

Summary of Salinity Network Workgroup Meeting/Webinar

November 4, 2015

(R. Copeland, Chair)

In Attendance:

NFWFMD: Kathleen Coates and Tony Countryman

SJRWMD: Don Boniol

SWFWMD: Granville Kinsman, Steve Desmith, David DeWitt

SFWMD: Jon Shaw, Tim Haynes

Alachua County EPD: Jim Hatchitt

USGS: Scott Prinos

FL LAKEWATCH: Mark Hoyer

DEP: Rick Copeland, Lisa VanHoudt, Stephanie Sunderman, Andy Woeber, Kate Muldoon, Kevin Claridge, Larry Teich, and Mark Thomasson

Rick Copeland (RC) gave a presentation regarding the status of the Salinity Network Workgroup (SNW) pilot study for the development of a composite, statewide map for the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA) displaying groundwater levels (GWLs). The GWLs were represented in terms of percentile rankings (PR) for the spring of 2010. RC discussed the reasons for conducting the study and the final results/map. The pilot study is now complete, and the SNW will now produce GWL PR maps for May and September of each year.

The pilot study report can be found at the following link:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/council/docs/salinity/SNWGWLPRIPilotFinal.pdf>

Discussion:

Earlier this year RC requested PR data for each WMD and Alachua County for May, 2015. They were later sent to RC. RC presented a draft GWL PR map for May of 2015 generated by DEP staff.

Conclusion: Following the meeting, RC will send each of the participating entities the draft map and associated report to review and provide comments. After the review period, RC will incorporate comments and post both the map and report to the website.

Discussion: RC requested GWL PR data for September of 2015 from the WMDs and Alachua County.

Discussion: RC presented information on the development of a statewide Coastal Salinity Monitoring Network (CSMN). The Governor's office, along with DEP Secretary's office supports the concept of establishing the CSMN. The purpose of the CSMN will be to evaluate changing conditions along Florida's coast with respect to salinity indicators by connecting existing monitoring programs in a "ring around the state".

In recent meetings, DEP was asked to use DEP groundwater (GW) quality data to delineate areas along the coast that would be prime locations for CSMN wells. DEP created preliminary maps and RC presented the maps during the May, 2015 SNW meeting/webinar. The delineations were based on DEP

generated data and displayed areas in the state where concentrations of chloride (Cl), sulfate (SO₄), total dissolved solids (TDS), and specific conductance (SC) had the highest concentrations.

In November, RC presented an abridged version of the maps, along with more recent maps. The latter maps identified areas of the state where all four analytes, concurrently were found to be in greatest concentration. The maps also indicated locations of WMD wells for potential inclusion in the monitoring efforts of the CSMN.

Conclusion:

NFWWMD: NFWWMD provided a map of geographical areas within the district where they determined would be most critical for CSMN monitoring wells. The areas were independent of those generated by DEP staff, but in general represent the same areas as those produced by DEP. The NFWWMD map also displayed the location of wells the district found appropriate for inclusion in the CSMN monitoring. The wells will be monitored once the CSMN becomes operational.

SJRWMD and the SWFWMD: It was agreed that RC will contact the two districts, and together will decide which of wells will be included in the CSMN.

SFWMD: A network of wells has already been established. As with the SJRWMD and the SWFWMD, RC will contact the SFWMD, and together will select which wells to be included in the CSMN. Note that not all wells may end up in the network.

SRWMD: no representative was able to attend the webinar. Thus, RC will be contacting the district and work with them to establish a CSMN in their district.

Discussion: RC suggested that the CSMN should consist of 5-10 wells per aquifer per WMD. Kathleen Coates (KC) suggested that 5-10 wells may be too small of a sample size. Jay Silvanima (JS) Suggested RC consider a density gradient for wells. The sample size for wells should be dependent on the WMDs boundaries in relation to the coastline.

Conclusion: After a discussion, RC modified the request. RC and the WMDs agreed to a larger set of wells. Details will be worked out over the next few month as RC contacts each WMD. A synopsis of final well selections will be presented at the next SNW meeting.

The next SNW meeting/webinar is scheduled for May 2, 2016 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. Please let RC know if you have any questions.

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