

Summary
Council Workgroup Updates
November 19, 2015
11:00 am -12:00 pm

A. Introductions

Kate Muldoon welcomed participants to the webinar, and thanked them for their continued support of the Council, and efforts of the workgroup members to develop the products.

B. Salinity Network Workgroup – Rick Copeland

The Salinity Network Workgroup is currently focused on four priorities. Publication of Groundwater Level Percentile Ranking (PR) Maps, and establishment of Coastal Salinity Monitoring Network. Efforts to develop sampling protocols near Surfacewater / Freshwater interfaces, and development of a Salinity GWQ Index are on hold.

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 (GWs). The GWs 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>

During the Salinity Network Workgroup held on November 4th 2015 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 "rind 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. A synopsis of final well selections will be presented at the next SNW meeting.

A summary of the meeting and presentations are available :
(<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/council/meeting.htm>)

C. Catalog Workgroup – Kate Muldoon

The Water-Cat can be accessed at: (WWW.Water-CAT.org).

Kate presented a brief history of the development of the Catalog. The Water-Cat is currently in Phase II of development, which is focused on populating, updating, and refining the functionality of the Catalog. The University of South Florida (USF) is continuing the process of populating the Catalog that utilizes a tracking spreadsheet to contact STORET and non-STORET providers for additional metadata needs. Since January 2015, USF has added project descriptions, monitoring frequency, and period of record from 24 monitoring entities to the Catalog. Additionally USF, is working with the four remaining water management districts to upload metadata, and USGS to link projects and stations.

In spring, 2015 STORET data was harvested for metadata and uploaded to the Catalog. The Catalog now includes an updated IWR Run 50 WBID layer.

Previously, the workgroup decided it was necessary to distinguish between active and inactive monitoring stations to accurately represent current monitoring efforts to the public. USF implemented an algorithm to delineate between active and inactive projects and stations.

USF implemented a non-flash viewer for the spatial search, which is available for review at: <http://dev.catalog.wateratlas.usf.edu/map/> . This change also allows the Catalog to be supported on mobile devices.

The workgroup is continuing to address the issue of incorporating Biological Metadata in the Water-CAT. On 5/19/15, the workgroup selected Option 1 of three potential options presented by USF (derived from Ecological Metadata Language used on the Florida Coastal Everglades Long Term Ecological Research website <http://fcelter.fiu.edu/>) The workgroup decided on Option 1: Using Themes + Keywords (keywords replace biological parameters). A Catalog Workgroup “subgroup” met to evaluate options (for Themes) and make recommendations to the Catalog Workgroup. The subgroup is scheduled to meet again in December to finalize the list of Themes and associated keywords.

Challenges during the January –November period include unexpected technological updates that caused delays in loading data (Aquatic Preserve, Groundwater, and Springs monitoring updates to Catalog), and the retirement of the Council chair in August, both of which have delayed progress in this phase of the Catalog.

Moving forward, Kate is working with USF on a revised supplemental scope of work, and developing a new contract for Phase III of Water-CAT (5/17/2016 – 5/16/2019).

D. Continuous Monitoring Workgroup – Lisa Van Houdt

At the January 2015 Council meeting, the Council proposed forming a workgroup to populate a shared resource of information related to continuous monitoring. This effort was delayed due to several issues including difficulty securing a chair, time constraints, and to parallel with the efforts of DEP's internal continuous monitoring workgroup. The first meeting will be held on January 13th, 2016 in Tallahassee and via webinar. Lisa Van Houdt will be distributing a save the date to Council Members, Alternates, and the list of interested parties for this topic. The distribution list will be included on the message, and all are encouraged to suggest other representatives from their agency who should be included in this workgroup.

E. Reminder: Adverse Events webpage – Kate Muldoon (2 min.)

The Viewer can be accessed by visiting:

<http://wwwmdev02d.swfwmd.state.fl.us/FWRMCViewer/index.html>

A live demonstration of the viewer was presented at the September Council meeting. Leigh Vershowske of SWFWMD distributed an excel spreadsheet with a request for feedback on the categories from contributing agencies/organizations. Kate reminded participants to please respond to (leigh.vershowske@swfwmd.state.fl.us) with any questions or comments by COB 12/11/15.