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# Comite Resources, LLP

## Luling Use Attainability Analysis (UAA)

Project No: S000601

### **Progress Report # 1**

**To:**

**Steven M. Fall, P.E., Director  
Department of Public Works / Wastewater  
St. Charles Parish  
Luling, LA**

**Prepared by:**

**Dr. John W. Day, Jr.  
Joel L. Lindsey  
Jason N. Day**

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# Luling UAA Progress Report

*December 2000 – January, 2001*

*Ten- percent of the tasks are complete and the project is on schedule.*

Work during this period primarily included: coordination with Parish officials, preparing of critical path analysis (project schedule), creation of management plan, site visits and selection of control and treatment sites.

## Coordination with St. Charles Parish Officials

On December 18, 2000 Mr. Joel Lindsey, Comite Resources (CR), and Dr. Steve Faulkner, Louisiana State University (LSU), met with Mr. Sammy Accardo, Assistant Public Works Director, St. Charles Parish, Mr. Rob Martin, Hartman Engineering, Ms. Dawn Higdon, St. Charles Parish, Legal Department at the St. Charles Parish, Department of Public Works Luling offices.



*Dawn Higdon & Sammy Accardo*

Mr. Martin reviewed St. Charles Parish's wastewater plan. The Ama plant discharge will be rerouted to Luling Pond. The Hahnville facility located on Hwy

3160 will also undergo changes. Luling Pond in summer months has an ammonia and alga problem. The discharge is passed through sand filters.

### Progress Reports

Progress reports and invoices should go to Steve Fall with copies to Sammy Accardo, Earl Matherne, and Matthew Morelan. On any communication from CR to the Parish each contact should receive copies. Robert Martin will talk to Steve Fall about carving out a more specific roll for Matherne. Martin said the Parish realized field investigation would not begin until the end of January 2001. Mr. Martin announced he is leaving Hartman Engineering, January 26, 2001 and Matthew A. Morelan will assume his role.

### **Landowner Awareness**

Servitude for site: Martin stated the Parish wanted to make sure property owners give permission to access their land. The parish is keenly aware of the need for a servitude for the site. There are plenty of wetlands. CR met with in 1998 Mr. Greg Leir, Rathborn Land Co. manager. Mr. Leir was informed of the project benefits, goals and land use needs; he was positive about the project. CR will coordinate a meeting in the near future with Mr. Leir to begin discussions about these issues.

On December 19, 2000 Mr. Lindsey faxed Ms Higdon maps showing the potential wetland area to be used for the treatment area. Ms Higdon requested the maps to assist in the determining the landowners.

### **Informing the Council**

Mr. Martin stated at some point the Parish would like CR to brief the Construction and Management Committee of the Parish in February or March. Many of the councilmen are intrigued by this project, but they do not understand the project. They understand it is worthwhile but they really do not understand how the project will work. We want a forum that allows for more discussion and questions.

Mr. Lindsey pointed out it is important from CR standpoint, not only educating the committee and Parish, we see that this as an educational opportunity for graduate students writing theses and scientific reports. Other parishes and cities have accepted into the idea that they are not only doing something important locally, but from a scientific standpoint, we are building a database. That is one of the reasons LSU and CR are excited about the project, we are

doing these all over the state and we are building a unique database, specific to each wetland. This will be used over a period of years.

### **Educational Opportunities**

Mr. Martin said the Parish was very happy about the project. Let's keep education in mind. Is there a possible role for high schools, this is a long-term project. After this phase, there is the project phase, construction phase and then long-term monitoring. So somebody, whether its CR, LSU or someone else is going to be involved with the parish for a long time. And it is important to understand what is needed and why this is important. Fortunately the dollars do work out well; it is the most economical route to go.

### **Boardwalks and Litter Boxes Construction**

Mr. Lindsey described the boardwalks and litter boxes, which are a parish responsibility. CR wants input on this. Thibodaux is a prime example. They have had more people come to view the site; truckloads of people have visited the site. These visitors are interested in the scientific issues and many are interested in the educational aspects of the project. You can get to their site fairly easily, now they are going to put in a boardwalk so visitors can view the site beyond the levee and raceways.

Amelia's boardwalk is very simple and economical. CR recommends the Parish think about public access to the site, so if you want the educational component you may want to have a more substantial boardwalk in one part of the site. Several boardwalks are necessary. This is a parish responsibility. In addition litter boxes are required for the project. The Parish is

responsible for supplying the boxes. CR will install the litter boxes. Mr. Accardo stated building the boardwalks and litter boxes is not a problem. The parish will need a schematic for the

construction of the litter boxes and the boardwalks. In a subsequent meeting, CR agreed to buy the materials for the litter boxes and submit the bill to the Parish.

