

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council (FWRMC)
Public Meeting (Webinar) of Salinity Network Workgroup – Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Attendees:

Agency	Name
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	Rick Copeland
DEP	Stephanie Sunderman
DEP	Lisa Van Houdt
DEP	Jay Silvanima
DEP - Florida Geological Survey (FGS)	Cindy Fischler
Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWMD)	Tony Countryman
St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)	Don Boniol
Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)	Dave DeWitt
SWFWMD	Granville Kinsman
South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)	Lucia Baldwin
USGS	Scott Prinos
South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)	Nicholas Vitani
Broward County	Francis Henderson
PBC Water Utilities	Thomas Uram
DEP	Katrina Sanders
PBC Water Utilities	Charles Pettit
Private	Alexandria Larson
Alachua County (Co.) Environmental Protection Department	Jim Myles

Welcome / Introductions / Review

Rick Copeland (RC) welcomed everyone to the Salinity Network Workgroup (SNW) meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Objectives of the Meeting-

- To evaluate what issues monitoring entities (NW, SR, SJ, SW, SF WMDs, and Alachua County) are having, (if any) with regard to “crunching” of Percentile Rankings
- To continue discussion of the status of the groundwater level percentile ranking index for the Salinity Network.

Discussion Outcomes:

- Comparing results of the percentile rankings (PRs statewide, using wells with different sampling frequencies, along with a broad range period of records, produce incongruent results. As an example presented at the last SNW meeting (6/19/2013), the random selection of a single sample in a month to develop percentile tanks can lead to differences of 50 percent or more.
- Publishing statewide PR maps/Reports are likely to be in disagreement with those produced by the WMDs. Consequently, this will raise questions about the validity of both the statewide and the WMD reports.
- Previously, the Salinity Network decided to select a random water level each month and compare that elevation to all other randomly selected water levels for the like month of the period of record (POR). In the SNW pilot test project we chose a POR of 20 years. Using a POR of 20 years only allowed for a percentile resolution of 5 percentile points. The shorter the period of record, the lower the percentile resolution.
- The proposed SNW methodology could easily vary each time the analysis is done, with significant differences in results.
- It does not appear that some of the WMDs have sufficient historical data or the staff resources to collect data at a frequency that would be able to support a statewide groundwater status map based on percentiles.
- Some WMDs have expressed concern about the adequacy of the proposed Salinity Network PR model to identify impacted areas of the state which might be prone to aquifer degradation.
- In the view of some WMDs, the proposed the proposed methodology addresses short-term climate-related water level declines, these types of declines do not really address what induces salt-water encroachment into the freshwater zones of aquifers.

***** Rick requests that because of the numerous issues addressed during this meeting, all monitoring entities summarize the issues they encountered and send the summaries to***

rick.copeland@dep.state.fl.us by August 16th 2013. When they are received, RC will put them into one document and forward the summaries to each individual that is a member of the SNW.

- Adjournment: RC informed participants that an update of the Salinity Network will be given at the next statewide Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council Meeting on October 9th, 2013. *The next meeting of the Salinity Network Work group will be held on November 6, 2013 1:00 – 3:00 PM EST*