lsuagcenter.com/en/family_home/home/health_safety/indoor_air_quality_mold/Building+Your+Louisiana+House+A+Homeowners+Guide+to+Shaping+the+Future+for+Louisiana+Living.htm.

IMPLEMENTATION

Each recommended action requires a different amount of human and financial commitment. To transfer the momentum of the CARE for St. Bernard planning process to the implementation phase the Parish will need to continue coordinating meetings with participants. With a prioritized list of issues and identified actions, SBPG will be able to apply for EPA CARE II funding. The grant application will be available in the fall and is highly competitive. About $300,000 could be available to initiate several EPA voluntary programs and other endeavors described in the Recommended Actions section. Some actions require more coordination than funding and will depend on consistent leadership from the Parish and participants. There are hopes of eventually hiring a SBPG environmental staff person who could help with this process. In the meantime, the Community Development Director and Parish grant writers are ready to continue this effort with the support of the community.

Regarding implementation, participants voiced interest in continuing to meet as an oversight committee. They could work with Parish grant writers and the Community Development office to ensure action. There was discussion about the timing of the completed plan and applying for CARE II funding. It was estimated that the plan needs to be brought to the Parish Council by early October. Participants wanted a one-page template for organizations and individuals to fill out and sign for support of the CARE plan. This was created and made available to garner plan support. Also requested was a space ad in the *St. Bernard Voice*.

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St. Bernard Parish Government

8201 West Judge Perez Drive
Phone (504) 278-4287

Chalmette, Louisiana 70043
Fax (504) 278-4264

January 18, 2008

Re: CARE for St. Bernard

Dear St. Bernard Parish Citizen:

As we rebuild our Parish, we have seen that by working together we can improve it. A healthy environment is the key to a healthy community for our families, and we want you to be a part of improving ours.

St. Bernard Parish has received funding and assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency to support our efforts to improve quality of life in our Parish through their Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program.

The goals of the Level I CARE Program are to:

- Educate and support the community by helping to assess existing pollution and its impacts;
- Provide access to EPA and other voluntary programs to address local environmental priorities and improve the environment through local action;
- Build collaboration within the community to prioritize pollution reduction goals through EPA's voluntary programs.

We will be hosting a series of five community meetings. A description of these meetings, our funding application, and our work plan can be viewed at www.sbpg.net/CARE. More information about the CARE program can be found at: http://epa.gov/CARE/basic.htm.

TEA, Inc., a local environmental consulting firm, is assisting us in our program development and facilitation. They are available to answer any questions you may have about this program by phone at (504)582-7755. More information about TEA can be found at www.teainconline.com.

For success, it is important that we participate in this endeavor together. For your convenience, a schedule of the upcoming meetings is included with this invitation. I encourage you to join us. Please return the enclosed postage paid postcard to let us know if you will participate, or if you have a particular environmental concern.

Sincerely,

Craig Taffaro
Parish President

841 Carondelet Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

CARE for St. Bernard
Attn: Ms. Yarrow Etheredge
841 Carondelet Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

CARE for St. Bernard

CARE for St. Bernard

Name of individual or organization:

_____

Please indicate whether you will participate in the CARE public forums:

_____ Yes, I will participate
_____ No, I will not participate
_____ I am interested in CARE for St. Bernard, but cannot attend

Please indicate the environmental issue you believe to be the most pressing in St. Bernard Parish.

_____

CARE website: www.sbpg.net/CARE

CARE for St. Bernard

Dates and Times:

February 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
March 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
May 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
June 28, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
July 26, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All meetings will be held at:

Chalmette High School
Presentation Room, 2nd Floor
1100 E. Judge Perez Drive
Chalmette, LA

Contact TEA: (504) 582-7755

www.sbpg.net/CARE

St. Bernard Parish Government

8201 West Judge Perez Drive
Phone (504) 278-4200

Chalmette, Louisiana 70043
Fax (504) 278-4264

Craig P. Taffaro, Jr.
Parish President

March 12, 2008

Re: CARE for St. Bernard Meeting Reminder

Dear St. Bernard Parish Citizen:

We had a successful CARE meeting on February 23, 2008 with residents who identified their environmental concerns and discussed current issues. Based on input from meeting participants, there are three main areas of concern upon which we will focus our planning efforts.

1. Water Quality
2. Air Quality
3. Parish Recovery

At our upcoming meeting to be held March 29, 2008, 10am – 2pm at Chalmette High School, we will have experts who can answer questions from the first meeting, and any other inquiries you may have. We will then break out into smaller groups to concentrate on the three issues. **We really need you to attend this meeting** to be sure these four environmental concerns are fairly represented.

As you may remember from past correspondence, St. Bernard Parish has received funding and assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency to support our efforts to improve quality of life in our Parish through their Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. After a series of public meetings throughout Spring and Summer 2008, you will have a plan based on your needs to reduce pollution and improve the quality of life in St. Bernard Parish. Recommendations in the plan will then be ready for action and funding.

Toxicological & Environmental Associates, Inc. (TEA), a local environmental consulting firm, is assisting us in our program development and facilitation. They are available to answer any questions you may have about this program by phone at (504) 259-5331. More information about TEA can be found at www.teainconline.com.

Please join us on Saturday morning, March 29th. Invite all St. Bernard residents and business owners to join in this exciting opportunity to improve our Parish. We need your perspectives and knowledge to conduct a successful and meaningful process.

Sincerely,

Craig Taffaro
Parish President

St. Bernard Parish Government

8201 West Judge Perez Drive Chalmette, Louisiana 70043
Phone (504) 278-4200 Fax (504) 278-4264

Craig P. Taffaro, Jr.
Parish President

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 2008

TO: CARE for St. Bernard Participants

FROM: St. Bernard Parish Government

RE: Focus Group Meetings

CARE for St. Bernard organizers will hold three focus group meetings in May 2008, based on your input from the February 23rd and March 29th public meetings. **Please attend one or all of the meetings that mean the most to you.** The purpose of the focus group meetings is to identify and/or clarify the problems, create goals to address the problems and begin to address solutions. The goal of the meetings is to establish a draft list of problems, goals and solutions to present at the May 31st CARE for St. Bernard public meeting. **Please let us know which meeting(s) you plan to attend by emailing hszapary@cox.net or by calling Heather Szapary at (504) 259-5331.**

Water Quality Focus Group Meeting:
Monday, May 5, 2008 - Council Office Trailer 4:30pm -6:30pm

Air Quality Focus Group Meeting:
Monday, May 12, 2008 - Council Office Trailer 4:30pm-6:30pm

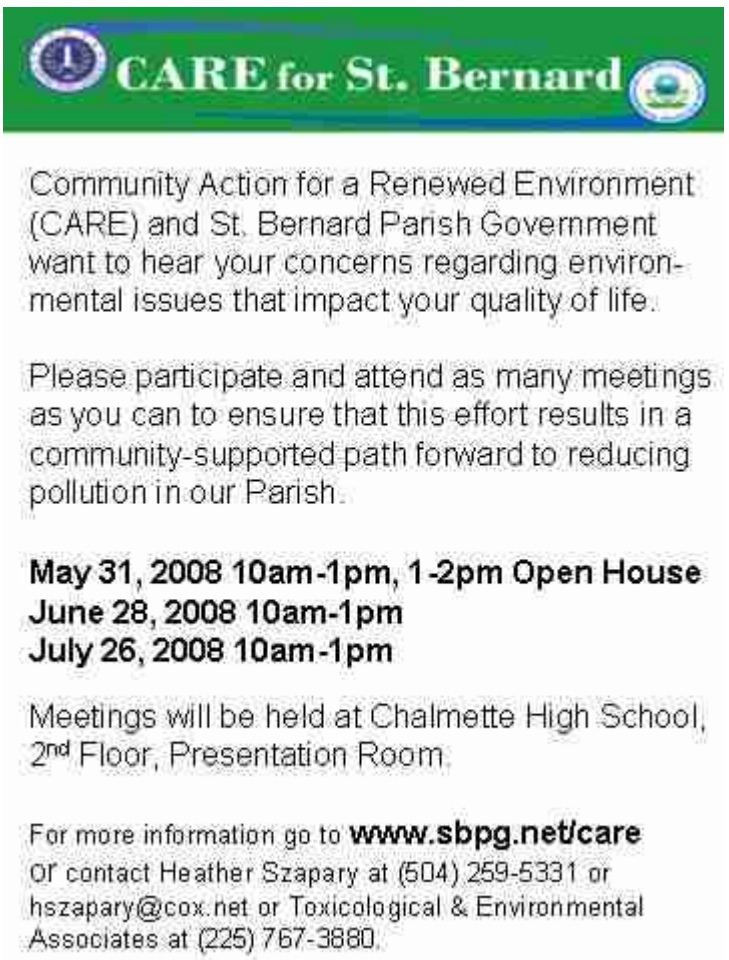
Recovery Focus Group Meeting:
Monday, May 19, 2008 - Council Office Trailer 4:30pm-6:30pm

The Council Office Trailer is located in the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex, 8201 West Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, Louisiana.

APPENDIX A. OUTREACH MATERIALS

Flyer

Poster



St. Bernard Parish Government

Environmental Protection Agency

CARE Public Meeting

Chalmette High School
February 23, 2008

Sign In Sheet

#	Name	Organization	Mailing Address	Best Way to Contact You (phone and/or email)
1	DAN ARCENEAUX	CZM	2712 TOURNEFORT ST Chalmette LA 70043	2715448
2	Barbara Manuel	LLBE Inc.	P.O. Box 1784 Violet La 70092	(504) 858-1553
3	KENNETH FORD	SBCEQ	P.O. Box 776 Chal	710-1855
4	RANDY MELERINE		2032 LANDRY CT. Meraux	225-803-2838
5	Karen Melerine		2032 Landry Ct. Meraux, La. 70075	KRMELERINE@WINKINC.com
6	DIANNE DUGAS	LDHH		ddugas@dhh.gov
7	Greves Meyaski		2212 FRANCIS St Violet, LA 70092	504-271-1272 grevesmeyaski@bellsouth.net
8	Dorothy Hills			dshnotary@yahoo.com

2-23-08

St. Bernard Parish Government

Environmental Protection Agency

#	Name	Organization	Mailing Address	Best Way to Contact You (phone and/or email)
9	Michelle Medina	Homeowner	8308 PATRICIA St. Chal. LA.	504-250-5331
10	Daniel Patnood	Murphy Env. Dept	2500 St. Bernard	504-278-5320
11	L.C. Thompson	Home	4461 Olivia Dr Meraux, LA 70075	504-442-9261
12	Beth Kimball	DEQ	DEQ Mandeville OFFICE	985-624-4120 M-F
13	Karen Brown	Homeowner	2537 Judy Dr. Meraux, LA 70075 2537 Judy Dr.	504-277-3865
14	Tom Harrison	Homeowner	52 Old Hickory Chalmette LA 70043	mail
15	Shauna Johnson	homeowner	3404 Plaza Dr. Chalmette, LA 70043	shaunaj@thegathering.cc.com
16	TAMMY RUUCK	HOMEOWNER	2101 ARAMIS DR. MERAUX, LA 70075	504-214-1156
*17	Debbie Ruiz	Homeowner	1864 Sugarmill ST. B. LA 70085	228-0341
18	Deirdre [illegible]	Homeowner	8316 PATRICIA Chal 70043	504-610-1183

2-23-08

St. Bernard Parish Government — Environmental Protection Agency

	Name	Organization	Mailing Address	Best Way to Contact You (phone and/or email)
19	ROBERT BANKS JR		8317 PATRICIA ST CHALMETTE LA 70043	PH. 504-279-5383
20	Abbey Flaherty		3824 Lyndell Dr Chalmette, LA 70043	abbeyf@thegatheringcc.com
21	ANDREA WOODWARD		2908 VERONICA Chalmette LA 70043	andrea@newonpearsonthaverge.com 504-494.9350
22	ALBERTA LEWIS		648 MEHLE ARABI, LA. 70032	
82	Adrianne Trogden	Homeowner	3824 Lyndell Dr. Chalmette, LA 70043	ATROG1@HOTMAIL.COM
83	Joyce B Boudreaux	—	1900 Schnell Dr Arabi LA	
84	Thomas Bell		1708 Schnell Arabi	
85	Linda Delaney	Homeowner	304 Parish Dr Arabi	ldeelaney@hotmail 271-4809
86	Jerry V. Graves, Sr.	St. Bernard Port	P.O. Box 1331 Chal., LA 70041	504-628-5031 jgraves@stbernardport.com
87	Rosemary Gioia	Homeowner	2909 Golden Dr. Chalmette, LA 70043	504-309-7990 (H) 504-421-5057 (cell) rgioiaaj@yahoo.com
88				
89				
90				

St. Bernard Parish Government — Environmental Protection Agency

	Name	Organization	Mailing Address	Best Way to Contact You (phone and/or email)
93	Catherine J. Williams	Homeowner	2412 Jarmisite Rd Violet LA	WILL2412@AOL.COM 504-6825755
94	Ella Kliger	www.reelrelief.com	126 EVERGREEN DR DIBERVILLE MS 39540	ellakliger@yahoo.com 851-753-7254
95	Robin Gonzalez		8317 Patricia Chal LA 70043	504-218-7050
96	DIANNA BARBE		3413 Bradbury St. Meraux 70075	504-277-6022
* 97	Eman Williams	LA Dept. of Health	1450 L&A Road Metairie, LA 70001	(504) 219-4571 ewilliams@dhh.la.gov
98	Adrienne Katner	"	"	alkatner@dhh.la.gov
99				
100				
101				
102				

2-23-08

APPENDIX B. FEBRUARY 23, 2008 MEETING MATERALS

CARE for St. Bernard

DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting 1: Collaboration Building
February 23, 2008

Welcome by Jerry Graves, Parish President

Description of CARE Program - EPA

Discussion of health issues related to the environment – DHH

Discussion of permitting and public notification - LDEQ

Description of CARE programs - Jerry

Q&A

Break for lunch & CARE program ranking activity - tables for information and Q&A

Return to meeting room for additional Q&A and path forward

Close of meeting

St. Bernard Parish and the Environmental Protection Agency

CARE

Meeting One Minutes

February 23, 2008
Chalmette High School

32 people in attendance including residents and industry representatives, excluding speakers.