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### Access to Project Site

Mr. Accardo provided CR gate keys to Luling Pond and safety instructions for the site. Tommy Troxler, 504-783-5100, directed Mr. Lindsey and Dr. Faulkner to the site and gave a brief orientation on the operation and history of the facility. Entrance to the site is from Barton across Hwy 90 on to Lakewood Dr. turn right on West Heather Dr. and turn left on George Cousin Rd. adjacent to Cousins Canal.



*Dr. Steve Faulkner & Tommy Troxler*

Oscar Williams has been the plant operator for 17 years and Kenneth Hogan is plant operator. The pond covers 60 acres.

Mr. Lindsey and Dr. Faulkner, explored the pond, adjacent wetland areas and roads to the east and west of the pond. They took digital photos and geographical (GPS) coordinates of possible test sites and location for boardwalks. The site is well situated for setting

up scientific tests. A potential control area was identified northeast of the pond. Roads to the east provide access and possible location for boardwalks and litter boxes.



*Luling Pond pump station*



*Dr. Steve Faulkner examines wetland area*

On December 19, 2000, Mr. Lindsey telephoned Ms. Dawn Higdon about landowner maps and draft agreement for landowners. She received faxed copies of the potential wetland area and the draft landowner agreement. She will begin work to determine the landowners of the wetlands identified by CR. (see map)

### Organizational Plan

At the December 18 meeting CR presented a draft management plan for review. Mr. Accardo and Mr.

Martin suggested a few changes. Mr. Matherne was added to the chart. (see organizational chart)

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### **Site Visit January 24, 2001**

Dr. John Day, Dr. Steve Faulkner and Joel Lindsey met with project representatives of St. Charles Parish at the Luling Department of Public Works office. Attendees included Mr. Accardo, Mr. Earl Matherne, St. Charles Parish Coastal Zone Management, Mr. Butch Clay, St. Charles Parish Waste Water, Ms Dawn Higdon, and Mr. Matthew Morelan, Hartman Engineering. The purpose of the meeting was to brief hunters on the goals and objectives of the wastewater assimilation project. Mr. Brian Fabre, Councilman St. Charles Parish, intended to attend the meeting, but was not able to come.

construct the litterboxes. Mr. Accardo said the Parish would pay the cost of materials. Mr. Faulkner ordered the material for 60 boxes.

Mr. Matherne is aware of lumber that could be used in construction of the boardwalks. Matherne will see about securing the lumber used in the Boncarrie Spillway.



*Earl Matherne*



### **Boardwalk and Litterboxes**

Mr. Faulkner showed the prototype litterbox constructed of plastic. CR and LSU will purchase and

### **Landowner Issues**

Ms. Higdon is scheduled to meet with Ben Ourbe, real estate agent, on January 25, 2001 to determine the landowners of the potential wetland area.

### **Public Relations**

Steve Siermon, Public Relations Officer, St. Charles Parish maybe helpful in making the public aware of the project and the benefits to citizens. Milton Cambre is very supportive of this project.

## Preparation of Critical Path and Management Plan

The critical path analysis (see project schedule) identifies primary task with subtask for each. Percent complete for each subtask is shown in the bar chart for each subtask. The revised critical path analysis is attached.

## Site Visits - Selection of Control and Treatment Areas

**December 18, 2000**

On December 18, 2000 Mr. Lindsey and Dr. Faulkner conducted a site visit of the Luling Pond area. The purpose was to locate possible areas for the control and treatment plot sites. Separate monitoring sites will be established. At each site, replicate stations will be established and for some sampling stations, replicate plots will be fixed. Temporal sampling regime and sample replication for flora, fauna, sediment, water and hydrologic variables will be documented in each section. Dr. Faulkner identified two possible treatment sites and one control site.

**January 24, 2001**

Dr. Day, Dr. Faulkner and Joel Lindsey visited the project site on January 24, 2001. The purpose of this visit was to finalize identification of control and treatment plot areas. Mr. Mickey Schmell, 504-785-2504, a local hunter, met with the project team members on the site. Mr. Schmell and his brother Kenny Schmell, are very familiar with the wetlands around the Luling Pond. They also know other hunters in the area.



*Mickey Schmell, Dr. John Day  
& Dr. Steve Faulkner*

Dr. Day explained the project goals. He pointed out project team members would be in the field setting out litter boxes and collecting samples during the next twelve months. He described the goal of the project was to improve water quality, enhance wetland and reduce wastewater treatment cost. Mr. Schmell described the land and indicated he felt the other hunters would cooperate.