

## Monitored Resource: Fort Snelling Fen

**Purpose:** The purpose of this program was to re-establish ongoing monitoring of the piezometers in the Fort Snelling Fen to observe any changes of water levels that might be indicative of fen degradation.

### Monitoring Description:

A site visit was conducted with DNR staff to locate the existing piezometers at the fen and determine their condition and suitability for monitoring. Repairs were made to PVC plastic piezometers that had been previously damaged in a grass fire.

It was decided to resume monitoring on two sets of piezometers upgradient of the fen (the "N" and "W" piezometers) and the set of piezometers ("S") located within the fen itself.

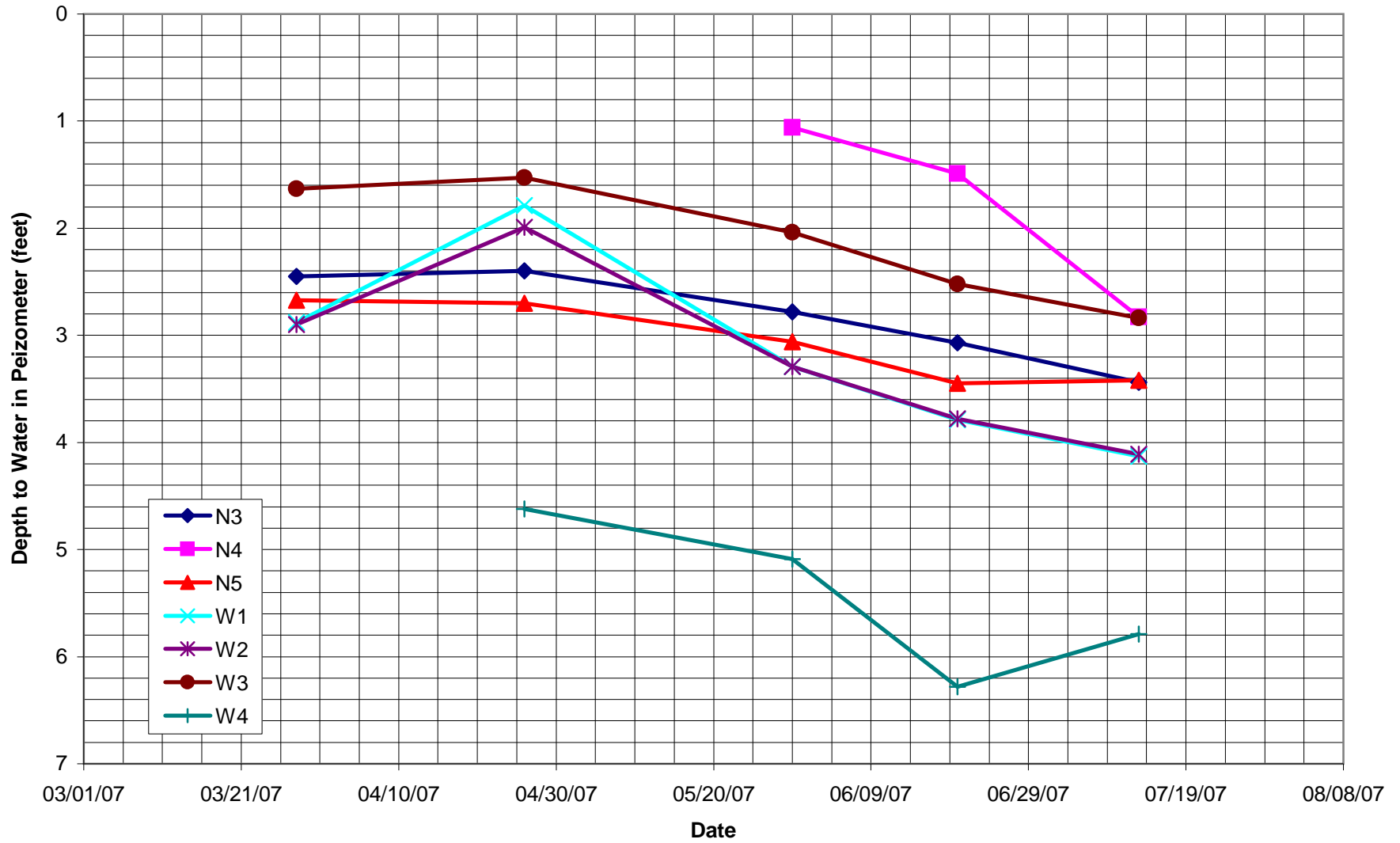
At the time that Dakota County began to measure water levels in the piezometers (February 2007), the water within most of the piezometers was frozen. By March 2007, however, the water had thawed and monthly measurements were started.

Dakota County is in the process of working with the DNR to have the location and elevation of the piezometers re-surveyed in, in order to know true elevations of water levels in each layer.

### Monitoring Results Summary:

- Water level data from March 2007 to July 2007 shows a downward trend in water levels in all piezometers. Not enough data has been collected at this point, however, to draw any conclusions. Data shown may represent a seasonal fluctuation or short-term impacts from dryer months. Only longer term monitoring will reveal true trends in water levels.
- Data collection efforts should continue a minimum of 3-4 years before conclusions on aquifer trends can be made.

### Fort Snelling Fen - North and West Piezometer Monitoring



### Fort Snelling Fen - South Piezometer Monitoring