Parish President Craig P. Taffaro Jr. welcomed meeting participants and discussed the parish's use of the results of the process to improve environmental and quality of life conditions. Taffaro noted that an environmental position is being developed that in the past has only been held by volunteers. Taffaro thanked all for being a part of the CARE process.

Jerry Graves, Director of St. Bernard Parish Community Development summarized the CARE process from its inception to where they hope to go after this series of public meetings and input. Graves explained that the public will guide the direction of this process which may lead to a CARE II grant linked to $300,000. These funds are to be used to implement solutions to the public's biggest environmental concerns.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), CARE Coordinator, Cindy Parker presented the basis of the CARE program which has occurred throughout the United States. Parker explained that CARE is a pilot program dependent upon a community-based process that concentrates on health and energy efficiency needs. Health needs include but are not limited to asthma, lead issues and indoor air quality. Parker described a few voluntary EPA programs that may solve some of their health and energy efficiency needs. Energy efficiency may be addressed simply by creating incentives to purchase Energy Star™ appliances, a program in which EPA has found a valuable partnership. EPA programs are somewhat limited. However, Parker stated that the solutions to their problems should not be solved only by EPA programs. These programs exist, and aid with the discussion of issues in the community and can sometimes be implemented immediately and at no cost.

Members of the audience asked questions and made comments. There were several comments about air quality ranging from breathing problems to blighted homes. One resident pointed out that ambient air levels measured in the parish as a whole do not represent some areas of poor air quality, particularly those next to the oil refining industry. He stated that the information provided to the public is confusing. A few more people described that they or their relatives have new allergies and breathing problems since coming back home to the parish following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. They wanted to know how to get air monitors. A representative from Toxicological & Environmental Associates, Inc., Yarrow Etheredge told residents that the Louisiana Bucket Brigade provides air monitors to residents.

A few other residents were concerned about abandoned swimming pools causing air and mosquito issues, and under maintained alleyways and servitudes. Several residents discussed issues with water quality and the failing sewerage system. According to one resident, water quality has not been up to drinkable standards since 2004. Another citizen stated that the children in the parish need to better understand the issues through education programs dealing with air, water and soil pollution. One resident declared that industries need to be forced to follow laws that protect the environment.

Graves responded to public comments related to parish government responsibilities stating that 5,200 more houses have been condemned for demolition. There may be a problem with how pools are being treated by demolition crews as below slab and not part of their contract. Graves told citizens to call Public Works regarding alleyways and servitudes. If the parish owns the property they are responsible for keeping it clear and safe.

Dianne Dugas presented a Power Point presentation on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Office of Public Health. Dugas based the presentation on ten statewide programs that deal with Epidemiology and Toxicology. Participants learned that DHH provides health consultations, technical reviews and studies based on a substantial need. The main heavy metals they typically measure in soil are lead, mercury, arsenic and cadmium. DHH provides a fish advisory, pesticide surveillance, occupational health surveillance, indoor air education, environmental health education, chemical event exposure program and studies related to serious events or a high number of complaints. Dugas reported that St. Bernard Parish has no fish advisories and no lead issues based on soil, water and air quality monitoring.

Residents seemed to want more specific information about their parish. In particular, residents have fears about arsenic and nickel in soils impacting their health. There was a sense that the needs in Orleans Parish, a much more urban environment, were met by DHH studies post-Katrina, while St. Bernard needs were somewhat ignored. Citizens wanted to know about parish cancer rates. One audience member explained to the audience that the inventory of toxic releases in the parish through the national Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) is about two years old and not necessarily providing them with the information they need to be safe. EPA responded by stating that it takes that long to interpret and verify the data which is available to the public in the TRI.

The public was instructed to review the posters describing 20 EPA programs that address some of the issues they had discussed thus far. They were then asked to rank each program 20 to 1 using voting stickers. If a there was an issue of concern not addressed by a program, it was requested that the public write down that issue on an index card. This process would help facilitators better understand what is most important to the public on an environmental basis.

Voting occurred, lunch was provided and one-on-one conversations continued. Jerry Graves concluded the meeting asking how many people would be interested in committing to working on subcommittees to focus on specific environmental issues. Most of the audience raised their hands. The meeting was adjourned, however several residents continued to speak with facilitators.

St. Bernard Parish Government — Environmental Protection Agency

CARE Public Meeting

Chalmette High School
March 29, 2008

Sign In Sheet

#	Name	Organization	Mailing Address	Best Way to Contact You (phone and/or email)
1	Jerry Graves	SBPG		jgraves@sbpg.net
2	John G. Williams	DHH	1010 Common St. N.O. LA 70112	jgwill@DHH.LA.GOV
3	Mike Bayham	SBPG		MBAYHAM@SBPG.NET
4	Tomeka Prioleau	DEQ	P.O. Box 4313 B.R, LA 70802	225.219.0877 tomeka.prioleau@la.gov
5	Vennetta Hayes	DEQ	P.O. Box 4314 BR, LA 70802	225-219-3492 Vennetta.hayes@la.gov
6	Sak Supatanasinkasem	DEQ	P.O Box 4314 BR, LA 70802	225 219-3489 Sak.Supatanasinkasem@la.gov
7	Keith Jordan	DEQ	P O Box 4314 BR LA 70802	225-219-3617 Keith.Jordan@la.gov
8	Collette Stewart-Briley	DHH		225-342-8714 Cbriley@dhh.la.gov

3-29-08

St. Bernard Parish Government — Environmental Protection Agency

	Name	Organization	Mailing Address	Best Way to Contact You (phone and/or email)
9	Jennifer Gioia	CTC	2909 Golden Dr. Chalmette, LA	jlgioia88@yahoo.com (504) 228-9180
10	Charles Ricord + Cynthia Ricord	Ricord True King Oil	8316 Mumphrey Chalmette LA	504-278-1777
11	CIDNEY WEBSTER CHALMETTE BATTLE FIELD	NPS	8606 St. Bernard Hwy	Cidney-Webster@nps.gov
12	Jo McLean DHH/OPH	Public Health	1010 Common Suite 700 NOLA 70112	504 599-0113
13	KEN PARIS. MD	LSUHSC Pediatrics	200 HENRY CLAY AVE NOLA 70118	kparis@lsuhsc.edu
14	Steve Lombardo	SBPG		
15	Mike Sherwood	RESIDENTS	1800 E. ST. BERNARD	504 669-3994
16	PEGGY POCHÉ	COMSEP		ppoche@ohsep.louisiana.gov
17	Phil GIDIA	CTC	1332 Bayou Rd St. Bernard	Pgioia@stes.com
18	Henry Carroll			(504) 279-5658 (985) 509-5969

3-29-08

CARE for St. Bernard

March 29, 2008

Present (X)	Last Name	First Name	Organization	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Email
	Arceneaux	Dan	CZM	2712 Tournefort St.	Chalmette	LA	70043	271-5448	
	Banks, Jr.	Robert		8317 Patricia St.	Chalmette	LA	70043	504-279-5383	
	Barbe	Dianna		3413 Bradbury St.	Meraux	LA	70075	504-277-6022	
	Boudousqui	Joyce		1900 Schnell Dr.	Arabi	LA	70032		
✓	Brown	Karen		2537 Judy Dr.	Meraux	LA	70075	504-277-2365	KARBROWN2@cox.net
	Buuck	Tammy		2101 Aramis Dr.	Meraux	LA	77075	504-214-1156	KBUUCK@UNO.COM
✓	Delaney	Linda		304 Parish Dr.	Arabi	LA	70032	504-271-4809	ladelaney@hotmail.com
	Flaherty	Abbey		3824 Lyndell Dr.	Chalmette	LA	70043		abbeyf@thegatheringcc.com
✓	Ford	Kenneth	SBCEQ	P.O. Box 776	Chalmette	LA	70043	504-710-1855	
✓	Gioia	Rosemary		2909 Golden Dr.	Chalmette	LA	70043	504-309-7990	rgioiaaj@yahoo.com
	Gonzalez	Robin		8317 Patricia	Chalmette	LA	70043	504-218-7050	
	Graves, Sr.	Jerry	St. Bernard Port	P.O. Box 1331	Chalmette	LA	70044	504-628-5031	jgraves@stbernardport.com
✓	Harrison	Tom		52 Old Hickory	Chalmette	LA	77043		
	Hills	Dorothy		2131 Allo Mumphrey	Violet	LA	70092		dshnotary@yahoo.com
	Johnson	Shauna		3404 Plaza Dr.	Chalmette	LA	77043		shaunaj@thegatheringcc.com
	Kliger	Ella		126 Evergreen Dr.	D'Iberville	MS	39540	857-753-7254	ellakliger@yahoo.com
	Lewis	Alberta		648 Mehle	Arabi	LA	70032	504-494-9350	
	Manuel	Barbara	LLBE Inc.	P.O. Box 1784	Violet	LA	70092	504-858-1553	
	Medina	Michelle		8308 Patricia St.	Chalmette	LA	70043	504-250-5331	
✓	Melerine	Karen		2032 Landry Ct.	Meraux	LA	70075	225-803-2839	krmelerine@winkinc.com
	Melerine	Randy		2032 Landry Ct.	Meraux	LA	70075	225-803-2838	

CARE for St. Bernard

March 29, 2008

Present (X)	Last Name	First Name	Organization	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Email
✓	Meyaski	Grenes		2212 Francis St.	Violet	LA	70092	504-271-1272	grenesmeyaski@bellsouth.net
	Patnood	Daniel	Murphy Oil, Env. Dept.	2500 East St. Bernard Hwy	Meraux	LA	70075-2427	504-278-5320	
	Resident	Resident		1708 Schnell	Arabi	LA	70032		
	Resident	Resident		8316 Patricia	Chalmette	LA	70043	504-610-1183	
✓	Ruiz	Debbie		1869 Sugarmill	St. Bernard	LA	70085	504-228-0341	
	Thompson	L.C.		4401 Olive Dr.	Meraux	LA	70075	504-442-9261	
	Trogden	Adrianne		3824 Lyndell Dr.	Chalmette	LA	70043		atrog1@hotmail.com
	Williams	Catherine		2412 Farmsite Rd.	Violet	LA	70092	504-682-2755	will2412@aol.com
	Woodward	Andrea		2908 Veronica	Chalmette	LA	70043		andrea@neworleansontheverge.com

Meeting 2: Issue Identification

March 29, 2008

Chalmette High School
1100 E. Judge Perez

AGENDA

10:00 am Commence Meeting

I. Welcome by Jerry Graves, Parish Community Development Director

Overview of CARE Program

Results from 1st Meeting, February 23, 2008

Today's Meeting Purpose, Process and Expectations

II. Water Quality

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Aimee Killeen
- Water discharge permitting basics, Water Permits Division

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), John G. Williams, P.E. Regional Engineer
- Source(s) of St. Bernard Parish drinking water
- Drinking water standards
- St. Bernard Parish drinking water
- How can the Parish improve drinking water

St. Bernard Parish Public Works, Linda Daley, P.E. Director
- Update on Parish sewage/sewerage situation

III. Air Quality

DEQ, Keith Jordan and Sak Supatanasinkasem, P.E.
- Air discharge permitting basics, Air Permits Division
- Ambient air monitoring data in St. Bernard Parish, Air Analysis Section

