

After having RMB labs compile a report analyzing the water sampling conducted between 2012 and 2015 last fall, the LID board decided to do less testing during the 2016 open water season. In spite of the lab suggesting that testing could be discontinued since no problems had been detected, we wanted to remain proactive. To that end, the Silver Bay Road stream was tested twice and the three other inlets were tested once.

Normally the baseline test is done the second week of July, but this summer that was when heavy rains pushed the water levels to extremes so testing was delayed. As it turned out, heavy rains continued so samples were not taken until late August. At that time, Silver Bay and Rognaldson Road inlets were running at normal speeds while both the Nokasippi River and the Paradise Shores Road inlets were still raging with high water flow.

At the Silver Bay Road inlet the readings were considerably higher in August than in April, but still within the averages from previous years. August readings for total phosphorus and total suspended solids were above the expected range for our ecoregion, but lower than maximums that were recorded in prior years. Metals testing showed no concerns.

Most readings for the other inlets in August were above average, but still below the maximums that previous tests have shown with one exception. The total suspended solids for the Paradise Shores Road inlet was considerably higher than prior maximums. (ecoregion range: 1.8 - 6 mg/L, average: 2 mg/L, maximum: 3 mg/L, August: 17 mg/L)

Future Plans:

The board will consider returning to the three samples each open water season in order to avoid, or at least buffer, the unusual circumstances that can arise from either too much or too little rainfall near the times samples should be taken. We do not intend to discontinue testing even though the testing lab's analysis indicated that we could easily do that.