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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

PRESS RELEASE

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Lafourche Parish Commemorates the Deepwater Horizon Tragedy with the First Meeting of the *Lafourche Energy Council*

Today, on the one-year anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon explosion, Lafourche Parish Government held the first meeting of the newly formed *Lafourche Energy Council* aimed at improving emergency response at all levels in the case of any future disaster. Lafourche Parish President Charlotte Randolph, joined by other parish government officials, met with U.S. Congressman Jeff Landry as well as representatives from the oil industry, the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, the City of Thibodaux, the Town of Golden Meadow, the Lafourche Chamber of Commerce, the Gulf Economic Survival Team, Senator Mary Landrieu's Office, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Restore or Retreat, Nicholls State University and all three parish high schools. The council met for this first scheduled meeting at the Greater Lafourche Port Commission Administrative Office where several council members gave updates and led discussions before holding a general roundtable discussion.

"The main purpose of the formation of this council was to start a dialogue between our local emergency personnel from all agencies and private oil companies to share as much knowledge as possible so that everyone is more prepared for any similar disaster in the future," said President Randolph. "Through this council, everyone will have a better understanding of each agency's role in any disaster, and private industries will help educate the agencies on what their companies are doing in the Gulf, helping us all to work together more efficiently."

Among the presenters to the council were U.S. Congressman Jeff Landry and Wes Kungel from Senator Landrieu's office, who presented an update on the national scope of the oil spill and what to expect in the coming months from the federal government. Additionally, Mark Kosiarra, a representative of Shell Oil, addressed the council showing where Shell is working in the Gulf of Mexico and described new ways they are addressing oil containment in the event of a spill.

Lafourche Parish Director of Emergency Preparedness Chris Boudreaux addressed the council on lessons learned through the oil spill and new techniques for crisis management.

"While Lafourche Parish is prepared for *any* emergency, we also learn from every experience as a way to improve our response in the future," said Boudreaux. "We obtained a lot of knowledge this summer, and now our office will work to transfer that knowledge into our hazard plans to ensure that knowledge is retained locally."

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ABOVE: Parish President Charlotte Randolph addresses members of the Lafourche Energy Council.



ABOVE: Congressman Jeff Landry & Wes Kungel (Rep. from Senator Mary Landrieu's office) address the Lafourche Energy Council.



ABOVE: Parish President Charlotte Randolph, Congressman Jeff Landry & Wes Kungel (Rep. from Senator Mary Landrieu's office) lead a discussion of the Lafourche Energy Council.



ABOVE: Mark Kosiara, a representative of Shell Oil, gives a presentation to the Lafourche Energy Council.