LSU Health Sciences Center, Dr. Kenneth Paris M.D., M.P.H..
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Division of Allergy-Immunology
- Causes, treatment and prevention of allergy and asthma problems in St. Bernard Parish

12:00 pm Lunch Provided (working lunch)

IV. Parish Recovery

St. Bernard Parish Community Development, Jerry Graves, Director
- Parish issues from first meeting
- Current issues

St. Bernard Parish Government, Mike Bayham
- Tree planting and beautification

DHH, Melanie Wearing, MSPH Environmental Health Scientist Coordinator
- Difference between mold and toxic mold
- Health problems associated with mold
- Mold prevention and recovery
- Mold issues in St. Bernard Parish

V. Environmental concern breakout discussion groups
- Brainstorm issues
- Identify subcommittee members and choose a subcommittee chair
- Set next meeting date

VI. Results thus far and next steps

2:00 pm Close of meeting

APPENDIX C. March 29, 2008 MEETING MATERALS

CARE for St. Bernard

St. Bernard Parish Government and the Environmental Protection Agency

Meeting 2: Issue Identification
March 29, 2008
Chalmette High School

MINUTES

I. Commence

The meeting commenced at 10:15am with Heather Szapary, working with St. Bernard Parish and Toxicological & Environmental Associates, Inc. (TEA) as project manager, introducing **Jerry Graves, Parish Community Development Director**. Mr. Graves welcomed the participants and briefly described results from the past meeting. Besides the presenters, twenty-one people attended of which fifteen were residents (nine attended the first meeting in February), one Chalmette Battle Field (National Park Service) representative, two Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) representatives, two Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) representatives and one representative from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

II. Water Quality

Aimee Killeen, DEQ Water Permits Division (225-219-3073, Aimee.Killeen@la.gov) provided a presentation on water discharge permit basics. Currently, new facilities are not required to apply for a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit pre-construction, but DEQ is trying to move in that direction. Facilities with an existing permit have to submit 180 days prior to expiration to renew.

Applications go through a verification process where they are reviewed for administrative completeness and which division the permit will be processed through. Permits are processed through either the Industrial or Municipal sections. Applicants will receive or be denied a general or individual permit, or be deemed exempt from permitting.

There are less than 20 General Permits based on groups of similar facilities throughout the state including sanitary waste facilities, car washes or pipeline testing. Schedule forms apply to each kind of General Permit. General Permits provide the applicant and DEQ analysts a fast track to completion. Individual Permits are processed for more complicated applications or unique conditions such as for large oil refineries or municipalities. Applicants that are exempt from permitting inclu de individual home units, which are permitted by DHH and effluent reduction facilities. This is likely to change for areas with watershed problems, like the Northshore.

Individual Permit application considerations include water quality problems, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) [a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards], effluent guidelines for facility types issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for limits of effluent.

A DEQ permit writer processes the application, a draft is reviewed by EPA (one month to three years), then it goes out on public notice for 30 days. The public can request a hearing, which generally extends the comment period. DEQ considers comments and may change the draft permit. The public and the facility have another opportunity to review if the changes are significant. The final decision is rendered by the DEQ Assistant Secretary which will be to redraft, deny or finalize. In some cases, when major modifications are proposed an environmental impact assessment is required.

There are ambient monitoring stations throughout state water bodies. There are some permanent stations. Basins are rotated. Sampling is for arsenic cadmium, chromium copper mercury, etc. Anyone can request data from specific sites shown online [at http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=2421].

Question (Q): How often are major facilities monitored?
Answer (A): There is a general requirement for once per year, more often if there are complaints. Samples are taken by a regional DEQ person.

Q: Is it a surprise visit?
A: Most likely it is a surprise, but unsure.

Q: Lock out system?
A: It depends on the size and type of discharge. There are some waste waters that must be sampled prior to discharge, while some discharge is continuous. Some samples are "grab" samples while others are composite samples.

Q: What about sediment?
A: Water column is tested, not sediments unless they are suspended in the water column.

Q: Who handles the samples?
A: DEQ

Q: Why does public notice include contradictory language "as with all discharges . . .something may occur…
A: This statement is required by the regulations.

Q: If there is a discharge problem, can the DEQ inspector shut down the discharge?
A: Results of inspections are given to enforcement. There are regulations that dictate the process. In many cases it is not in the best interest for anyone to shut down the operation for instance a municipal sewage treatment plant.

Q: What happened when water came into the parish and caused sediment deposition? It was a Superfund site with oil, gas and sewage.
A: Cannot answer

Q: Regarding washing down barges, how come they are only required to be located one mile below drinking water intake and not one mile above as well? The Mississippi River ebbs and flows causing problems no matter which side of the intake the barge cleaning is occurring.
A: Aimee will follow up.

Ms. Szapary reminded the audience in particular for those first attending a CARE meeting that this is a citizen-driven program funded by the EPA and the result will be a pollution reduction plan that all can support. Some recommendations can be implemented without further funding, and others will require additional funding. EPA Voluntary Programs are available for us to address specific problems that you identify.

John Williams, P.E. DHH Regional Engineer (504-599-0112, jgwill@dhh.la.gov) provided a presentation specifically on drinking water quality in the Parish. Mr. Williams works in the Office of Public Health, engineering services where he enforces the sanitary code. Chapter 12 of the code is water supplies and he will discuss how this relates to the St. Bernard Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Water is taken from the Mississippi River. The WTP is an aging set of two plants on one site built in the 1950s and 1970s. A new plant was approved by DHH prior to Hurricane Katrina, but is currently on hold. The equipment, pumps and distribution system were damaged heavily by Katrina. The storm also reduced the number of employees operating the plants.

Despite its age and condition, the plants have continued to meet most EPA regulations enforced by DHH. Compliance is based on a self reporting process including monthly operating reports reviewed by DHH. However, Mr. Williams just conducted an on site evaluation during the previous week with results that follow.

The WTP provides conventional treatment where first particulates (sediments) are taken out of the muddy water, second the water goes through filters, third water is disinfected and fourth it is distributed.

To monitor the filtering process, turbidity (cloudiness) is measured. Particulates in the water source settle out (sedimentation), then pass through filters, the sediment is returned to the river. The more turbid or cloudy the water is the more opportunity there is for bacteria. The Parish WTP operators know how to get the most out of their equipment. The WTP filtering process is in full compliance.

Disinfection is monitored based on the amount of chlorine used and the total coliform count. Total coliform is an indicator of other bacteria. Based on a 33,000 population figure, 30 samples for coliform per month are taken and measured. The WTP disinfection process is in full compliance.

In order to diminish a disinfection by-product that is a carcinogen, the Parish implements a chloramination process. This process works to get rid of the by-product, however compounds including total organic carbon (TOC)s are formed when water is disinfected. The concentration of these compounds in the water is limited by the EPA. This is the area that St. Bernard is not in compliance.

Q. How can we repair this?
A. It will be relatively easy using KCl, but it will take a while for compliance to occur due to results changing over a period of time. This is what the letters you are receiving are referring to. TOCs do not pose an adverse health impact. This is a treatment technique issue.

Additional notes regarding Sanitary Survey: The water clarifier is struggling due to compensation for out of service clarifiers, which are not regulated. Elevated tanks lack conditions to provide adequate capacity and pressure. New valves are being installed and one clarifier has been brought back up, and the Parish is working on installing new filters. They will speak to this. The WTP is now being operated

with fewer employees than pre-Katrina, which is currently a violation. They are achieving great results with little support.

Q: According to the latest water notice regarding TOC, which we have received three months in a row, it says that this is not an emergency, but if it continues will it become an emergency?
A: When a water system accumulates violations, it falls under enforcement. There is an enforcement survey by administrative order. The survey that was just done will address this issue and St. Bernard will be required to provide a solution within 30 days. Reinstallation of the potassium permanganate is likely to be the response. Violation letters may continue because this is based on a year of data. TOCs are not a health risk.

Q: What can residents do to have alternate means of drinking water?
A: This is a personal choice so I cannot recommend anything in particular. Bottled water quality is not regulated by DHH.

Q: If you lived in St. Bernard, would you drink the water?
A: I would, my wife prefers bottled.

Q: Water leaks prior to the meter – whose problem is this?
A: When there's a leak before the meter, it is the Parish's problem, after the meter it is your plumbing problem. As far as quality of drinking water is concerned, water leaks are O.K. but water intake may cause contamination. Water loss is a problem whereas the Parish is pumping almost as much water today as they did pre-Katrina. Due to water usage changes, some water sits in the pipes, causing a stale taste. The pipes should be flushed in areas of little consumption.

Q: Compared to the region, how is the recovery of the system coming along?
A: Jefferson was spared damage to facilities. What happened to St. Bernard & Plaquemines south of Belle Chasse was without precedent. Orleans is struggling with the same issues that St. Bernard has, but not as severely. Staffing is an issue.

Q: Can we financially afford to fix problems?
A: The Parish can answer that question.

Q: If the water is acceptable, why fix it?
A: Reliability. This is taking a lot of effort for operation with a lot of opportunity for problems. The current system may not be able to handle future capacity needs.

Q: How does our water compare nation-wide?
A: The water here is not substandard. The plant needs to be improved. Staffing is the critical issue – some shifts are operated by just one person.

Comment: Regulations are getting tougher, in two years St. Bernard will be out of compliance.

Q: Is there going to be a different treatment system at the new plant?
A: The Parish can answer that question.

Steve Lombardo, Operations Superintendent, Department of Public Works (DPW), Water & Sewer (504-278-4317) provided an update on the Parish's water and sewage facilities. St. Bernard Parish has

never had a drinking water quality problem. TOC is an indicator of other potential issues, but no further problems have occurred. Some samples are collected by the DPW, but are analyzed by the state. Other samples are taken by the state. The main problem is turbidity, which effects disinfection. River heights and dealing with levees pose additional challenges for solving turbidity problems.

Permanganate usage before Katrina was not much, but it will be brought back into service. St. Bernard is well below the levels of pathogens because of their treatment process. Ammonia and chlorine are added in the beginning. Distribution is an issue. Treatment is always in compliance at the plant, but issues can happen in the distribution – turbidity in particular. There are miles and miles of pipes that are not monitored. Pipes need to be flushed and we hope to have an automatic flushing system installed. Critical issues have to be addressed first. The key is monitoring.

FEMA is challenging to get money from – they would rather pay for temporary solutions than to repair the actual system.

The previous bid to replace the old plants was to meet future population based on pre-Katrina numbers. The system will be scaled down.

Consolidation of wastewater treatment plants to one is underway. This must be coordinated when shutting the other plants down.

Q: The new plant, will it be built so that capacity can increase?
A: Yes. We are at full capacity production now due to leakage and refinery use is up since Katrina. Pre-Katrina we pumped 10 million gallons per day, today we pump 7 million.

There are only two crews to do repairs parish-wide. Sewer is mostly gravity-fed and easier to fix than the water distribution system.

Comment: At our current growth rate (40%), we will not be able to meet capacity. Steve agrees.

Monitoring logs are updated every 15 minutes by law. There were two turbidity violations in 2005 when standards were first changed.

Q: Status of wetlands assimilation with New Orleans?
A: Pilot studies are being done, like Gore Pumping Station. The monitoring is too expensive.

Q: If everything is being pumped into the river, why can't it be diverted down the river to one place?
A: No answer

III. Air Quality

Keith Jordan, DEQ Air Permitting Division (225-219-3004) provided a presentation on air permit basics.

Who needs a permit? Based on Act 918 passed in 2003, any facility that emits more than five tons of any of CO, NO2 PM, SO2, VOC Pb or a combination of these more than 15 tons per year is required to apply for an air permit.

There are two sections: Petrochemical and Manufacturing. Petrochemical section covers petrochemical, chemical manufacturing, and oil and gas facilities. Manufacturing section covers power plants, pulp and paper facilities, carbon black facilities, ship building, and everything else.

An application is submitted by applicant, then there is a review for completeness. The application is then assigned to a reviewer, it goes out for public and EPA comment. All appropriate DEQ sections review the application. Construction can not begin until the permit is received.

Q: Why are statements regarding public nuisances included in public notices but not enforced?
A: We follow the rules as they are written, and focus primarily on health standards. What is your definition of "public nuisance?"
Response: I use the definition given by DEQ. My neighborhood is inconvenienced by odors and noises that go beyond the refineries' fence lines.
A: This may be a City of Chalmette/Parish compliance issue.

Q: If a company is not in compliance, can they get a permit?
A: No, as part of the permit review process, they review compliance history of the applicant. The applicant will have to address any existing issues prior to receiving a permit.

Q: Every time we have public meetings, we bring evidence of our problems and are not satisfied with your [DEQ] responses. That is why there are 25 people here and not 300. Why is enforcement not here to address our questions?
A: There are 800 DEQ employees and I focus on the air permit application process.

