

Summary of June 15, 2016 Salinity Network Workgroup Meeting/Webinar

(R. Copeland; 7/13/2017)

On July 12, 2017, it was discovered that notes of the 06/15/2016 meeting were not taken. The only records of the meeting are: (a) the Power Point presentation of RC (SNWStatusRCope(061516)) and (b) an audio recording of RC moderating the meeting (801_0094_Rick_1-27-15_53M). A reason for the date of 1-27-15 for the audio recording is unknown. On July 13, a summary of the 06/15/2016 meeting was produced from the memory of Rick Copeland (RC).

The general theme of the meeting was to review the four major tasks of the Salinity Network Workgroup (SNW) and to discuss the future of the workgroup. During the introduction, RC asked participants if anyone would like to become a co-chair of the SNW. Nobody volunteered.

RC discussed the status of the efforts of the SNW regarding: (1) the Groundwater Level Percentile Ranking Index maps for the Floridan aquifer system, (2) the development of the statewide Coastal Salinity Monitoring Network, (3) possible revisions of sampling protocols for wells that are cased close to the freshwater/saltwater interface, and (4) and the possible development of a saline groundwater quality index.

Much of the meeting centered on (3). Currently a dilemma exists. DEP-approved groundwater sampling protocols require that the samples be obtained from the top of the water column. If the purpose of monitoring is to monitor the saltwater/freshwater interface, sampling from the top of the water column is problematic. Since saltwater is denser than freshwater, the densest (most saline) groundwater is typically at the bottom of the well. When the purpose of monitoring is to track the movement of the interface and when the well to be sampled is completed close the interface, sampling from the top of the water column is inappropriate. During the meeting, Scott Prinos of the USGS discussed the importance of this issue. The situation was not resolved. However, the workgroup decided to investigate the feasibility of developing special protocols for sampling groundwater under these special conditions. RC agreed to move forward on this issue and discuss the progress at the next SNW meeting.

Towards the end of the meeting/webinar, RC asked if there were any new subjects that the participants believed should be addressed by the SNW. The general belief is that the SNW "plate is full". It needs to appropriately address the four current issues, rather than addressing new ones.

RC ended the meeting by notifying the audience that the next SNW meeting is (was) scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2016, from 1:00 to 3:00.