Well-oiled plans

State and federal natural resources officials will hold a public hearing Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m in the Jefferson Parish Council chambers, 1221 Elmwood Parkway, to get public comments on the development of the first statewide plan designed to assist in restoring areas damaged by oil spills. Karolien Debusschere, a spokeswoman for the state oil spill coordinator’s office, said the meeting is one of six to be held around the state to get comments on the plan, known as the Regional Restoration Planning Program. The goal of the program is to make a federal process more efficient in receiving damages from parties responsible for oil spills. The state plan will identify potential restoration projects and the criteria for selecting the appropriate sites needing restoration, Debusschere said. She said requests for copies of the state plan and comments must be made by Aug. 20. Requests for the plan and comments can be made to her at the Office of the Oil Spill Coordinator, 625 N. Fourth St., Suite 800, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, or by e-mail to kdebusschere@losco.state.la.us.