Q: St. Bernard now also has a huge problem with ozone, which I am sure you are aware of. Can we get some compliance officers in our area?
A: Ms. Szapary answered that at the subcommittee level, we can get into some more specific monitoring and compliance issues and we will track down the appropriate DEQ staff for help.

Sak Supatanasinkasem, P.E., DEQ Air Analysis Section (225-219-3489, Sak.Supatanasinkasem@la.gov) presented ambient air monitoring data in St. Bernard Parish. Samples are taken based on citizen complaints like odor complaints from the Chalmette area. DEQ collects ambient samples and analyzes for comparison with EPA standards.

Funded by industry, there are three monitoring sites based on wind direction and security: Algiers, Chalmette High School (CHS) and Vista. We sample for Ozone, SO2 Particulate and VOC. Particulates sampled are fine particulates that can remain in your upper respiratory system. Heavy particulates are considered a nuisance issue rather than a health issue – so not sampled. Sampling methods for Ozone and SO2 provide instant data. Sampling methods for particulates uses a FRM, which is sent to a lab for analysis, and TEOM, which provides immediate results. For VOC there are 24 Hour Canisters and Trigger Canisters which automatically sample when hydrocarbons reach a certain level. Most significant levels of compounds were found at the Vista site. Below is a table from the presentation that shows Vista site results (the whole Power Point Presentation may be viewed online at http://sbpg.net/care.

2006 VISTA - 4706 1-hr readings

Pollutant	Min	Median	3rd Qu	Maximum	Mean
Sulfur Dioxide	0	3	5	477	8.7
Hydrogen Sulfide	0	2	3	49	2.7
PM2.5 Fine 0-2.5 um	0	10	17	89.7	12.45
TNMOC	0	10	110	5840	107

2007 VISTA - 8215 1-hr readings

Pollutant	Min	Median	3rd Qu	Maximum	Mean
Sulfur Dioxide	0	3	5	477	8.7
Hydrogen Sulfide	0	2	3	69	2.7
PM2.5 Fine 0-2.5 um	0	10	16	192	12.11
TNMOC	0	0	30	1920	28

Main Results:

- SO2 levels can spike somewhat higher than other state sites, whereas some asthmatics have experienced respiratory conditions from exposure. There were spikes in 2006 and 2007.
- No Hydrogen Sulfide samples tested above standards.
- Particulate Matter of 2.5 parts per million (aspirable) had spikes at the Chalmette Vista site, but these readings are comparable with other sites in the state and are within the standard.
- St. Bernard Parish is meeting EPA and DEQ ambient air standards.

Comment: This conclusion is misleading because sometimes the air quality does not meet any standards. These samples show many spikes.
Response: Measurements are based on an eight hour standard, not instantaneous readings. Particulate matter is being breathed in, the same as what we see when it accumulates on surfaces. EPA has determined that large particles do not have health impacts. The SO2 readings at the VISTA site should be closely watched by the DEQ and the industrial community.

Q: There are odors in Arabi that smell like vomit, and it comes and goes. Is it being monitored?
A: No, air monitors do not detect odors. You could ask the regional contact.
Comment: It could be wet grain.

Q: Since the SO2 is consistently high around VISTA, what is being done about that?
A: Because it does not exceed air quality standards, there is nothing to do. If levels go above standards, permits will be adjusted.
Comment: They are violating their permits in the form of a nuisance by letting their pollution cross their property line.

Q: At a certain time of night, we see white smoke that is not there during the day. This smoke causes eyes to burn. Why do you see spurts at some times and not other times?
A: Another DHH staff member said that variances are not given out to allow flares.

(Sak) Ozone standards have been adjusted, as of March 12, 2008. St. Bernard Parish will be out of attainment. Pollution will have to be cut to meet new standards. DEQ has one year to tell EPA which parishes are affected. The EPA has one year to review the determinations.

Comment: We are not trying to shut down refineries, just to work together.

Dr. Kenneth Paris, M.P.H., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Division of Allergy-Immunology, LSU Health Sciences Center (kparis@lsuhsc.edu) discussed the causes, treatment and prevention of allergy and asthma problems in St. Bernard Parish. The Center looks at the causes – allergens v. irritants or pollutants, and indoor v. outdoor issues. Mold is an indoor issue specific to this part of the state. Ozone is a known problem for those with respiratory diseases. Spikes in Ozone cause problems for asthmatics. Some studies show that diesel exhaust particles increase risks of allergy development as exposed individuals get older, which translates to asthma in some. Particulate matter of 2.5 parts per million get trapped in the lower respiratory system, while particulate matter of 10 parts per million get trapped in the upper respiratory system.

There are programs that were started because of the storm, St. Bernard Parish included. The HEAL [Head-off Environmental Asthma in Louisiana Study] is being funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and conducted by Tulane University and the City of New Orleans. They have been recruiting patients ages 4-12 from New Orleans area including St. Bernard Parish – enrollment closes on Monday. Patients will be followed for about a year. Their conditions will be studied and compared to other parishes. Homes of patients were sampled for environmental issues.

Q: When there is 12 to 20 spikes/year and low-level exposure every day. What is the impact?
A: Low dose exposure probably has some long term effects. Some effects from spikes including decreased lung function and asthma triggers.

Q: Would 15 spikes a year cause someone to develop asthma or other problems?
A: I do not know.

Comment: Asthma rates are very high in St. Bernard Parish as compared to the rest of the country.
Response: Yes

Comment: You can hear the kids with asthma wheeze.
Response: We need more stringent control of pollution and other triggers that can be decreased.

Q: When you are in an environment like Chalmette High, which is so cold, and the windows are not open – is exposure worse because the kids are confined for seven hours?
A: Sometimes confinement can be good, and other times not, depending on the trigger.

Q: Why does St. Bernard have more asthma than other places?
Participant comment: It is the two big refineries.
Participant response: No, because in St. Charles Parish they have more refineries and more industry. There I did not have a problem. However, in cold buildings, I can have a problem.
A: Sugar cane burning, grain, other environmental irritants from industries can cause respiratory problems.

Comment: Sweet crude does not have the high sulfur content of Mexican crude. Maybe they were running sweet crude at the time in St. Charles Parish.

(Paris) Asthma is triggered by different allergens, but pollutants pretty much affect everyone. Mold is present in almost any sample, but what is relevant is whether the mold count is higher inside than outside or if there is a different species of mold inside.

Q: Mold growth from flooding, has the risk been exaggerated?
A: It is important if you have allergies or asthma, it is important to know what the triggers are. Extensive mold supports a high amount of VOCs, triggering bronchial constriction.

Q: What gasses were emitted from the oil spill that could stay in the atmosphere long enough to cause respiratory problems?
A: I do not know. Most reactions are immediate, though the damages can be long term. Chemicals that are soluble will burn your eyes or your lungs.

IV. Parish Recovery

Melanie Wearing, MSPH, DHH Environmental Health Scientist Coordinator (225-342-8303, mwearing@dhh.la.gov) provided her expertise in mold epidemiology and toxicology. Mold is a natural part of the environment including mildew, mushrooms, yeast, cheese, etc. Humid environments and porous materials are ideal for mold growth.

There have been 2,300 calls regarding environmental health from throughout the state since Hurricane Katrina. About 75% of calls were questions about mold.

Mold needs water, oxygen, food (sheet rock, insulation, clothing, etc) to grow. Get rid of porous items, because they will store mold spurs.

Toxic mold, also known as Stachybotrys or black mold is actually a stage of growth that several species of mold go through during its life cycle.

Health effects from mold include non-specific respiratory irritations, allergic reactions (rashes), miscellaneous infections, and other conditions resulting from mold and its byproducts and particulates. There have also been health problems associated with cleaning product misuse (mixing, VOCs).

Populations most affected by mold are the elderly and very young, and people with pre-existing health problems and have weakened immune systems. If problems occur, consult with a medical professional who has environmental exposure knowledge. Precautions include limiting exposure, if in the vicinity of mold, use personal protective equipment, and avoid areas where debris is being moved, which stirs up particulates that can trigger asthma.

Mold assessment and remediation is supported by Louisiana legislation, Act 880 which says that mold remediation and assessment cannot be done by the same party, mold remediators must be licensed through the LA State Licensing Board for Contractors: www.lslbc.louisiana.gov.

Dr. Paris comment: Insulation closed cells do not allow moisture to come out or in. Properly sized air conditioners are also important in controlling moisture.

(Wearing) I can provide environmental indoor air quality education, phone consultations, presentations at meetings and referrals. For more specific info EPA provides a mold course www.epa.gove/mold/moldcourse.

Jerry Graves, St. Bernard Parish Government Community Development Director (jgraves@sbpg.net) discussed blighted housing, abandoned pools and zoning. About 8,700 blighted homes have been condemned for demolition, 6,000 already demolished and 1,200 approved for demolition.

The Parish has written hundreds of citations for problem pools. Pools that are abandoned containing water and have no fence are the biggest priority. United Recovery Group (URG) has a contract to fill in abandoned pools. The Parish is working with Domino Sugar who has safe fill material that can be used.

Refinery requesting rezoning – looking for heavy industrial zoning. This opens the gate for almost any use. This is a buffer zone/green space requirement issue.

Q: Road Home buy out goes through ICF to the Parish. What does the parish intend to do with these properties with regard to adjacent homeowners?
A: Some will be kept for public use, particularly when there are large blocks of these properties. Then the option goes to the adjacent owner (lot next door program), and then to sale at market value. All Road Home properties will be demolished. Slabs so far are not included, but the Parish is working on getting slabs removed by FEMA.

Q: Can the slabs be put into MRGO?
A: We do not know yet.

Mike Bayham, St. Bernard Parish Government Grant Writer (mbayham@sbpg.net)

The Parish received $99,900 for tree replacement (lost 260 trees). A Baton Rouge-based organization, Little Leaf is working with us to plant 465 trees. The benefits of this program are aesthetic improvements, natural air conditioner and filter, and replacing less sustainable trees like Magnolias which were mostly lost due to salt water with more tolerant species.

V. and VI. Environmental Breakout Discussion Groups and Next Steps

Heather Szapary, TEA Consultant, CARE for St. Bernard Project Manager (504-259-5331, hszapary@cox.net) offered an adapted process due to time constraints and low citizen turnout. There will be one committee which will include everyone here, who seem to be interested in all three focus areas anyhow. I will contact each person to find the best time and dates to meet as a committee. Please think about neighbors and others you know who may want to participate. Thank you so much for participating in this process thus far.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.

Water Quality Focus Group Meeting

May 5, 2008

St. Bernard Parish Government Complex
Council Office Trailer
8201 West Judge Perez Drive

DRAFT SUMMARY AGENDA

5:30 pm Commence Meeting

I. Introductions and meeting goals

II. Water quality questions from March 29th public meeting – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality provided answers to questions from the meeting.

III. Water quality needs and issues– We will review and comment on a list of needs and issues that are based on input from public meetings and discussions with residents.

IV. Stating the problems – We will review and comment on a list of problem statements that are based on water quality needs and issues. Clearly identified problems are more readily linked to solutions. During this process we will determine which problemsthe CARE for St. Bernard program can address. Some problems, like a burdened drinking water facility will behandled by the Parish. However, a polluted drinking water source may be addressed by CARE and the community.

V. Next steps – We need to prepare for the May 31st public meeting by providing a concise list of problems and goals for the public to review. We will create goal statements based on identified problems for your review and comment. We need your help to encourage more participation.

