The question of introducing more water into the Atchafalaya River Basin during drought periods was the topic of a meeting of representatives of 11 Southwest Louisiana parishes yesterday in Crowley. Attending from St. Landry Parish were state Rep. Steven Dupuis, County Agent A.K. Smith, Police Juror Addie Ryder of Port Barre and A.J. DaGain of the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Most interesting development at the meeting, according to Dupuis, was a report on a comprehensive study of water diversion from the Atchafalaya into the Teche-Vermilion-Mermentau basins, given by Hu B. Myers, chief engineer for the Louisiana Department of Public Works.

The gathering endorsed the proposal, as did a representative from the New Orleans District, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Stephen Behr, a hydraulics engineer.

Water in the Teche-Vermilion-Mermentau basins is badly needed during dry periods, Dupuis stated, to supply industry and crop irrigation and to prevent stream pollution and salt water intrusion from the Gulf of Mexico.

Myers outlined the new study, which supplants an earlier plan to dredge an outfall canal from the end of the present "Grimmett" Canal, below the Courtableau floodgates in the levee of the West Atchafalaya Floodway, to the Atchafalaya River. This plan had called for the installation of a pumping station in the floodway levee at Courtableau.

The Department of Public Works, supported by the U.S.C.E., agreed that the most feasible means of introducing more water into the Teche-Vermilion-Mermentau basins is to install a pumping station north of Krotz.

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