

Louisiana

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

JENNIFER COLLINS MAY 28, 2021 04:35PM

Big Wins

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 09, 2021 12:25PM

- We were able to maintain communications with our staff by conducting virtual meetings in regional offices around the state.
- Due to large number of calls, we were able to provide links to funding resources on our website to assist small businesses seeking grants and loans.
- Our Southwest Regional office was closed due to damage received during two back-to-back hurricanes. Small Business Assistance staff in that office had to evacuate but eventually were able to return home and the office was able to reopen.

Challenges

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 09, 2021 12:25PM

- With the retirement of two employees, we are currently sharing coverage of two regions that have no Small Business Assistance staff. Hopefully, we will be able to fill those vacancies soon.

Oh no!! Good luck with that! — ANONYMOUS

2021 / 2022 Excitement & Priorities

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 08, 2021 05:54PM

We are excited to be able to finally start doing some outreach with small businesses, especially for our water permittees and NetDMRs clients. Many of our clients have issues with technology and due to COVID, our normal face-to-face meetings were non-existent. We are now starting to have those meetings and getting our small mom & pop operations back in compliance.

Another priority for us will be working with the Seafood Processors workgroup including stakeholders from other agencies. Our goal is to come up with solutions that will enable our small businesses to come into compliance with permit limits and remain in compliance.

Help Wanted

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 08, 2021 05:55PM

It would be great to get input from other states that have seafood industries and solicit ideas on BMPs, process changes or other mechanisms. How are these industries maintaining compliance with these parameters? What are some possible solutions that might be beneficial to our industries as they struggle with permit limits?

Structure and Stats (Where are you housed? and How many Full Time Equivalent (FTEs)?)

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 09, 2021 12:26PM

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Secretary houses the Outreach and Small Business Assistance Program. The program currently has a manager and eight FTEs. Small Business Assistance staff are located in 6 Regional offices throughout the state.