VI. Solutions to the problems – If time permits we will begin to discuss potential solutions to the identified problems.

7:30 pm Close of meeting

#	Issue/Need	Problem Statement	Goal/Action
1	Safe drinking water	Residents are unclear about the safety of their drinking water (based on SBPG Public Works notifications and nearby industrial and institutional effluent).	Goal: Provide and improve information fo r residents about the quality of their drinking water. Actions: a. Clarify what pollutants are eliminated by the drinking water facility (LDHH). b. Identify pollutants discharged into the water that may cause human health problems. c. Mail a quarterly newsletter w ith residential and commercial bills explaining water quality and sewage issues (SBPG Public Works, LDEQ, LDHH). d. Organize quarterly interviews and question and answer sessions with talk radio hosts about drinking water quality and sewage issues (SBPG Publi c Works, LDEQ, LDHH). e. Implement an EPA Volunteer Water Monito ring Program (CARE). f. Request that LDEQ set up an ambient monitoring site in St. Bernard Parish in the Mississippi River (CARE, LDEQ).
2	New drinking water treatment plant	St. Bernard Parish drinking water treatment facility is aging.	Goal: Upgrade the drinking water facility. Actions: a. Utilize and possibly adjust pre -storm plan for new facility (SBPG Public Works). b. Fund and construct a new facility (SBPG).
3	Decrease waste of potable water • Leaks • Home efficiency	Potable water is being wasted.	Goal: Reduce the loss of potable water. Actions: a. Reconstruct sewerage system (SBPG Public Works). b. Implement the EPAs Water use Effici ency Program (CARE) to educate residents and businesses about water conservation practices.
4	Staffing shortage at drinking water treatment plant	There is not enough staff at the drinking water facility.	Goal: Increase the number of staff operating the drinking water treatment facility. Actions: a. Identify funds to hire add itional staff (SBPG). b. Hire additional staff (SBPG).
5	Drinking water source protection • Industrial effluent	There is continued disconnect among industries, regulators and citizens regarding	Goal: Establish a working relationship among industrial, government regulators and citizens that discusses, clarifies, acknowledges and addresses concerns and

#	Issue/Need	Problem Statement	Goal/Action
	• Institutional effluent	responsibility to maintain good water quality.	needs. Actions: a. Pursue a Community-Industry-Government "cooperative group" that would meet r egularly to build the three way relationship into a positive avenue for action. b. Identify and contact the environmental manager for each industry and government regulators to discuss being part of a cooperative group with intere sted citizens (CARE). c. Meet and devise a set of working objectives, ground rules and future meeting dates (CARE, SBPG, LDEQ, Industries). d. Formalize coope rative group (CARE, SBPG, LDEQ, Industries). e. Interest industries in the EPA National Partnership for Environmental Priorities program .
6	Industry accountability	Residents remain unsure about how environmental regulations protect water quality.	Goal: Educate residents about environmental regulations that protect water quality. Actions: a. Organize a quarterly educational workshop series that addresses water quality protection. b. Attend DEQs "Enviroschool fo r Communities" training program.
7	Outreach and education	Children and adults lack water quality knowledge and appreciation.	Goal: Provide water quality education opportunities for children and adults. Actions: a. Identify and alert teachers about existing educational programs provided by groups like the Pontchartrain Institute, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, LSU Ag Center, National Park Service, Teaching Responsible Earth Educ ation, etc. (SBPG, CARE). b. Attend DEQs "Enviroschool for Communities" training program. c. Offer other educational seminars to residents.
8	Polluted stormwater runoff	Stormwater runoff (from construction, roadways, debris, green space maintenance and leaki ng	Goal: Reduce stormwater runoff contamination . Actions:

#	Issue/Need	Problem Statement	Goal/Action
		sewerage) negatively impacts the Lake Borgne Basin.	a. Implement the EPA National Nonpoint Source Management Program (CARE). b. Investigate projects that could utilize and filter contaminated runoff like bio-swales (SBPG, CARE). c. Integrate nonpoint source best management practices into Parish development permitting process (LDEQ, SBPG, LDNR). d. Increase enforcement of dumping violations (SBPG and LDEQ). e. Conduct a nonpoint source reduction, public education campaign through multiple media sources.
9	Residential improper waste disposal into sewerage system	Residents lack understanding of disposing of common, but hazardous wastes.	Goal: Educate residents about hazardous wastes and provide opportunities to properly dispose of these wastes. a. Provide yearly education series on household hazardous wastes including but not limited to paints, batteries and pharmaceuticals. b. Conduct an annual or biannual household hazardous waste collection day(s) (CARE).

Air Quality Focus Group Meeting

May 12, 2008

St. Bernard Parish Government Complex
Council Office Trailer
8201 West Judge Perez Drive

SUMMARY AGENDA

5:30 pm Commence Meeting

I. Introductions and meeting goals

II. Air quality questions from March 29th public meeting – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality provided answers to questions from the meeting.

IV. Air quality matrix – We will review and comment on a list of needs that are linked to specific problems, goals, actions/solutions and responsibility, all of which are based on input from the February and March public meetings and discussions with residents.

V. Next steps – We need to prepare for the May 31st public meeting by providing a concise list of problems and goals for the public to review. We will make requested changes to the matrix and ask for your comments before bringing it forth to the public We will need a lead person from the focus group to present this list.

We need your help to encourage more participation.

7:30 pm Close of meeting

#	Issue/Need	Problem Statement	Goal/Action	Comments
1	Less breathing problems including asthma and allergies	Asthma rates in St. Bernard Parish are very high.	Goal: Locate information on Parish asthma rates and reduce asthma rates. Actions: g. Keep abreast of HEAL project results (2009). h. Provide an education program on how to manage indoor environments to prevent asthma attacks. i. Implement EPA's "Community –Based Childhood Asthma Programs."	
		Diesel exhaust may cause allergies to develop as one ages.	Goal: Reduce diesel exhaust. Actions: a. Implement EPA's "Clean Construction USA" program. b. Implement EPA's "Clean Ports USA" program. c. Establish a "National Clean Diesel Campaign" (EPA program)	
1	Less breathing problems including asthma and allergies	There are potentially long term effects from low-dose exposure to air pollutants.	Goal: Locate information on low -dose exposures to air pollutants and reduce toxic air emissions. Action: a. Implement EPA's "Design for th e Environment" program.	
		Increased industrial air emissions directly affect people with asthma or other lung health problems.	Goal: Prevent higher volume emissions over short periods of time. Action: a. Limit variances to industries temporar ily allowing for more discharge.	
2	Less allergic reactions to indoor air quality	Mold exposure may cause allergic reactions including breathing problems, burning eyes and rashes.	Goal: Prevent mold exposure and growth. Actions: c. Identify methods for residents to t est for mold inside their homes (in contrast to outside mold counts). d. If in the vicinity of mold, wear protective gear. e. Request annual indoor air quality	

#	Issue/Need	Problem Statement	Goal/Action	Comments
			education workshop involving LDHH. f. Help schools implement EPA's "Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program."	
		Exposure to chemicals kept indoors may cause health problems.	Goal: Reduce exposure to chemicals stored and released indoors. Actions: a. Help schools implement EPA's "The Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign" program. b. Help schools implement EPA 's "Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program."	
3	Special attention to people living immediately near refineries	Public nuisance laws are not enforced.	Goal: Clarify public nuisance laws on a state and parish level and promote enforcement. Actions:	
4	Air quality education for children and adults	Children and adults do not understand air quality issues.	Goal: Provide air quality education programs for children and adults. Actions: a. Attend DEQs "Enviroschool for Communities" training program. b. Identify existing education programs and curriculum for children.	
5	Keep industries accountable	There is continued disconnect among industries, regulators and citizens regarding responsibility for maintaining good air quality	Goal: Establish a working relationship among industrial, government regulators and citizens that discusses, clarifies, acknowledges and addresses concerns and needs. Actions: f. Identify and contact the environmental manager for each industry and government regulators to discuss being part of a cooperative group with interested citizens (CARE). g. Meet and devise a set of working objectives, ground rules and future meeting dates (CARE, SBPG, LDEQ, Industries). h. Formalize cooperative group (CARE, SBPG, LDEQ, Industries). i. Interest industries in the EPA National	

#	Issue/Need	Problem Statement	Goal/Action	Comments
			Partnership for Environmental Priorities program.	
6	Regular interface with DEQ enforcement	There are odors and stack emissions that concern residents.	Goal: Establish consistent relationships between citizens and environmental reg ulators. Actions: c. Create a list of regulators for St. Bernard Parish and post on the Parish website. d. Request that regulators provide annual workshops that allow citizens to meet and greet regulators.	
7	Less ozone emissions	Ozone levels are increasing asthma attacks.	Goal: Reduce ozone emissions and effects on people with asthmatic conditions. Actions: d. Limit variances to industries temporarily allowing for more discharge. e. Link citizens with asthma to an auto matic email or phone call alert.	
8 ?	Global warming/ Climate Change	Greenhouse gases that are emitted trap heat within the atmosphere.	Goal: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Actions: a. Implement EPA's "Natural Gas Star" program to reduce methane emissions.	

Recovery Focus Group Meeting

May 19, 2008

St. Bernard Parish Government Complex
Council Office Trailer
8201 West Judge Perez Drive

SUMMARY AGENDA

5:30 pm Commence Meeting

I. Introductions and meeting goals

II. Parish recovery updates from St. Bernard Parish Governmert

VI. Recovery matrix – We will review and comment on a list of needsthat are linked to specific problems, goals, actions/solutions and responsibility, all of whichare based on input fromthe February and March public meetings and discussions with residents.

VII. Next steps – We need to prepare for the May 31st public meeting by providing a concise list of problems and goals for the public to review. We will make requested changes to the matrix and ask for your comments before bringing it forth to the public. We will need a lead person from the focus group to present this list.

We need your help to encourage moreparticipation.

7:30 pm Close of meeting

#	Issue/Need	Problem Statement	Goal/Action	Comments
1	Household hazardous waste	Residents are unaware of common household wastes and how to dispose of them.	Goal: Educate residents about household hazardous waste and disposal. Actions: j. Provide an education program on household hazardous waste and where to dispose of such wastes. k. Identify existing disposal options. l. Identify options to using products that become household hazardous waste. m. Establish a "Free Use" online site to exchange over purchased products like fertilizer or wood stain. Goal: Establish an annual household hazardous waste collection day. Actions: d. List potential private industry partners who could help host a collection day. e. Investigate how other nearby parishes have accomplished this task. f. Coordinate a collection day.	
2	Landfill space	There is a lack of available landfill space for parish waste.	Goal: Reduce landfill waste. Actions: b. Investigate possible parish-wide recycling options (delivery site or curbside collection). c. Look into existing education programs that focus on the three R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and bring it to the schools. d. Implement EPA's "Waste Wise" program intended for businesses and government. e. Implement EPA's "Green Scapes" program which involves composting.	
3	Abandoned and/or blighted contaminated property	Some abandoned and/or blighted properties are Brownfields.	Goal: Reduce the number of Brownfield sites in the Parish.	

#	Issue/Need	Problem Statement	Goal/Action	Comments
			Actions: b. Conduct a Brownfields inventory. c. Research Brownfield property ownership. d. Conduct Brownfields education workshops for property owners and other interested groups and individuals. e. Apply for EPA Brownfields assessment and revolving loan funding to begin remediation and redevelopment process.	
4	Industrial land use encroaching on residential land use	No defined buffer zones surrounding industry.	Goal: Establish clearly defined buffer zones between conflicting land uses. Actions:	
5	High energy costs	High energy costs are impacting citizen economic welfare.	Goal: Increase energy efficiency. Actions: a. Implement the EPA's "ENERGY STAR Program" and benefit from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' "home Energy Rebate Option" (HERO) program. b. In rebuilding situations, design for the climate following guidelines such as those found in the LSU AgCenter's resource, *Building Your Louisiana House: Homeowner's Guide to Shaping the Future for Louisiana Living.*	
6	Rebuilding opportunities	People rebuilding homes and businesses are unaware of sustainable building practices.	Goal: Educate residents and business owners about sustainable rebuilding options and related tax relief. a. Implement EPA's "Green Building Programs." b. Utilize LSU AgCenter's resource, *Building Your Louisiana House: Homeowner's Guide to Shaping the Future for Louisiana Living.*	

St. Bernard Parish Government | Environmental Protection Agency

CARE Public Meeting

Chalmette High School
May 31, 2008

Sign In Sheet

	#	Name	Organization	Mailing Address	Best Way to Contact You (phone and/or email)
P	1	Cidney Webster	NPS Jean Lafitte	419 Decatur NO 70130	Cidney_Webster@nps.gov
E	2	David Rivera	E2 clean air	76108 Hwy 1081 Covington LA 70435	~~DRivera@~~ DRivera5363@yahoo.com
E	3	Mike Algero	LDEQ	201 Evans Road Bldg. 4 Suite 420 N.O., LA 70123	mike.algero@la.gov
E	4	Kurt Wilson	LDEQ	201 Evans Rd. Bldg. 4 Ste 420 N.O., LA, 70123	kurt.wilson@la.gov
R	5	TAMMY BUUCK	RESIDENT		
E	6	PATRICK KELLY	EPA	1445 ROSS 75202 AVE DALLAS, TX	(214) 665-2316
R	7	Mr & Mrs. Jos. Gaitter	HOMEOWNER	39 PAMELA PL ARABI, LA 70032	
R	8	~~J~~ Kathryn Beasley	Teacher	615 ORION AVE Metairie, LA 70005	Kathryn.Beasley@gmail.com

