

ATTAINS NEWS 2021



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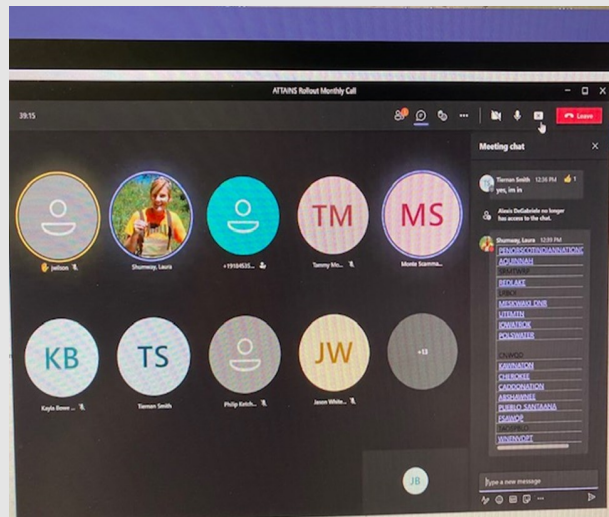
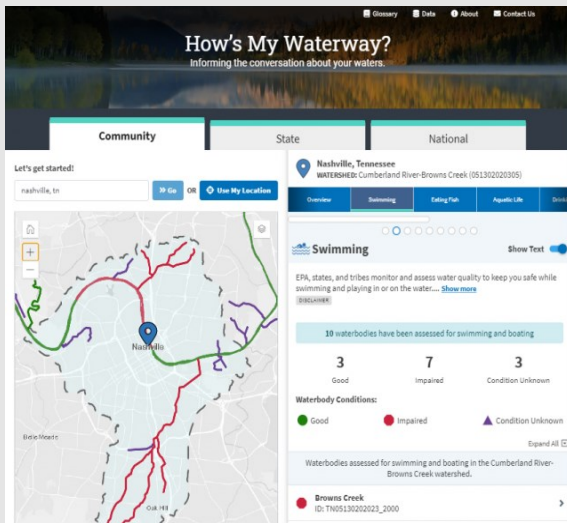
The Tribal ATTAINS Pilot program group has had various monthly calls/trainings throughout this year. From February 22 thru April 5, 2021 there were a series of virtual trainings that included: Overarching Considerations in Assessing Water Quality & Parameter fact sheets, ATTAINS Reports, Special Features & How's My Waterway Demonstration, and Analyzing Data to Determine Use Support for Water Quality Assessment Reports, Batch Uploading Data to ATTAINS, and Assessing Data for Specific Water Quality Parameters.



There have been monthly Microsoft Teams conference calls, some of the topics of discussion included: Introduction to Water Quality Standards, Timeline/Goals, Training Needs, Mentoring Check-In, EN Grant Solicitation Mentoring Grants Updates on Other Tribal Projects, and Live Assessment Unit Working Session.

The Training recordings can be found on the ITEC YouTube Channel at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42GM_3wppOEPkgFEUj_CqQ

More information on the Tribal ATTAINS Pilot Program can be found on the ITEC Website at: <https://itec.cherokee.org/attains/>



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Tribes monitor, collect, and assess water quality annually on their lands under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act. Historically, tribes have submitted water quality assessments to the EPA regional offices in a paper format, creating challenges when tracking, analyzing, and sharing trend data across the EPA Regions and on a national level.



In 2016, EPA and select tribes from Regions 5, 6, and 9 initiated a pilot to electronically report water quality assessments alongside states and territories in the Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Tracking, and Implementation System (ATTAINS).

A year after initiating the pilot, ATTAINS now provides participating tribes statistics on the most common pollutants in Indian country. Tribes and EPA use this data to inform tribal communities of water quality issues that can impact fishing, swimming, and other activities. Upon successful completion of the pilot, ATTAINS will start to incorporate more water quality assessment information from other tribal governments that are performing water quality assessments.

E-reporting will not only help inform EPA of water quality issues on tribal lands, but it will also help make tribal information more accessible in decision-making by states and territories. Through this reporting process, tribal decisions will be available alongside those made by states and territories and will show a more complete picture of water quality across the nation.

For more information on [ATTAINS](#), please contact [Laura Shumway](#) with EPA.

The top 5 pollutants reported for tribes participating in the pilot for 2017:

- E. Coli
- Turbidity
- Phosphorus
- Mercury
- Dissolved Oxygen

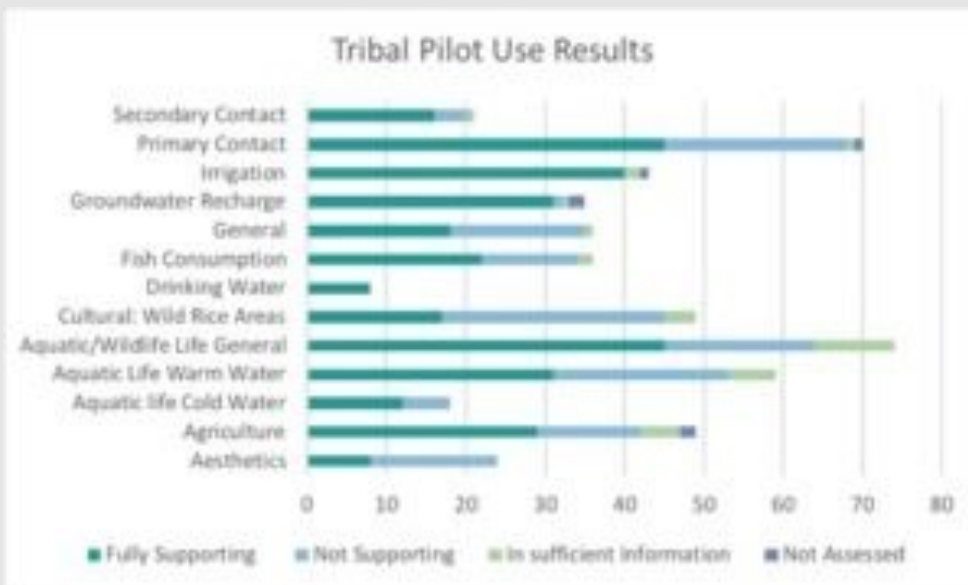


Figure 2: Tribes identify the uses for each of their waters (e.g., primary contact = swimming, secondary contact = boating, etc.) and determine whether they can safely use those waters for their identified purpose. These are the results of the pilot tribes' determinations.

