

319 program:

This voluntary conservation program provides technical and financial assistance to landowners in impaired watersheds including the Vermilion River. Conservation practices for rice land include irrigation land leveling, grade stabilization structures, residue and tillage management (direct/drill seeding), conservation crop rotation, irrigation water management, and nutrient management. Sugarcane conservation practices are precision land forming, grade stabilization structures, cover crops, field borders, residue and tillage management (row sweeping and direct/drill seeding), and nutrient management. Pastureland practices will include access control, stream crossings, prescribed grazing (rotational grazing), forage and biomass planting, critical area planting, and residue and tillage management. Implementation of these specific conservation practices for rice, sugarcane, and cattle will reduce the runoff of sediments, nutrients and bacteria from fields, and improve water quality.

Sewer pump-out program:

The objective is to provide funds for home septic system pump outs in the Vermilion River watershed to address the fecal coliform bacteria impairment as listed on the 2018 Integrated Report. Homeowners within the designated area can apply for and receive free pump outs of individual on-site sewer systems. This will be in conjunction with current projects to address water quality, by implementing conservation practices on private agricultural farmland through the Clean Water Act 319 program. The anticipated outcome will be the improvement in water quality by decreasing fecal coliform bacteria in surface water and possible delisting of the watershed from the 2018 Integrated Report. LDEQ surface water quality monitoring is being conducted throughout the watersheds.