5-31-08

CARE for St. Bernard | May 31, 2008

Present (X)	Last Name	First Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Email
	Arceneaux	Dan	2712 Tournefort St.	Chalmette	70043	271-5448	
	Banks, Jr.	Robert	8317 Patricia St.	Chalmette	70043	504-279-5383	
	Barbe	Dianna	3413 Bradbury St.	Meraux	70075	504-277-6022	
	Boudousqui	Joyce	1900 Schnell Dr.	Arabi	70032		
	Brown	Karen	2537 Judy Dr.	Meraux	70075	504-277-2365	
	Buuck	Tammy	2101 Aramis Dr.	Meraux	77075	504-214-1156	
	Carroll	Henry	P.O. Box 1262	Meraux	70075	504-279-5658	
X	Delaney	Linda	304 Parish Dr.	Arabi	70032	427-3608 504-271-4809	ladelaney@hotmail.com
	Flaherty	Abbey	3824 Lyndell Dr.	Chalmette	70043		abbeyf@thegatheringcc.com
	Ford	Kenneth	P.O. Box 776	Chalmette	70043	504-710-1855	
	Gidia	Phil	1332 Bayou Rd.	St. Bernard	70085		pgioia@stes.com
X	Gioia	Jennifer	2909 Golden Dr.	Chalmette	70043	504-228-9180	jlgioia88@yahoo.com
X	Gioia	Rosemary	2909 Golden Dr.	Chalmette	70043	504-309-7990	rgioiaaj@yahoo.com
	Gonzalez	Robin	8317 Patricia	Chalmette	70043	504-218-7050	
	Graves, Sr.	Jerry	P.O. Box 1331	Chalmette	70044	504-628-5031	jgraves@stbernardport.com
	Harrison	Tom	52 Old Hickory	Chalmette	77043		
	Hills	Dorothy	2131 Allo Mumphrey	Violet	70092		dshnotary@yahoo.com
	Johnson	Shauna	3404 Plaza Dr.	Chalmette	77043		shaunaj@thegatheringcc.com
	Kliger	Ella	126 Evergreen Dr.	D'Iberville	39540	857-753-7254	ellakliger@yahoo.com
X	Lewis	Alberta	648 Mehle	Arabi	70032	504-494-9350	
	Manuel	Barbara	P.O. Box 1784	Violet	70092	504-858-1553	
	Medina	Michelle	8308 Patricia St.	Chalmette	70043	504-250-5331	
	Melerine	Karen	2032 Landry Ct.	Meraux	70075	225-803-2839	krmelerine@winkinc.com

CARE for St. Bernard May 31, 2008

Present (X)	Last Name	First Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Email
	Melerine	Randy	2032 Landry Ct.	Meraux	70075	225-803-2838	
	Meyaski	Grenes	2212 Francis St.	Violet	70092	504-271-1272	grenesmeyaski@bellsouth.net
	Patnood	Daniel	2500 East St. Bernard Hwy	Meraux	70075-2427	504-278-5320	
	Resident	Resident	1708 Schnell	Arabi	70032		
	Resident	Resident	8316 Patricia	Chalmette	70043	504-610-1183	
	Ricord	Charles and Cynthia	3316 Mumphrey	Chalmette	70043	504-278-1777	ricordtrucking@bellsouth.net
X	Ruiz	Debbie	1869 Sugarmill	St. Bernard	70085	504-228-0341	

Meeting 3: Setting Issues to Goals

May 31, 2008

Chalmette High School 1100 E. Judge Perez, 2nd Floor Presentation Room

AGENDA

10:00 am Commence Meeting

I. Welcome by Jerry Graves, Parish Community Development Director (jgraves@sbpg.net, 504-278-4310

Overview of CARE Program

Today's Meeting Purpose, Process and Expectations

Acknowledgement of Focus Group Members

II. Water Quality

Water Quality Matrix presented by Heather Szapary, CARE for St. Bernard Project Coordinator representing Toxicological & Environmental Associates, Inc. (TEA) (hszapary@cox.net, 504-259-5331)

Nonpoint source pollution presented by Chris Piehler, Clean Waters Project Director, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) (Chris.Piehler@la.gov, 225-219-3609)

"GreenScapes" described by Patrick Kelly, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Coordinator (Kelly.Patrick@epamail.epa.gov, 214-665-7316)

Public Comment, Question and Answer – meeting participants may make written comments on issues, problems, goals and actions presented in the matrix and ask questions of Focus Group members and experts one-on-one.

III. Air Quality

Air Quality Matrix presented by Heather Szapary

"Clean Ports USA" and "Clean Construction USA" programs described by Patrick Kelly

Public Comment, Question and Answer

12:00 pm Lunch Provided

IV. Parish Recovery

Recovery Update, Jerry Graves

Recovery Matrix presented by Jerry Graves and Karen Fernandez, Planning Consultant in association with Heather Szapary and TEA

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day explained by Heather Szapary

"Green Building Programs" including "Design for the Environment" and "Energy Star" presented by Patrick Kelly

Next Steps and Public Comment, Question and Answer

1:00 pm Open House

This is an opportunity for the public to talk one-on-one with Focus Group members and CARE leaders and to continue to provide comments on water quality, air quality and recovery issues, problems, goals and actions.

2:00 pm Close of meeting

St. Bernard Parish and the Environmental Protection Agency

CARE

Meeting #3: Setting Issues and Goals
May 31, 2008
Chalmette High School

MINUTES

I. Commence

The meeting commenced at 10:15 with Heather Szapary, working with St. Bernard Parish and Toxicological & Environmental Associates, Inc. (TEA) as project manager introducing Jerry Graves, Parish Community Development Director. Mr. Graves welcomed the participants with an overview of the CARE program which commenced in the summer of 2006. Mr. Graves explained that this was the third in a series of meetings. The first two meetings focused on Issue Identification and today's meeting would focus on setting goals to the issues identified around three areas: (1) Water Quality, (2) Air Quality and (3) Recovery. Mr. Graves explained that three focus group sessions were held concentrating on the three areas since the last CARE meeting held in March. He then acknowledged and thanked the participants of the focus groups for their time and assistance in organizing the goals and actions that were to be presented to the general public at this meeting.

All in attendance introduced themselves. Twenty-one people attended of which eight were residents (three who had not attended previous meetings), one Chalmette Battle Field (National Park Service) representative, one Environmental Protection Agency representative and invited speaker, three Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) representatives (one invited as a speaker), one representative from a private air purifier company, three Americorps volunteers, two Parish staff members and two facilitators.

Mr. Graves then turned the meeting over to Ms. Szapary who explained all of the issues, goals and actions had been organized into matrices with the assistance of the focus group participants. She explained that each topic would be presented and then participants would then have the opportunity to review the matrices, ask questions and provide input for each topic.

II. Water Quality

Ms. Szapary gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Water Quality issues, problem statements, goals and actions organized in the matrix. Two invited guest speakers provided information on the Greenscapes Program and Nonpoint Source Pollution. The Power Point presentation may be viewed online at www.sbpg.net/care.

Mr. Patrick Kelly, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Coordinator (Kelly.Patrick@epamail.epa.gov) gave an overview of the Greenscapes Program of EPA (www.epa.gov/greenscapes/). He indicated that it is a voluntary program that assists residential homeowners with building and maintaining healthy soil by planting correctly for your site. Greenscapes is an important component of green building. He also said his department can provide educational workshops on various topics included in the Greenscapes program including integrated pest management and practicing natural lawn care.

Mr. Chris Piehler, Clean Waters Project Director (Chris.Piehler@la.gov) for the LDEQ, gave a Power Point presentation on Nonpoint Source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution is water pollution that does not come out of a pipe including rainfall run-off from various land use activities. Nonpoint source pollution causes over 60% of all water pollution which may come from agricultural activities, the use of fertilizers, and others. Different types of nonpoint source pollution include hydromodification which causes a change in the course of waterways. A question was asked, would the MRGO meet this definition? Has it caused impacts? Mr. Piehler explained that yes, because there is now salt water in a place that it shouldn't be. As a follow-up question, so when the MRGO is completely closed will this help eliminate that form of pollution? Mr. Piehler explained that if the Corps of Engineers does what they are supposed to do it is supposed to retard salt water intrusion.

Other types of nonpoint source pollution include resource extraction including oil and gas activities, septic tank and sewage leakage, urban runoff and construction activities including demolition debris.

A question was raised about the parish government's practice of spraying the edges of canals and ditches to kill grass which loosens the soil, what can be done to stop this practice? Mr. Piehler explained it does need citizen involvement in that residents can take over the maintenance in front of their property through cooperative agreements with local government.

Nonpoint source pollution prevention actions within communities include education, best management practices, community involvement encouraging individuals to do their part including recycling.

He also indicated that watershed coordinators are being established throughout the state. The contact person is Ms. Christy Rando 225-219-3601.

Participants had time to write comments associated with the water quality matrix. These comments follow:

Comment for all issues:
- Develop PSAs for all these issues to play on radio and local TV.

Issue #2: Decrease waste of potable water
- Consider how to encourage the re-use of grey water for irrigation, etc.

Issue #3: New drinking water treatment plant
- What's the timeline for this project?

Issue #6: Polluted stormwater:
- My concern is about rainwater on house debris from Katrina. How are these piles of debris being treated?
- There is a dire need for residents to clear storm drains of debris.

III. AIR QUALITY

Ms. Szapary gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Air Quality issues, problem statements, goals and actions organized in the matrix. The Power Point presentation may be viewed online at www.sbpg.net/care.

Mr. Kelly provided an overview of the National Clean Diesel Campaign (www.epa.gov/cleandiesel). This program is phasing in a low sulphur, cleaner fuel but it will take time for the program to be fully implemented. Currently it is voluntary. Refineries are experiencing difficulties with its use.

Mr. Kelly also provided an overview of the EPA's Clean Construction USA (www.epa.gov/cleandiesel) and Clean Ports USA (www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/ports.htm) programs. The Clean Ports program is encouraging port authorities and operators to utilize dockside power while at port as opposed to keeping their engines running. New ships can reduce their operating costs by utilizing electricity at the dock. Refineries have their own docking facilities. Ms. Szapary mentioned that the port is interested in dockside power where possible.

Regarding the reduction of greenhouse gases, Mr. Kelly recommended looking into electrifying natural gas company compressor stations. This would also save these companies money spent on using natural gas to power their compressors.

A resident mentioned that due to a recent zoning decision favoring Murphy Oil, residents have formed a Murphy Oil Zoning Group. This is in reference to the issue of homes located adjacent to industry.

Participants had time to write comments associated with the air quality matrix. These comments follow:

Issue #6: Air quality education for children and adults

- Very important! There's a lot of misinformation around. Partner with organizations that have a youth audience like the Park Service, youth service organizations, churches, etc.
- Start with this school [Chalmette High School]. There's a kid's display out front that says scientists say humans need to contribute MORE CO2 to the atmosphere.

IV. Recovery

Mr. Graves presented the PowerPoint presentation of the Recovery issues, problem statements, goals and actions organized in the matrix. He also provided information on the number of demolitions that have been occurring and the upcoming appeals process hearings. A discussion ensued concerning how long it might take to demolition properties and if St. Bernard Parish could utilize eminent domain. It was explained that while the local government does have eminent domain powers it is a lengthy and costly process. Mr. Graves also gave an update on the recently approved I-2 zoning for the Murphy buy-out program and explained it was necessary to accommodate parking for the testing facility. There was also a question about the $25 million for slab removal. It was mentioned that the slabs may be toxic due to past termite treatment using currently banned substances. The Power Point presentation may be viewed online at www.sbpg.net/care.

Mr. Kelly provided an overview of the EPA's Waste Wise program (www.epa.gov/wastewise) which is directed at reducing the types of plastic that are difficult to recycle including styro plastics and #6 plastics creating the greatest challenge because they are difficult to heat up and re-use. Cities that have adopted the program have seen 40% reduction in their waste stream.

Mr. Kelly also presented an overview of the ENERGY STAR program (http://energystar.gov). He indicated that approximately 20,000 homes in Louisiana are ENERGY STAR approved. ENERGY STAR products include lighting products, dishwashers, refrigerators, ceiling fans to name a few and are the foundation for reducing energy costs. Some households save up to $100 per month using ENERGY STAR products. The ENERGY STAR program is part of green buildings and all communities should look at adopting green codes. More information about Green Building Programs may be found online at www.epa.gov/greenbuilding.

Participants had time to write comments associated with the recovery matrix. These comments follow:

Issue #2 Landfill space and cost

- Parish-wide containers for specific products to be recycled.

Issue #3: Blighted and/or contaminated property

- Why tear down so many possible houses that can be rebuilt?
- Why is this [actions under Issue #3] not being encouraged and followed by St. Bernard government, i.e. recent Murphy Lab incident without a positive vote?

Issue #4: Industrial land use encroaching on residential land use

- Why is this [actions under Issue #4] not being encouraged and followed by St. Bernard government, i.e. the recent vote to allow Murphy expansion into a buffer zone?

Issue #5: Sustainable rebuilding

- When is the public going to be informed of the rebuilding options?

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15 PM.

