

## Steven Timmer

I am a retired lawyer, a law partner of Grant Merritt for a time, and I've followed the issues surrounding sulfates, mercury, and wild rice, especially as they relate to mining activity, for some time. I remember reading a trove of documents related to the first TMDL study for the St. Louis River, which was unceremoniously scotched just as it was beginning. I even wrote about it.

(<https://www.minnpost.com/community-voices/2019/10/important-issues-before-the-court-of-appeals-on-polymet/>). The initial discussion of a TMDL for the St. Louis River, to be paid for by the EPA, occurred in 2004, and it was killed by the MPCA a decade later. Now, another decade later, I just got an email from the MPCA advising me of meetings this summer to further discuss the design of a TMDL for the St. Louis.

In reading the earlier TMDL documents, it was clear that mining interests in and out of the Legislature had a lot to do with killing it. These same interests have had a lot to do with the foot dragging on the enforcement of the Wild Rice Rule.

I understand that Dark Lake, not coincidentally adjacent to the Minntac tailings basin, isn't even on your impaired waters list.

With respect, it seems that the MPCA is not terribly interested in doing its job, especially when faced with mining opposition. We're only this far because of hectoring by the EPA.

It's time to buck up and get to work, both in terms of assessment and remediation.