Message

From: Neuschler, Catherine (MPCA) [catherine.neuschler@state.mn.us]
Sent: 2/28/2022 2:07:08 PM
To: Proto, Paul [proto.paul@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Birch Lake sulfate and wild rice
Attachments: Birch Lake - sulfate sampling results 7-2021.jpg; Birch Lake Sampling Points.xls; 8-12-13 analysis results.pdf; 5-11-21 analysis results.pdf; 6-22-21 analysis results.pdf; 7-19-21 analysis results.pdf

Hi Paul -
This is what I got from 1854 Treaty Authority. Our staff took a super quick review and said "They move the mean upwards and change the proposed lake status from FS to IC. As we've talked about before, the new data are all from very targeted, shallow locations that are not representative of the lake as a whole, so that would need to get discussed more, too."

We need to talk to all our Tribes about getting data into EQuIS; this data will be more useful when it is and if we decide to split off the bays.

~Catherine

From: Darren Vogt <Dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:22 AM
To: Neuschler, Catherine (MPCA) <catherine.neuschler@state.mn.us>
Cc: Cole, William (MPCA) <william.cole@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Birch Lake sulfate and wild rice

I attached: general map showing results, GPS coordinates for sampling points, and lab results from sampling events. I hope this covers what is needed, please let me know any questions on things. Thank you.

Darren

From: Neuschler, Catherine (MPCA) <catherine.neuschler@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Darren Vogt <Dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org>
Cc: Cole, William (MPCA) <william.cole@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Birch Lake sulfate and wild rice

Darren -
If you would, that would be great; I'll get some folks lined up to take a look. Hopefully we can manage that within our time frame to get the list submitted to EPA on time.

~Catherine

From: Darren Vogt <Dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:47 AM
To: Neuschler, Catherine (MPCA) <catherine.neuschler@state.mn.us>
Cc: Cole, William (MPCA) <william.cole@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Birch Lake sulfate and wild rice

Hi Catherine,
Thanks for the follow-up on this. Yes, I would have all that information available. Please let me know if you want me to compile and send along. Thanks again.

Darren

From: Neuschler, Catherine (MPCA) <catherine.neuschler@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:34 AM
To: Darren Vogt <Dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org>
Cc: Cole, William (MPCA) <william.cole@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Birch Lake sulfate and wild rice

Hi Darren -
Miranda is temporarily working in the MPCA's legislative program, so I am following up on this comment.

It's become pretty clear to me that we haven't been effectively communicating what we need in order to have data be assessable for the impaired waters list. This includes information like where samples are taken, over what time period, and the connected meta-data (e.g., location of the samples, any QA/QC information on that data set, laboratory methods for sample analysis etc.); as well as efficient ways to submit all the data electronically to MPCA. That's something we're committed to fixing, and we're planning some big picture conversations about it.

You indicated that 1854 could share additional details on the monitoring if necessary. What kind of additional information is available? In particular, do you have the meta-data as described above? If so, we might be able to consider the data now - I would have to know what is available and check with the staff that run the assessments in our database.

Thanks.

~Catherine

From: Darren Vogt <Dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:11 AM
To: Nichols, Miranda (MPCA) <miranda.nichols@state.mn.us>
Cc: Waquiu, Helen (MPCA) <helen.waquiu@state.mn.us>; Kessler, Katrina (MPCA) <katrina.kessler@state.mn.us>; Harrington, Bradley (DNR) <Bradley.Harrington@state.mn.us>; Harmon.Darrel@epa.gov
Subject: Birch Lake sulfate and wild rice

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Miranda,
We have commented and discussed numerous times about the need to include Birch Lake on the impaired waters list (2020 and 2022) for sulfate and wild rice. Wild rice is present in many areas of the lake, and specific bays with wild rice and elevated sulfate include Dunka Bay and Bob Bay. I believe that water quality data is available from a variety of sources including MPCA, USFS/USGS, Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, and the 1854 Treaty Authority. I attached a figure showing our sampling results and can share more details if necessary. It appears that the rationale for not including Dunka Bay and Bob Bay is that sulfate concentration has been calculated for the lake as a whole and that these bays have not been considered separate locations. This loophole must be fixed, and if it takes a unique water identification number for the bays, then MPCA must work with MNDNR to immediately resolve this issue for listing on the impaired waters list. It is not appropriate to avoid including Birch Lake locations, they qualify as much as others already proposed to be identified on the impaired waters list. Thank you.

Darren Vogt
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