

Houle, Brian (Crofton)

From: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 3:51 PM
To: Houle, Brian (Crofton)
Subject: Cowichan Watershed Update: April 12

Good afternoon.

I am providing an extra message this week to ensure awareness of current guidance on watershed.

Lake level has risen to 95% full as the balance of inflow/outflow keeps more water in the lake, than is released to the river.

The river flow is currently being controlled to target 20 cms today, down from 22 cms yesterday.

Tomorrow the flow would continue down to 18 cms, 16 cms on Sunday and then 15 cms on Monday if the lake does not overflow before then.

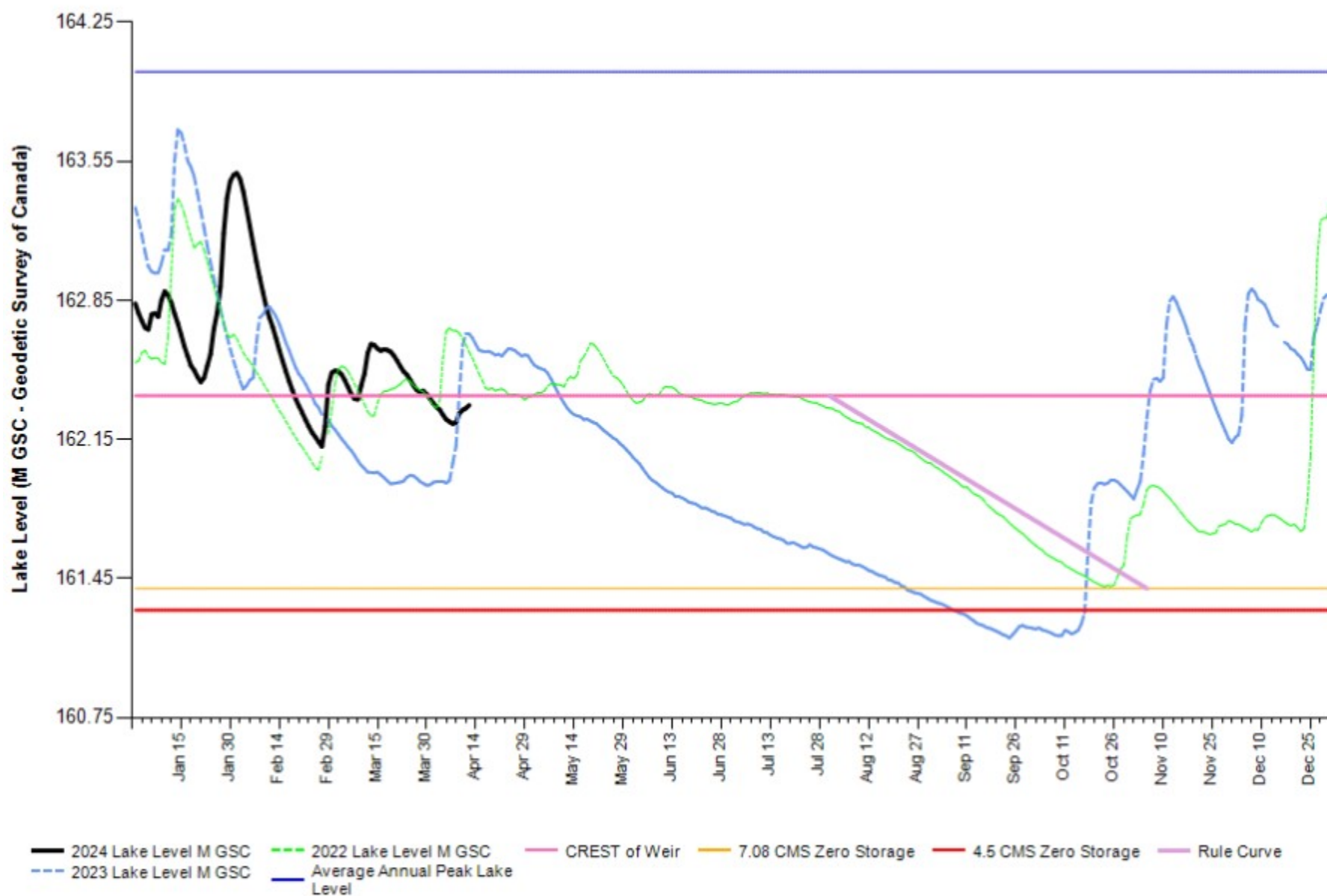
I had in error, guided a minimum river flow of 17 cms when I was directed by DFO and supported by province, to reduce the river flow down to as low as 15 cms, if needed, to sustain the lake at 100% full. Direction went further that a flow of less than 15 cms could be directed, if lake level was still dropping to below full while at 15 cms. With lake currently at 95% full and rising, it is possible flow will not drop down to 15 cms this weekend. Conditions in watershed are monitored closely by the Weir Operator and they will reduce flow down to as low as 15 cms, if that is needed to sustain the lake full of water.

Formal review of watershed conditions will take place later this month, to allow planning to include May and June flow guidance. It is highly likely that flows in May and June will need to be less than 15 cms to sustain the lake at 100% full.

I have attached updated lake level trend to illustrate current conditions that we are managing through.

Regards
Brian Houle

2024 Cowichan Lake Level - 2024 (Black) & 2023 (Blue) & 2022 (Green)



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