Copies of the matrices and PowerPoint presentations can be found at www.sbpg.net/care.

The next CARE meeting will be held on Saturday, June 28, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Chalmette High School.

St. Bernard Parish Government | Environmental Protection Agency

CARE Public Meeting

Chalmette High School
June 28, 2008

Sign In Sheet

#	Name	Organization	Mailing Address	Best Way to Contact You (phone and/or email)
1	Mike Algero	LDEQ	201 Evans Blvd Suite 420 Bldg. 4 NOLA 70123	Mike.algero@la.gov
2	Chris Piehler	LDEQ	P.O. Box 4312 BR LA 70821	chris.piehler@la.gov
3	Toby Russo		3317 Lyndell	DRJJADMPY Ahoo.com drjjadm@yahoo.com
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

6-28-08

CARE for St. Bernard | June 28, 2008

Present (X)	Last Name	First Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Email
	Arceneaux	Dan	2712 Tournefort St.	Chalmette	70043	271-5448	
	Banks, Jr.	Robert	8317 Patricia St.	Chalmette	70043	504-279-5383	
	Barbe	Dianna	3413 Bradbury St.	Meraux	70075	504-277-6022	
	Beasley	Kathy	615 Orion Ave.	Metairie	70005		kathryn.beasley@gmail.com
	Boudousqui	Joyce	1900 Schnell Dr.	Arabi	70032		
	Brown	Karen	2537 Judy Dr.	Meraux	70075	504-277-2365	
✓	Buuck	Tammy	2101 Aramis Dr.	Meraux	77075	504-214-1156	
	Carroll	Henry	P.O. Box 1262	Meraux	70075	504-279-5658	
✓	Delaney	Linda	304 Parish Dr.	Arabi	70032	504-271-4809	ladelaney@hotmail.com
	Flaherty	Abbey	3824 Lyndell Dr.	Chalmette	70043		abbeyf@thegatheringcc.com
✓	Ford	Kenneth	P.O. Box 776	Chalmette	70043	504-710-1855	
	Gaitter	Jos	39 Pamela Pl.	Arabi	70032		
	Gidia	Phil	1332 Bayou Rd.	St. Bernard	70085		pgioia@stes.com
	Gioia	Jennifer	2909 Golden Dr.	Chalmette	70043	504-228-9180	jlgioia88@yahoo.com
✓	Gioia	Rosemary	2909 Golden Dr.	Chalmette	70043	504-309-7990	rgioiaaj@yahoo.com
	Gonzalez	Robin	8317 Patricia	Chalmette	70043	504-218-7050	
	Graves, Sr.	Jerry	P.O. Box 1331	Chalmette	70044	504-628-5031	jgraves@stbernardport.com
	Harrison	Tom	52 Old Hickory	Chalmette	77043		
	Hills	Dorothy	2131 Allo Mumphrey	Violet	70092		dshnotary@yahoo.com
	Johnson	Shauna	3404 Plaza Dr.	Chalmette	77043		shaunaj@thegatheringcc.com
	Kliger	Ella	126 Evergreen Dr.	D'Iberville	39540	857-753-7254	ellakliger@yahoo.com
✓	Lewis	Alberta	648 Mehle	Arabi	70032	504-494-9350	

CARE for St. Bernard

June 28, 2008

Present (X)	Last Name	First Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Email
	Manuel	Barbara	P.O. Box 1784	Violet	70092	504-858-1553	
	Medina	Michelle	8308 Patricia St.	Chalmette	70043	504-250-5331	
	Melerine	Karen	2032 Landry Ct.	Meraux	70075	225-803-2839	krmelerine@winkinc.com
	Melerine	Randy	2032 Landry Ct.	Meraux	70075	225-803-2838	
	Meyaski	Grenes	2212 Francis St.	Violet	70092	504-271-1272	grenesmeyaski@bellsouth.net
	Patnood	Daniel	2500 East St. Bernard Hwy	Meraux	70075-2427	504-278-5320	
	Resident	Resident	1708 Schnell	Arabi	70032		
	Resident	Resident	8316 Patricia	Chalmette	70043	504-610-1183	
	Ricord	Charles and Cynthia	3316 Mumphrey	Chalmette	70043	504-278-1777	ricordtrucking@bellsouth.net
X	Ruiz	Debbie	1869 Sugarmill	St. Bernard	70085	504-228-0341	uizcatd@aol.com
	Sherwood	Mike	1800 E. St. Bernard Hwy.	Chalmette	70043	504-660(or 9)-3994	
	Thompson	L.C.	4401 Olive Dr.	Meraux	70075	504-442-9261	
	Trogden	Adrianne	3824 Lyndell Dr.	Chalmette	70043		atrog1@hotmail.com
X	Webster	Cidney	8606 St. Bernard Hwy.	Chalmette	70043		cidney-webster@nps.gov
	Williams	Catherine	2412 Farmsite Rd.	Violet	70092	504-682-2755	will2412@aol.com
	Woodward	Andrea	2908 Veronica	Chalmette	70043		andrea@neworleansontheverge.com

Meeting 4: Prioritizing Issues

June 28, 2008

Chalmette High School 1100 E. Judge Perez, 2nd Floor Presentation Room

AGENDA

10:00 am Commence Meeting

I. Welcome by Jerry Graves, Parish Community Development Director (jgraves@sbpg.net, 504-278-4310)

Introductions

Overview of CARE Program

Today's Meeting Purpose, Process and Expectations

II. Water Quality

Review the Water Quality Matrix presented by Heather Szapary, CARE for St. Bernard Project Coordinator representing Toxicological & Environmental Associates, Inc. (TEA) (hszapary@cox.net, 504-259-5331)

III. Air Quality

Review Air Quality Matrix presented by Jerry Graves

IV. Parish Recovery

Review Recovery Matrix presented by Karen Fernandez, Planning Consultant in association with Heather Szapary and TEA

V. Prioritization Process

Participants will prioritize issues by voting for what is most important. The method will be explained. Participants may refer to experts and the CARE team about any questions or comments they may have before voting.

1:00 pm Close of meeting

St. Bernard Parish Government and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

CARE

Meeting #4: Prioritizing Issues
June 28, 2008
Chalmette High School

MINUTES

VI. Commence Meeting

The meeting commenced at 10:15 with a welcome from Jerry Graves, Parish Community Development Director. Mr. Graves began the Power Point presentation (available online at www.sbpg.net/care) first providing an overview of the CARE program, second, explaining the meeting purpose, process and expectations and the planning process thus far.

Mr. Graves then turned the meeting over to Heather Szapary, a consultant working with St. Bernard Parish Government and Toxicological & Environmental Associates, Inc. (TEA) as project manager. Ms. Szapary asked that all in attendance introduce themselves. Fifteen people attended of which seven were residents (one who had not attended previous meetings), one Chalmette Battle Field (National Park Service) representative, two Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) representatives for informational support, two Americorps volunteers, one Parish staff member/official and two facilitators.

Ms. Szapary explained that Water Quality, Air Quality and Recovery issues would be briefly reviewed and then participants would prioritize issues based on their views, information presented and additional information requested from LDEQ representatives. Prioritization will occur after each focus area is reviewed.

VII. Water Quality

Ms. Szapary continued with the PowerPoint presentation focusing on the nine Water Quality issues, problem statements, goals and actions organized into a table or matrix. This matrix is based on public and expert input from three previous public meetings and one focus group meeting. The Power Point presentation may be viewed online at www.sbpg.net/care.

A participant added an important aspect to drinking water issues. He stated that the water has become acidic indicating a low pH reading. A continual low pH will erode copper plumbing resulting in major plumbing repairs. Additionally, this means there is dissolved copper in the drinking water with the possibility of copper toxicity. Among other things, excess copper causes depression in the elderly. The Department of Health and Hospitals says it is possible to add a zinc compound that would protect the pipes, but it is not currently used in St. Bernard.

Participants noticed that issues #3 and #4 (for identification purposes only, not in order of importance) were directly related and should be combined for prioritization purposes. This was accomplished and prioritization occurred. Each participant was given eight sticky dots (the same as the number of issues to vote on) to place next to one, several or all issues printed on poster-sized paper and hanging on the walls. There was an even number of participants voting (7 residents and one National Park Service representative from the Chalmette Battle Field who has acted as an interested participant throughout the process, not as an expert or for informational support). An even number of participants created several ties between issues. One resident feared that prioritization will discount the issues that receive less votes. The CARE team assured participants that each issue is important and will not be eliminated. Prioritization is necessary to deal with immediate needs.

Results from the Water Quality prioritization process follow in order of importance:

1st – Polluted stormwater runoff (12 dots)
2nd – New drinking water treatment plant and staffing shortage at the plant (10 dots)
2nd – Outreach and education (10 dots)
3rd – Safe drinking water (9 dots)
3rd – Poor drainage, storm drains clogged (9 dots)
4th – Accountability (7 dots)
5th – Residential improper waste disposal into sewerage system (5 dots)
6th – Decrease waste of potable water (2 dots)

Discussion after the results occurred. A participant asked if we could make a motion that the CARE process believes that the drinking water facility is highly important and/or can the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) push this issue. A CARE facilitator responded that the CARE process highly supports enabling the public's voice. Hence, it will be up to residents to push this issue on a local level.

VIII. AIR QUALITY

Mr. Graves continued with the PowerPoint presentation focusing on the eight Air Quality issues organized into a table or matrix. This matrix is based on public and expert input from three previous public meetings and one focus group meeting. The Power Point presentation may be viewed online at www.sbpg.net/care.

Discussion occurred during the presentation. It was stated that Mobile (Chalmette Refining) conducts cooperative meetings as suggested in the matrix regarding accountability. They involve schools, government agencies, industries, sports clubs etc. However, Mobile chooses the participants and the meetings are not open to the public.

Regarding ozone problems, LDEQ contracts a private company to conduct ozone alerts throughout the state in each airshed. During one of the alerts, the test site behind Chalmette High School indicated a level of ozone over the regulated limit. A participant mentioned that there needs to be a Parish-wide alert. It was suggested that St. Bernard's Office of Emergency (OEP) Preparedness get the alert and distribute information to other offices that may impact the ozone levels further. This could halt activities including mowing which increase ozone. Mike Algero of LDEQ stated that he would be sure that the OEP is on the alert email list. He also stated that there is a statewide ozone committee devising a state plan and that St. Bernard Parish needs to be involved.

Mr. Graves met recently with Donald Poland to help revamp the zoning code which is referenced in the Air Quality and Recovery matrices as an action. There is a Murphy Oil buffer committee that formed after a buffer area was re-zoned to I-2 classification to allow a refinery related testing laboratory facility.

Mr. Graves also reported having a productive meeting with a school board staff member who strongly supports EPA voluntary programs and educational opportunities linked to CARE. It was mentioned that LDEQ's "Enviroschool" program offers insight into how the agency works and what it has to offer. This is also a way for local people to meet regional LDEQ staff.

The St. Bernard Parish Government website is undergoing improvements which will allow for more outreach opportunities.

Results from the Air Quality prioritization follow in order of importance:

1st – Homes located close to industrial emissions (15 dots)
2nd – Respiratory problems including asthma and allergies (14 dots)
3rd – Permitted emissions from industry: emissions of air pollution impact human health (12 dots)
4th – Air quality education for children and adults (6 dots)
5th – Regular interface with LDEQ enforcement (5 dots)
6th – Permitted emissions from industry: there is continued disconnect among industries, regulators and citizens regarding responsibility for maintaining good air quality (4 dots)
6th – Diesel emissions (not directly regulated) (4 dots)
6th – Greenhouse gas emissions including ozone (4 dots)

IX. Recovery

Karen Fernandez, Planning Consultant in association with Heather Szapary and TEA, covered the Recovery matrix of the Power Point presentation honing in on five issues. This matrix is based on public and expert input from three previous public meetings and one focus group meeting. The Power Point presentation may be viewed online at www.sbpg.net/care.

Throughout this presentation there was discussion. Mr. Graves provided an update on demolitions. He stated that the Parish is finished with Phase One – demolishing about 7,000 structures. Since June 2, 2008, the Parish has been conducting citizen-judged hearings for involuntary demolition issues. The vast majority of them are still going to be demolished. Ways to avoid demolition despite inactivity includes proving delayed Road Home and insurance funds and valid photographs illustrating some improvements. Properties belonging to owners who have no reasonable excuse for delayed improvements move to the beginning of the demolitions list. The Parish has an August 29, 2008 deadline with FEMA who until that date will cover the cost of demolition. However, it is likely that the Parish will get no more than a six month extension.

There was a question about addressing commercial properties that remain blighted such as the one at Jackson and St. Bernard Highway. The Parish cites them, but cannot force demolition. FEMA will not pay for commercial demolitions.

