

Between Editions

Local, state and federal government representatives study the Ouachita River, Sparta Aquifer

Posted on [April 23, 2012](#) by Allison Gatlin, *El Dorado News Times* Blog

Additional photos at: www.eldoradonews.com/Blog/2012/04/23/local-state-and-federal-government-representatives-study-the-ouachita-river-sparta-aquifer/

Representatives of U.S. Sen. John Boozman's office and State Rep. Matthew Shepherd hopped on Union County Sheriff's Office search and rescue boats today for a short trip to the Ouachita River intake, maintained by Union Power Partners and the Union County Water Conservation Board.



All still on board and flipping around to return to the river bank where thankfully no one fell in.

The field trip was part of an ongoing effort to educate the public to the former danger and recent revitalization surrounding the Sparta Aquifer which was pumped extensively by industrial users in the 1920s to the point that local economic developers believed it was beyond repair.

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The intake is maintained by Union Power Partners and the Union County Water Conservation Board.

Check out more photos and the full story in tomorrow's (April 24, 2012) News-Times. And in case anyone is wondering, yes, I nearly fell in. Twice.



State Rep. Matthew Shepherd listens as Union County Water Conservation Board President Rob Reynolds explains the history behind Union Power Partners' entry into Union County



Tom Burger, of Union Power Partners; Sherrel Johnson, of Union County Water Conservation Board; and Union County Judge Mike Loftin hold on as Union County Jail Administrator Capt. Richard Mitcham speeds off.