Spring 2012 Groundwater Levels May 2, 2012

Since the District began collecting data in 1974, groundwater levels have historically fluctuated during periods of drought or rainfall. While the past several years have been good for recharge, they haven't been great. The average change in the 2012 spring water table across the District was a rise of +0.38 feet. Even though the levels rose, it was not an outstanding year for adding groundwater to storage.

The township map has the change in water table by Township and Unit, the Little Blue NRD is divided into 8 differing units. On that map you can see Units 5, 6 and 7 were basically static, no recorded rise or decline from last year. Units 4 and 8 were below the average rise at +0.21 and +0.22 respectively. Those 5 units represent data from 199 monitored wells. Units 1, 2 and 3; with 135 wells checked, gave the best response with above average increases in the 2012 water table as compared to 2011. Seventy-five percent of the wells in the spring of 2012 showed an increase from 2011, but the largest rise was only 2.97 feet. Last spring had an average rise of +0.67 feet and the best increase in an individual well was 6 feet.

By looking at the unit graphs you can see that the District groundwater levels vary and are influenced by many factors. The graphs show the running average change for each Unit. Demand, rainfall, soil's re-charge capability, aquifer characteristics, and stream flow all contribute to water table fluctuations.

The best water levels, in recent history, were recorded in the year 2000. On average, water levels for most units had hit record highs in 2000 and record lows in 2007. From 2007 to 2012 some areas of the District are struggling more than others to rebound. Currently the average water level is +2.4 feet above 2007 but still -4.1 feet below the levels of 2000.