There was a question about how to file a complaint about blighted property. Mr. Graves said that people can call Resident Services at 278-4224. To check on the status of a specific address, Mr. Graves recommended stopping by the Community Development Office on the 2nd floor of the Government Complex. If the property has no demolition date there will instead be an appeal date.

Ms. Fernandez mentioned that solving zoning problems will include not only updating the code, but also the map.

Initial prioritization results were completely tied with eight dots next each of the five issues. Oral consensus was reached through discussion and confirmation by a raising of hands voting process. Results from the Recovery prioritization follow in order of importance:

1st – Blighted and/or contaminated property
2nd – Industrial land use encroaching on residential land use
3rd – Household hazardous waste
4th – Landfill space and cost
5th – Sustainable rebuilding

Regarding industrial land use encroachment, there was some discussion of Parish-acquired properties from the Road Home program becoming buffer zones where appropriate. There have apparently been some construction moratoriums in some subdivisions regarding this issue.

There were a couple announcements:

- Global Green will be presenting sustainable building practices at the community center. Alberta Lewis will send information to Ms. Szapary to distribute to the CARE email list.
- The National Park Service's Chalmette Battlefield park will be undergoing continual reconstruction and improvements. They will be working on the cemetery walls and a new visitor center. There is currently an Environmental Assessment report describing this proposed work for public review located online at www.nps.gov/JELA than go to Chalmette Battlefield.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 PM.

Copies of PowerPoint presentations can be found at www.sbpg.net/care.

The next CARE meeting will be held on **Saturday, July 26, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM** at Chalmette High School.

St. Bernard Parish Government — Environmental Protection Agency

CARE Public Meeting

Chalmette High School
July 26, 2008

Sign In Sheet

#	Name	Organization	Mailing Address	Best Way to Contact You (phone and/or email)
1	BUSTER LYONS		5021 YORK ST METAIRIE, LA 70001	504-920-9059 busterlyons@cox.net
2	William Methvin		2800 Debouchel Mereaux Lc 70075	279-5144
3	Chris Pichler			
4	WAYNE DUCHMANN		2224 Jacob Dr Chalmette	(504) 610-8320 Mapay oil spill@aol.com
5			SBP Resident	
6			SBP Resident	
7	Sue Ellen Lyons	Holy Cross HS.		
8	Jerry Graves			

7-26-08

CARE for St. Bernard

7-26-08

Present (X)	Last Name	First Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Email
	Arceneaux	Dan	2712 Tournefort St.	Chalmette	70043	271-5448	
	Banks, Jr.	Robert	8317 Patricia St.	Chalmette	70043	504-279-5383	
	Barbe	Dianna	3413 Bradbury St.	Meraux	70075	504-277-6022	
	Beasley	Kathy	615 Orion Ave.	Metairie	70005		kathryn.beasley@gmail.com
	Boudousqui	Joyce	1900 Schnell Dr.	Arabi	70032		
	Brown	Karen	2537 Judy Dr.	Meraux	70075	504-277-2365	
✓	Buuck	Tammy	2101 Aramis Dr.	Meraux	77075	504-214-1156	KBUUCK1@COX.NET (NEW)
	Carroll	Henry	P.O. Box 1262	Meraux	70075	504-279-5658	
✓	Delaney	Linda	304 Parish Dr.	Arabi	70032	504-271-4809	ladelaney@hotmail.com
	Flaherty	Abbey	3824 Lyndell Dr.	Chalmette	70043		abbeyf@thegatheringcc.com
✓	Ford	Kenneth	P.O. Box 776	Chalmette	70043	504-710-1855	
	Gaitter	Jos	39 Pamela Pl.	Arabi	70032		
	Gidia	Phil	1332 Bayou Rd.	St. Bernard	70085		pgioia@stes.com
	Gioia	Jennifer	2909 Golden Dr.	Chalmette	70043	504-228-9180	jlgioia88@yahoo.com
✓	Gioia	Rosemary	2909 Golden Dr.	Chalmette	70043	504-309-7990	rgioiaaj@yahoo.com
	Gonzalez	Robin	8317 Patricia	Chalmette	70043	504-218-7050	
	Graves, Sr.	Jerry	P.O. Box 1331	Chalmette	70044	504-628-5031	jgraves@stbernardport.com
	Harrison	Tom	52 Old Hickory	Chalmette	77043		
	Hills	Dorothy	2131 Allo Mumphrey	Violet	70092		dshnotary@yahoo.com
	Johnson	Shauna	3404 Plaza Dr.	Chalmette	77043		shaunaj@thegatheringcc.com
	Kliger	Ella	126 Evergreen Dr.	D'Iberville	39540	857-753-7254	ellakliger@yahoo.com
✓	Lewis	Alberta	648 Mehle	Arabi	70032	504-494-9350	

CARE for St. Bernard

Meeting 5: Draft Pollution Reduction Plan

July 26, 2008

Chalmette High School 1100 E. Judge Perez, 2nd Floor Presentation Room

AGENDA

10:00 am Commence Meeting

I. Welcome by Jerry Graves, Parish Community Development Director

Overview of CARE Program

Today's Meeting Purpose, Process and Expectations

II. Opening remarks from St. Bernard Parish President, Craig Taffaro

III. Guest speaker Sue Ellen Lyons, award winning Holy Cross High School teacher, introduced by Mike Bayham, St. Bernard Parish Government Grant Writer

IV. Draft *Pollution Reduction Plan* overview presented by the CARE for St. Bernard team.

V. Open house

Participants spend time reviewing recommendations, making written comments and asking focus group members, CARE team members and government experts questions about the plan

1:00 pm Close of meeting

St. Bernard Parish Government and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

CARE

Meeting #5: DRAFT Pollution Reduction Plan
July 26, 2008
Chalmette High School

MINUTES

XI. Commence Meeting

The meeting commenced at 10:15 with a welcome from Jerry Graves, Parish Community Development Director. Mr. Graves began the Power Point presentation (available online at www.sbpg.net/care) first providing an overview of the CARE program, second, explaining the meeting purpose, process and expectations and the planning process thus far. Mr. Graves asked all in attendance to introduce themselves. Nineteen people attended of which ten were residents (five who had not attended previous meetings, two who did not leave their contact information), one guest speaker who teaches environmental education to children and adults and lived in St. Bernard Parish before Hurricane Katrina, one Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) representative for informational support, three Americorps volunteers, two Parish staff members/officials and two facilitators.

Mr. Graves then turned the meeting over to Mike Bayham, St. Bernard Parish Government Grant Writer to introduce the guest speaker, Sue Ellen Lyons. She was his high school teacher at Holy Cross High School and inspirational to many who serve St. Bernard Parish Government.

Sue Ellen Lyons, Holy Cross High School teacher since 1978 and adjunct professor at Herzing College, provided a Power Point presentation explaining why we should care about the environment. She listed three overarching reasons:

- Everything is connected to something else.
- There's no such thing as a free lunch.
- Mother Nature bats last.

Ms. Lyons further explained that we should currently care because our bodies and our world are impacted from the cradle to the grave. We should care because how we act now is based on our previous experiences in nature. We need to care for the environment by managing and

protecting it. We did not do this for our coastal wetlands. Caring is for everyone: oneself, students, and family. We need to inform people about how to care for the environment in order for them to make decisions and participate in political and civic activities.

Ms. Lyons provided a framework of earth ecology by describing the atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere and the cryosphere. We have an impact on all of these parts of the earth which in turn affect the quality of our water, air and soil.

Ms. Lyons believes that the most important environmental issues to address in St. Bernard Parish are:

- Closing the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet;
- Restoring the coastal lines of defense starting with barrier islands;
- Having clean drinking water;
- Having improved air quality;
- Reducing runoff and litter; and
- Educating others about environmental problems.

Regarding air quality, Ms. Lyons grew up in St. Bernard Parish where her father helped build the Kaiser chemical plant. Her father, along with everyone else he worked with at the plant died of a respiratory disease.

We want people to act on their environmental awareness, but how do we do that? There are three phases to this process: Knowledge, Appreciation and Stewardship. Who can we bring through this process? Individuals, civic groups and students are willing participants. School projects that could be incorporated in St. Bernard schools are Coastal Roots, Fundred Project, Project FUR, Go MAD for the Coast and Wetland Watchers. The Coastal Roots program involves growing wetland plants for coastal planting projects. The Fundred Project allows students to design their own $100 bill based on rebuilding the coast. There are collection centers who help provide gallons of used cooking oil to power armored trucks. These alternative fuel trucks deliver the fundreds to Congress in Washington D.C. Ms. Lyons started Project FUR (Fighting Urban Runoff) at Holy Cross High School where they recycled used motor oil and provided presentations on the effects of urban runoff. Now they are concentrating on Go MAD (Make a Difference) for the Coast. Wetland Watchers has been successfully implemented on behalf of the LaBranche wetlands in St. Charles Parish. The contact there is Barry Guillot of Harry Hurst Middle School.

Ms. Lyons wants to stay in the loop on the CARE program and will help the parish implement the Fundred Project.

Heather Szapary, a consultant working with St. Bernard Parish Government and Toxicological & Environmental Associates, Inc. (TEA), reiterated the process of the meeting to review the draft plan, receive comments and move forward to finalizing the plan.

A participant wanted to know if Sue Ellen Lyons' presentation could be made available and if she could present it to the Parish Council. Ms. Szapary responded that she would look into the idea.

Ms. Szapary and Karen Fernandez, planning consultant in association with TEA presented the Power Point covering an outline of the DRAFT Pollution Reduction Plan. The Recommended Actions section was the focus of the review, but the entire framework was presented. The Power Point is available online at www.sbpg.net/care. There were several comments throughout the presentation which follow.

Participant Comment: We need to consider hospital needs here. There are hundreds of chemical plant workers who have to travel pretty far to get medical attention, because there are no hospitals in the Parish.
Mr. Graves Response: We need to address quality of care as well.
Ms. Szapary Response: Although an important issue for the Parish, this problem cannot be addressed by the CARE program.

Participant Comment: The Water Treatment Plant is not secure.

LDEQ Representative Comment: Regarding the gas chromatograph, the Parish Council could send a letter to the LDEQ Secretary requesting reestablishment of this apparatus at the water plant. He also mentioned that the CARE process could provide citizen support for the St. Bernard Parish and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans wetlands treatment project.

Participant Comment: There is arsenic left in the ground from past contamination.

Participant Comment: There should be an air quality monitoring station in Arabi. There is a problem with an incinerator in the area.

Participant Comment: When I have a complaint, there is no response from the LDEQ hotline.
LDEQ Representative and Participant Response: That is not true.
Follow up: LDEQ Customer Service Center 225-219-LDEQ (5337) or Toll Free 1-866-896-LDEQ (5337) call between 8am and 4:30pm. Specific hotline numbers are located online at http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=82. Emergencies should first be reported to local and/or state police.

Participant Comment: You have not mentioned the coke plant in St. Bernard Parish.
Follow up: CII Carbon, LLC operates a coke calcining facility in Chalmette. Green petroleum coke is fed into a countercurrent natural gas fired rotary kiln, where residual moisture and volatile compounds are removed. Calcined coke is discharged from the kiln into a rotary cooler where it is treated with a chemical wetting agent for dust control. The almost pure carbon product is stored and then loaded into ships or barges for distribution to commercial markets.

Participant Comment: Find out more background information about the Clean Air Challenge Program that might have once been funded by Exxon.
Follow up: The Clean Air Challenge was funded in Louisiana by Exxon. Louisiana was one of the first states participating in the original program. Claudia Fowler and Sue Ellen Lyons were sent to Houston to be trained as facilitators. The program was only funded in the state for about two years. It remains unclear why it was pulled, except that Exxon must have a "presence" in that state. Current sponsors are only in California, Colorado and Delaware.

Participant Comment: ExxonMobil must provide the community with money due to past environmental damages.
Participant Response: That started with a $1 million endowment and offers $50,000 per year for community projects.

Participant Comment: We need to reconstruct the entire water distribution infrastructure.
Mr. Graves Response: This will occur over time. It is happening right now in New Orleans as piece meal projects throughout the city.

There was a brief discussion about updating the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance regarding rental housing and permissive use permits.

Regarding implementation, participants voiced interest in continuing to meet as an oversight committee. They could work with Parish grant writers and the Community Development office to ensure action. There was discussion about the timing of the completed plan and applying for CARE II funding. It was estimated that the plan needs to be brought to the Parish Council by the first week of September. Participants want a one-page template for organizations and individuals to fill out and sign for support of the CARE plan. Also requested was a space ad in the *St. Bernard Voice*.

Ms. Szapary asked if a completed draft plan could be emailed or mailed to participants for review over a one week period. Participants were agreeable. Ms. Szapary stated that she would get them a draft plan by August 1st.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 pm.