

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

This document outlines recommended soil moisture monitoring metadata guidelines, including information about the monitoring network, sites, soil moisture sensors, and soil types. The purpose of this document is to provide network managers a reference for reporting the metadata information necessary for maximizing the utility of soil moisture monitoring data and to provide data users a quick reference for metadata availability relative to data applications and use. The tiering system given here allows monitoring networks to self-identify the general quality of available metadata and provides a clear outline for network managers regarding the improvement of metadata availability.

This document has been designed to provide a path forward to harmonize the metadata available from existing and upcoming in situ soil moisture datasets. However, it is clear that this effort will continue to evolve as the community of soil moisture monitoring networks grows, changes, and gains new techniques and knowledge over time. As a result, it is expected this document will continue to be reviewed and updated by the NCSMMN community over time.